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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
13 July 2009—5 October 2009

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 13 July 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council (25 June)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock) and I, represented the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on 25 June.

Member states agreed the Council conclusions on biodiversity and invasive alien species. The conclusions highlighted the urgent need to make further progress on protecting biodiversity and stressed the need for an EU framework to tackle invasive alien species. The UK welcomed the conclusions and stressed the need for any biodiversity targets post 2010 to be achievable and measurable. Furthermore, the UK agreed that a comprehensive approach to invasive alien species was needed but this should explore all options to ensure that targeted measures were taken at whatever levels would be most effective. The Commission said that it would submit a proposal on invasive alien species in 2010.

Ministers reached political agreement on the recast industrial emissions directive, which incorporates several pieces of existing EU legislation on industrial emissions, notably the integrated pollution prevention and control directive. The UK successfully made the case for further flexibility in the large combustion plant provisions in order to ensure increased protection of the environment without compromising moves to low carbon generation and security of supply. In addition, the UK successfully secured a higher threshold for anaerobic digesters to come within scope of the directive.

The presidency provided an update on progress on the soil framework directive. The Commission underlined the urgent need for an EU legislative framework for the protection of soil, as soil degradation did have significant cross border impacts and could affect the internal market. The UK stated that it still had significant concerns regarding the cost and complexity of implementing the proposed directive and called for a different approach which recognised the differences between member states.

Over lunch member states discussed international climate change, where the UK set out its priorities in the run-up to Copenhagen. The UK stated that the EU needed to maintain engagement bilaterally and multilaterally with key partners at the same time as continuing internal discussions on development of an EU negotiating position ahead of Copenhagen.

Ministers adopted conclusions on the management of bio-waste. The conclusions stressed the importance of bio-waste management and urged the Commission to complete its impact assessment with a view to preparing an EU legislative proposal if appropriate.

Under "any other business" Ministers discussed a suggestion from Austria that authorisations for cultivation of genetically-modified crops should be taken at member state level; the UK stressed the need for early agreement on the proposal to address illegal timber entering the EU market; and finally, the UK welcomed the Commission communication on carbon capture and geological storage (CCS) in emerging and developing countries.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Serious Organised Crime Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I am laying before parliament the Government's new Serious Organised Crime Strategy—"Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime". Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

Serious organised crime is a large and growing problem. Trafficking in drugs and people, fraud and financial crime cost the UK Exchequer in the region of £30 billion a year. However, the impact of organised crime is not remote: its victims range from those whose lives are ruined by drug addiction to women who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. If it is allowed to take root, organised crime can create a vicious downward spiral of fear, intimidation and economic decline, which tends to harm the most vulnerable members of society in some of our most deprived communities. So as well as being a question of national security, organised crime is also a question of social justice.

Since publication of the 2004 White Paper "One Step Ahead" the police, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and other law enforcement agencies have made significant progress in the fight against organised crime. It is no exaggeration to say that the UK is a world leader in this area. However five years on, serious organised crime continues to evolve. We are facing new high-tech crimes that did not exist five years ago and organised criminals are increasingly basing themselves in weak and failing states to avoid detection and traffic their drugs.

This means that now is the right time to update and strengthen our response. Today's strategy sets out the reforms we will make to ensure that Government, law enforcement, businesses and citizens are equipped with the necessary tools to reduce the harm caused by organised crime. We will go further than ever before in taking the fight to organised criminals through four key approaches.

First, we will ensure that all organised criminals are within our reach. Using new techniques to create a radically improved intelligence picture, we will take action against all organised criminals, making the principle of "lifetime management" a reality—from the traditionally "hard to touch" at the top end, through to the long tail operating at the lower end of the organised crime spectrum.

Secondly, we will consider all approaches to tackling organised crime. We will use whatever tools work best to have maximum impact. Whenever we can we will prosecute. But we will also go further in using non-criminal proceedings—administrative, immigration, regulatory or tax powers—to disrupt the activities of those involved in serious organised crime and do even more to recover their finances and assets.

Thirdly, we will ensure that the whole of Government play their part in the fight against organised crime. We will strengthen the criminal justice system approach (from prevention through to imprisonment) and also bring to bear the powers of agencies working outside of law enforcement—like local authorities or bodies such as the DVLA, the Health and Safety Executive, or local housing offices—to combat organised crime together.

Finally, we will maximise collective efforts overseas—from capacity building in states at risk from organised crime through to strengthening multilateral institutions. Similarly, we will work closer with the private sector, for example, in preventing e-crime, and with the public to engage their help in the response.

Serious organised crime threatens our safety, damages our communities and subverts our economy. The magnitude, scope and sophistication of serious organised crime in the 21st century demands an equally sophisticated and ambitious response from Government to tackle it.

Both Government Departments and law enforcement agencies will have a key role to play in implementing this strategy. That is why I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Sir Ian Andrews as the new chairman of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. I believe that Sir Ian has the necessary skills and experience to help guide SOCA through the coming years, so that they can play a full part in delivering this strategy.

JUSTICE

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide (Custody Provisions)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Claire Ward): The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 received Royal Assent on 26 July 2007.

An organisation is guilty of the new offence if the way in which its activities are managed or organised causes a death and this amounts to a gross breach of a relevant duty of care to the deceased. A substantial part of the breach must have been in the way activities were managed by senior management.

The majority of the Act was implemented on 6 April 2008, with the exception of section 2(1)(d) which makes the duty of care a custody provider owes to a person who is detained a relevant duty of care, and section 10 on publicity orders where we await guidelines to be issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council.

Procedures for caring for some of society's most vulnerable or volatile people are highly complex. When the legislation was passed we explained that a period of three to five years would be needed for custody providers to prepare for implementation of section 2(l)(d).

We are publishing a second annual report today which should be read in conjunction with the 2008 report. Our second annual report discusses the progress made by the various custody providers since this time last year and what remains to be done. While implementing the Act provides a useful catalyst and driver, reducing deaths in custody is a core part of long-term work by the Government together with custody providers and this long-term agenda is reflected in the report.

We have made significant progress in the last 12 months and we remain on course to commence the implementation of section 2(1)(d) by April 2011 as previously announced.

The report includes developments in Northern Ireland for which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has responsibility under the Act.

Copies of the report can be found in the Libraries of both Houses. The report is also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper office and on the Ministry of Justice's website at: www.justice.gov.uk

David Blakey Report

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): I am making this statement to update the House of the progress we have made in implementing the Blakey report: "Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons", which was published in July 2008.

David Blakey CBE QPM DL, a former inspector of constabulary and chief constable of West Mercia, was commissioned to conduct a review into the effectiveness of the Prison Service's measures for disrupting the supply of drugs into prisons, and to make recommendations for improvements. The Blakey report made 10 recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Government.

Over the past 12 months we have made significant progress in implementing all the recommendations.

- We have equipped all prisons with a body orifice security scanner (BOSS chair) to detect internally concealed items such as mobile phones. The roll-out was completed in May and the chairs are now in use across the estate;
- We have also equipped all prisons with portable high-sensitivity metal-detecting wands. These were also rolled out in May;
- We are seeking to make full use of the Offender Management Act to prosecute those caught attempting to bring drugs and mobile phones into prisons, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years imprisonment;
- Every prison now has a nominated senior manager in post who is responsible for delivering its local drug strategy;
- We have published a new good practice guide to assist prisons in tackling drug supply routes, including advice on working with others. We will shortly be publishing a mobile phones good practice guide to focus on minimising, finding and disrupting mobile phones that are smuggled into prisons.

In addition, work continues to strengthen prison intelligence gathering, and to trial and roll-out mobile phone blockers, in line with David Blakey's recommendations.

Tackling the supply of drugs and mobile phones into prisons requires a multi-agency response, and we are working closely with the police and other key partners. I would also like to pay tribute to the continuing hard work of staff to reduce the supply and impact of drugs and phones.

WORK AND PENSIONS

"Building a Society for All Ages"

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Angela Eagle): I am pleased to announce that we are today publishing "Building a Society for All Ages": a strategy setting out a programme of action to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented as our society grows older.

As a country, we are living through an enormous demographic shift with more of us living for longer than ever before. While this is not a new phenomenon, the UK has just passed a tipping point. In 2007, the number of adults below state pension age compared to those over it began to decline for the first time in 25 years. This is a result both of greater individual longevity and also of the baby boomer generations born after the second world war starting to reach state pension age.

Across society, we will all need to act to make the most of these opportunities. We need to ban unjustifiable age discrimination and end outdated attitudes which too often drive our expectations and treatment of older people. Achieving this will enable individuals to lead the later life that they want and allow society to harness the skills and experience of our older population to the benefit of all our communities and our economy.

"Building a Society for All Ages" sets out a programme of action to support change by individuals, in families, in the workplace and the economy and in public services and communities. It includes measures to support people to look forward and plan earlier and to encourage them to remain active and participate fully in society in their later lives. We also set out plans to improve the provision of information, help and support for those who need it.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 14 July 2009

TREASURY

2009-10 Tax and Benefit Reference Manual

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Copies of the 2009-10 edition of the "Tax Benefit Reference Manual" (TBRM) are today being deposited in the House of Commons Library.

HM Treasury publishes the TBRM annually. It is a technical manual detailing the tax and benefit system, describing both the current and historic regimes.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Intellectual Property Office (Performance Targets)

The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy): I have tasked the Intellectual Property Office with managing and shaping an Intellectual Property system which encourages innovation and creativity, balances the needs of rights holders and the public, provides support to businesses on managing and exploiting their Intellectual Property, and stimulates economic growth.

I have set the Intellectual Property Office a broad range of targets for 2009-10 based on a balanced scorecard approach. These targets are:

Customers and Stakeholders

A substantive response to an allowable request for accelerated patent examination to be issued within two months of receipt in 90 per cent. of searched applications.

Give good customer service in processing patent applications in 95 per cent. of quality assured cases.

Issue 80 per cent. of patent searches within four months of request.

The correct decision on registration will be made on at least 98.5 per cent. of trade mark applications.

90 per cent. of trade mark applications (to which no substantive objections have been raised or oppositions filed) to be registered within seven months.

95 per cent. of correctly filed design applications to be registered within two months.

Develop a cross-Government international IP strategy which has been agreed by Whitehall ministerial or senior official group by February 2010.

The IPO Intelligence Hub will be seen by industry and enforcement agencies as the lead player in co-ordination and dissemination of IP crime-related intelligence.

Industry and law enforcement agencies will give positive feedback on awareness raising and training activities.

To increase the understanding of British business and society about how to make the best use of the IP system, a third venue for the Science Museum exhibition will have been identified and agreement for an exhibition be in place by December 2009.

Evaluation of the Science Museum exhibition will demonstrate positive impact and value for money and provide information for future outreach work.

Extend our outreach to business through use of our online IP Health Check, and over 66 per cent. of respondents will report it as useful.

To demonstrate we deliver high quality services to our customers we will receive "good" or "satisfactory" ratings in at least 80 per cent. of responses to customer surveys.

Finance and Resources

We will demonstrate we are able to maintain a sustainable trading fund by delivering a 4 per cent. return on capital employed.

Deliver a 5 per cent. cost efficiency with reference to 2008-09 cost outturn (excluding VER/VES scheme and Science Museum IP exhibition sponsorship one-off costs)

Internal Processes

Complete 95 per cent. of staff performance reviews (to ensure everyone understands how their work contributed to the 2008-09 corporate plan and how they will be expected to perform to enable delivery of the four pillars in 2009-10) signed off and returned to HR by 31 May 2009.

To reduce our impact on the environment, increase proportion of waste recycled to 60 per cent.

To reduce our impact on the environment reduce carbon emissions by 10 per cent. compared to 2008-09 figures.

Promote a healthy environment and reduce numbers of sick absence days per person to 7.0 days.

To enable business effectiveness through reliable IT systems, achieve 99 per cent. of the agreed monthly service levels for key IT systems.

Change and Development

Positive feedback from participants of international forum on the economic value of IP.

A plan will be agreed by SABIP and IPO for commissioning items of research.

Two of these SABIP research projects to be completed and reports received.

Contracts to be awarded on a further two of these SABIP research projects.

Introduce new trade mark fees and services in October 2009 to maintain registration in the UK as an attractive option vis-à-vis registration at OHIM.

National and international stakeholders will report increased awareness of our work on copyright strategy.

Ensure that the IPO has developed a coordinated strategy on mutual recognition and promote that strategy with key international partners. Gain agreement on mutual recognition with Japan by March 2010.

Memorandums of understanding on work sharing signed with Korea and China in 2009.

Policy skills audit will be carried out and a targeted training and development programme devised by autumn 2009.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): The Government will publish the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan shortly. This will set out the UK's approach to becoming a sustainable-advanced low-carbon country, which means cutting our emissions, securing our energy supplies, maximising economic opportunities and protecting the most vulnerable. The new development consent regime for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) provided for by the Planning Act 2008 is central to delivering the development needed to meet these objectives. Today I can confirm that the new regime will be put in place starting from 1 October with the establishment of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

Earlier this year we made a commitment to listen to the views of promoters and others on the best way to implement the new regime and to provide further detail on both implementation of the regime and production of national policy statements (NPSs). The consistent message that has emerged from this is the need for certainty and predictability. People want clarity about when the new regime will consider applications from each sector and an adequate lead-in period between setting up the IPC and commencing the regime.

Therefore, I am today announcing more detail on how we propose to implement the new regime.

First, I can confirm that we will establish the IPC from 1 October, from which date it will begin providing advice and guidance on preparing applications, and on how the new regime will work. I can also confirm that the IPC will start accepting applications for development consent and examining these applications from 1 March 2010, when we intend to commence the new regime for NSIPs from the energy and transport sectors. Our intention is to then bring waste water and hazardous waste sectors on line in April 2011, and the water supply sector in April 2012. Setting firm implementation dates now will ensure that promoters and other stakeholders will be able to engage with the IPC with confidence.

Secondly, I am proposing to appoint Dr. Pauleen Lane CBE and Robert Upton CBE as deputy chairs of the IPC. These appointments, which are subject to pre-appointment scrutiny by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, will enable the IPC to be ready to open for business on 1 October. I will also be appointing three commissioners to the IPC later this month.

Finally, I am publishing the third and final package of secondary legislation needed to establish the IPC. This sets out the detailed procedures and rules which we intend to put in place to govern the IPC examination of applications. We will make these regulations in good time to come into force by 1 March 2010.

Once NPSs are designated the IPC will decide applications for development consent in accordance with them. However, the IPC will be able to start receiving applications from the energy and transport sectors from 1 March 2010, irrespective of whether the relevant NPS has been designated. If for any reason the relevant NPS has not been designated when a particular application reaches the decision stage, the IPC would make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State, who would then take the decision. In this situation, the Planning Act allows the Secretary of State a maximum of three months to make the decision, unless exceptional circumstances apply. Our intention is to keep any recommending period to a minimum. Where a relevant NPS has been published in draft it would be a consideration for the IPC when making its report and recommendation to Ministers.

I can also update the House on our latest intentions for publishing draft NPSs. The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, which we are publishing shortly, brings together a range of important policy developments including the renewable energy strategy and proposals for regulating new coal power stations, and has significant implications for energy and transport policy which it is vital the NPSs fully reflect. Because of this, our intention is now to publish NPSs covering the following types of infrastructure in the autumn: nuclear power; renewable energy; electricity networks; fossil fuel generation; oil and gas infrastructure; ports; and road and rail networks. Subject to the outcome of public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny, we expect these NPSs to be designated over the course of next year.

The remaining four NPSs are being produced on a longer timeframe. We expect to consult on the Waste Water NPSs in spring 2010 and the Hazardous Waste NPS in summer 2010, with the aim of designating them in 2011. We intend to consult on the Airports NPS by 2011 with a view to designating it later that year. Finally we hope to consult on the Water Supply NPS in late 2010—once the final Water Resource Management Plans are published, which are needed to inform the NPS—with the aim of designating that NPS by early 2012.

In parallel with making this statement, I am publishing a revised version of the IPC Implementation "Route Map" which sets out our plans in more detail, as well as providing an update on progress to date. I am placing copies of this in the Library of the House.

The new regime which we are establishing will enable decisions about nationally significant infrastructure to be taken in a way that is fairer and faster. This is vital to our economic, environmental and social wellbeing, including meeting the challenge of climate change, strengthening the voice of communities and individuals, and creating the conditions for future economic success.

DEFENCE

NATO Planning Questionnaire (Group Response)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Today I have released to the EU the UK's response to the NATO 2008 defence planning questionnaire. This questionnaire contains information on our forces and capabilities which we, and all other NATO partners, send to NATO on a biannual basis as part of their force planning process. NATO uses this information to understand what capabilities allies would in principle make available for NATO operations and to inform the planning process.

NATO and the EU operate separate force planning and capability development processes and until now the UK has made different offers of capability to the EU and to NATO. For NATO we offer a large scale force package while we offer a medium scale force package to the EU, which reflects the lower level of strategic ambition within the European security and Defence policy framework. However, following the precedent set by a number of other NATO partners we have decided to submit our NATO defence planning questionnaire responses as the single source of UK information for both the NATO and EU capability planning processes. Respecting the autonomous decision-making processes of both organisations and noting that our single set of capabilities is available for the UN, EU as well as NATO and potentially other multilateral coalition operations, we judge it to be more efficient to maintain one set of information on our forces and capabilities and to provide it in the same format to NATO and the EU. Using the same set of information on nation's capabilities will, in concurrency terms, assist both organisations in identifying and understanding the shortfalls that exist across both organisations and in taking remedial action to address those shortfalls without duplication of effort. Sending the UK defence planning questionnaire

to the EU will also provide momentum to the drive for greater harmonisation between the NATO and EU planning processes, a longstanding UK aspiration which other nations support. We further hope that by taking this step it will encourage other European allies to follow suit.

It remains the case that, in respect of any multinational operation, our forces are made available on a case-by-case basis following a national decision. Releasing the UK defence planning questionnaire to the EU does not therefore mean that we are increasing our level of commitment to any current or future EU operation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health Annual Report

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Fitzpatrick): The "2008-09 Annual Report and Accounts for Animal Health" will be laid before Parliament today.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Newspapers (Surveillance Methods/Update)

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): In response to the urgent question on 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1131 by the hon. Member for Oxford West and Abingdon (Dr Harris), I undertook to report back to the House at an appropriate time.

Since that urgent question was answered, Assistant Commissioner John Yates has made a public statement on 9 July about the original inquiry by the Metropolitan Police Service into the alleged unlawful tapping of mobile phones by Mr. Clive Goodman and Mr. Glen Mulcaire. I am placing the text of Assistant Commissioner Yate's statement in the Library of the House.

He has concluded that as no additional evidence has come to light in respect of the Goodman/Mulcaire case and as the Metropolitan Police Service has not formally received allegations in relation to the activities of any other journalists there is no need for a further investigation.

The Metropolitan Police has also confirmed that it does not consider that there is anything else substantive in relation to additional evidence or information that would justify it re-opening the original investigation. Neither has The Guardian approached the MPS with any new additional evidence.

As mentioned in his statement on 9 July, Assistant Commissioner John Yates is ensuring that the Metropolitan Police Service has been diligent, reasonable and sensible, and taken all proper steps to ensure that where it has evidence that people have been the subject of any form of phone tapping (by Mr. Clive Goodman or Mr. Glen Mulcaire) or that there is any suspicion that they might have been; that they have been informed. The decision to inform individuals that they have been targeted for illegal interception of their phone communications is an operational matter for the police.

Following his statement, and in view of comments that he had made in both Houses following last week's newspaper articles, the director general of the Crime and Policing Group in the Home Office wrote seeking clarification on some issues to Assistant Commissioner John Yates on 10 July who responded the same day. I am placing copies of that correspondence in the Library of the House.

The Director of Public Prosecutions announced on 9 July an urgent examination of the material supplied by the police three years ago to satisfy himself and assure the public that the appropriate actions were taken in relation to that material. That review continues.

The Information Commissioner's Office will consider what action to take if evidence emerges of breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has received a complaint from the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) about police action in this case and are currently considering whether there are any issues raised which might fall within its remit.

Any new evidence should be referred to the police or to the Information Commissioner if it relates to a data protection breach.

The Government will report back to the House when there are any substantive developments.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Humanitarian Situation (Sri Lanka)

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): It is almost two months since the conflict ended in Sri Lanka. I would like to update the House on the humanitarian situation on the ground and to reiterate that meeting the humanitarian needs of the internally displaced people (IDPs) remains our immediate priority.

The IDPs are now all held in camps in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Trincomalee and Mannar. This population numbers almost 284,000 people. The humanitarian situation is now stabilising. Conditions in the IDP camps remain basic but continue to improve as the priority needs of shelter, food, water, medicine and immediate access to surgical treatment are gradually met. However, we remain concerned about high levels of malnutrition in the IDP population, particularly among young children, overcrowding and inadequate sanitation facilities.

We are also increasingly concerned about the lack of freedom of movement for this IDP population and the restrictions put on protection activities, including ensuring the safety of the IDPs, reuniting unaccompanied children with their families and registration of the population as a whole. We encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to do everything possible to ensure the civilian nature of the camps and allow humanitarian agencies to operate effectively on the ground through facilitating the timely provision of visas and lifting the practical restrictions that are still being imposed on entry.

We continue to engage fully with international and multilateral partners. The Prime Minister raised humanitarian access with President Rajapakse on 18 May. The Foreign Secretary also discussed the issue with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister when they met on 5 June, as did Lord Malloch-Brown with the Sri Lankan Minister for Trade and External Development when they met on 19 June. Our High Commissioner to Sri Lanka regularly raises our concerns with senior Members of the Sri Lankan Government. We urge the Government of Sri Lanka to

make every effort to co-operate with international agencies, including continuing a dialogue with the ICRC on issues of humanitarian concern and to provide every opportunity for the ICRC to implement its mandate as Sri Lanka takes its first steps towards recovery.

DFID continues to support the relief effort to Sri Lanka as the situation on the ground allows. Since September 2008, we have committed £12.5 million. This month we approved £0.4 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for an emergency measles and polio vaccination campaign covering all the IDP camps in Vavuniya and for the provision of nutritional supplements. I would again like to reassure the House that all DFID funding is provided directly to neutral and impartial international agencies and we will continue to support the international agencies in their life saving work.

Looking forward, we urge the Government of Sri Lanka to do everything they can to facilitate the return of the IDPs from the camps to their homes as soon as possible, including interim options of staying with host families, and to allow freedom of movement as a priority. We welcome the Government's public commitment to return the bulk of IDPs to their homes within 180 days. In addition, after 26 years of intermittent conflict, there remain an additional 360,000 long term displaced people to consider who may now also wish to return to their communities of origin. We stand ready to support this work through funding international agencies that:

(1) provide humanitarian demining activities;

(2) enable returns through the provision of transport, shelter and access to basic services; and

(3) provide livelihood recovery activities, for example through cash grants, providing seeds and tools and vocational training.

JUSTICE

Crown Court Means-testing (Consultation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Bach) has made the following written ministerial statement:

The Government published their response to "Consultation and Impact Assessment on Crown Court Means-testing" on 8 June 2009. The response sets out the Government's intention in respect of the introduction of the new scheme, to begin in January 2010.

Today, I am announcing a consultation process on the draft regulations designed to support the introduction of Crown Court Means-testing. The consultation period will last from 14 July 2009 until 5 October 2009.

Copies of the draft regulations have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and they are also available at: www.justice.gov.uk. The Ministry's website also gives details of how to respond to the consultation exercise.

TRANSPORT

Quality Contracts Schemes

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Local Transport Act 2008 includes provisions aimed at making bus quality contracts schemes a more realistic option for local transport authorities outside London.

The Department for Transport is today publishing a consultation on draft regulations and guidance to support the implementation of those provisions. Copies of the consultation materials will be made available on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk/localtransportact), and are being placed in the Libraries of the House.

First Great Western Franchise

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Lord Adonis) has made the following ministerial statement.

On 26 February 2008, the then Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton West (Ruth Kelly), made a statement about the performance of the First Great Western franchise, in which she informed Parliament that First Great Western had breached its franchise agreement by exceeding the limits on cancellations, and also by misreporting those cancellations.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton West issued First Great Western with a remedial plan notice for exceeding the threshold on cancellations which had resulted in a breach of its franchise agreement. In response to this notice, First Great Western submitted a remedial plan addressing that level of cancellations.

On 17 March 2008 an agreement with First Great Western was signed, which required First Great Western to implement the remedial plan and to comply with a forward trajectory for reducing cancellations. The remedial period started on 1 April 2008 and would end when the criteria in the agreement were met.

The criteria in the agreement for the end of the remedial period were met by First Great Western in relation to the four-week rail reporting period ending on 27 June 2009. Cancellations figures for this four-week period have been finalised. I am therefore now able to confirm that First Great Western has met the criteria and that the remedial period is therefore now at an end. Department for Transport officials have checked the manner in which the cancellations figures were calculated and I am satisfied that the criteria have been met.

In her statement on 26 February 2008, my predecessor also announced that, in addition to the remedial plan, First Great Western had offered a package of passenger benefits amounting to £29 million. Delivery of this obligation is not affected by the ending of the remedial period and I have been assured that First Great Western is confident that they will meet the commitments it made on time.

WALES

National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence Order)

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Local Government) Order 2009 has been laid today, as Command Paper (Cm 7680).

Copies of this Command Paper can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library of the House from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 15 July 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, together with the Department for Energy and Climate Change, is today publishing the "The UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy".

In parallel to this document, the Government are also publishing "The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan", "The UK Renewable Energy Strategy" and "The Carbon Reduction Strategy for Transport".

Together these set out the policies which will help drive the transition to decarbonising our economy, and reflect how Departments across Government are working together to deliver the transition to a low carbon future.

The core objective of "The UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy" is to ensure that British businesses and workers are equipped to maximise the economic opportunities and minimise the costs of the transition to a low carbon economy.

Building on the framework for supporting British business set out in "Building Britain's Future: New Industry, New Jobs", its ambition is to ensure that the transition to low carbon is a source of quality jobs and business savings in Britain from our rapidly developing civil nuclear industry and renewable energy sector, to energy saving in our smallest SMEs.

British firms will benefit from the low carbon transition both by catering to growing British and global markets for low carbon goods and services, and also by using energy and other resources more efficiently to reduce costs.

At the heart of the strategy are three basic principles for a positive environment for low carbon business:

First, a long term strategic approach from Government—like the clear commitment we have made to nuclear and renewable energy, which will allow businesses to invest in greater confidence;

Secondly, a pragmatic recognition that intervention from Government may be required in some areas to accelerate and enable the transition to low carbon—in the case of the low carbon industrial strategy this means support for the research and development that will produce new low carbon technologies;

Finally, a recognition that Government have a responsibility to ensure that British-based companies and people are equipped to compete for the new demand created by Government climate change policies. This has implications for our skills policy, and the way we support the development of supply chains in this country, both issues addressed in this strategy.

The strategy identifies a range of low carbon sectors in which the Government believe that the UK has potential for job creation and business savings. Where barriers to market or other obstacles are blocking the development of Britain's full potential in these areas, it sets out the Government's strategy for removing them.

This includes the first investments from the £405 million for low carbon industries and advanced green manufacturing announced at Budget 2009. Key announcements include:

Up to £120 million to support the development of a British based offshore wind industry.

Up to £60 million to capitalise on Britain's wave and tidal sector strengths, including investment in wave hub—the development of a significant demonstration and testing facility off the Cornish coast—and other funding to make the south west Britain's first low carbon economic area.

The Government will provide capital investment in order to establish a nuclear advanced manufacturing research centre consisting of a consortium of manufacturers from the UK nuclear supply chain and universities.

Up to £10 million for the accelerated deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

A £4 million expansion of the manufacturing advisory service, to provide more specialist advice to manufacturers on competing for low carbon opportunities, including support for suppliers for the civil nuclear industry.

The strategy recognises that we need to build on local and regional strengths in order to make the most of the future economic benefits for Britain. For this reason, the strategy introduces the concept of low carbon economic areas, and announces the development of the first of these, located in the south-west of England, focusing on the development of marine energy demonstration, servicing and manufacture.

It also announces the creation of the cross-Whitehall office for low emission vehicles (OLEV) to create a single body charged solely with making a success of the Government's strategy for low emission vehicles.

Finally, the low carbon industrial strategy recognises that this transition raises significant challenges for our industrial work force and their families. As with previous structural changes to the economy, the move to a low carbon economy will affect each business, worker and family differently. Previous economic structural shifts have had huge social impacts, with some workers and communities being left behind as industries are restructured by change. The Government are committed to doing all they can to ensure this is a just transition.

For this reason, the Government will create a forum for considering these issues and advising Government. The new forum for a just transition will include representatives from central Government, national, local and regional bodies, trade unions, business organisations, and third sector bodies.

I am placing a copy of the strategy in the Libraries of both Houses.

CABINET OFFICE

Social Investment Wholesale bank Consultation

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith): The Office of the Third Sector has today published a Social Investment Wholesale Bank Consultation which sets out the vision and the economic case, and consults

on proposals for the design and functions of a potential bank. This consultation was announced in Budget 2009 and will inform substantive proposals to be developed by the Office of the Third Sector.

Government recognise the important role played by the third sector including social enterprises—as sustainable businesses with a social or environmental mission they contribute significantly to stronger local economies and a fairer society. Yet access to appropriate funding and finance is often the biggest concern facing organisations driven by social or environmental purpose. A Social Investment Wholesale Bank could enable third sector organisations to access the finance they need to grow and become more sustainable.

More broadly, the bank could help increase investment in society, the environment and the economy at the same time, delivering against a "triple bottom line" of more effective interaction between greater economic growth, social cohesion and sustainable development.

The Social Investment Wholesale Bank Consultation document can be downloaded from the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) website at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector.aspx. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

Life Assurance Company Taxation

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): Life assurance companies are in general taxed on profits as they are recognised and made available to shareholders. The tax system recognises that, for with-profits business, profits on income and gains sometimes have to be held back to achieve the smoothing of returns that is an integral part of the business. This treatment can also apply where a company writes business in a non-profit fund.

When profits are held back in this way there is an Exchequer cost, but this is largely a matter of timing, in that tax should be paid when the deferred profits are recognised and made available to shareholders.

Recently however HMRC has seen an example of manipulation of this tax treatment in relation to a non-profit fund. The manipulation is to change the mix of the non-profit business for tax purposes so that when the previously unrecognised profits of the non-profit fund are recognised they escape tax altogether. Many hundreds of millions of pounds of tax have been avoided in this way.

The Government will introduce legislation to prevent such manipulation in future. Companies will not be able to change the mix of business in their non-profit funds in order to reduce the incidence of tax on their profits that have not yet been recognised. The Government also propose that in the future profits of non-profit business will be taxed as they arise.

In order to ensure the new legislation is appropriately targeted HMRC will consult with the life assurance industry. The precise nature of the new legislation will emerge from that consultation, but the intention is that the potential tax due on unrecognised profits in a non-profit fund will be determined by reference to the appropriate mix of business in 2009. The tax will become due and will be collected as and when profits are recognised and made available to shareholders. After 2009, profits of non-profit business will be taxed as they arise.

The objective of the consultation is to allow the new legislation to be properly targeted. If companies attempt to manipulate their business mix in advance of the new legislation being finalised, for the purposes of avoiding tax, the Government will consider whether it is necessary to introduce retrospective legislation to remove the benefit of that manipulation.

UK's Asset Freezing Regime (April to June 2009)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): In a written ministerial statement on 10 October 2006, the then Economic Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton (Ed Balls), undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's counter-terrorism asset-freezing regime. This is the 11th of these reports and covers the period April to June 2009[1].

Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009

The Treasury has amended the Terrorism (United Measures) Order and a new Order in Council is being laid before Parliament today. I have made a separate written ministerial statement about the new order.

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter April to June 2009, the Treasury gave no directions under the Al-Qaida and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006.

The Treasury gave no new directions under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006. The Treasury revoked one direction given under this order during this period.

There were no financial sanctions designations made at the UN, or at the EU, in relation to terrorism, or Al-Qaida and the Taliban of persons with links to the UK.

As of 30 June 2009, a total of 237 accounts containing just over £607,661[2] of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK.

Reviews

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review and completed three formal reviews in this quarter.

Licensing

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1452 (2002), the Treasury operates a licensing system whereby designated persons and others are able to apply to make or receive payments under specific and, if necessary, monitored conditions. In this quarter, the following licences were issued to listed persons:

Four listed persons were granted basic expenses licences (including licences for benefits payments);

one listed person was granted a licence allowing them to receive compensation payment into a frozen account following an European Court of Human Rights judgement;

no persons were granted legal expenses licences;

no licences were granted for extraordinary expenses.

In this quarter two households of listed persons were granted benefits licences.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure reflects account balances at time of freezing and includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 08-07-09. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The Government are strongly committed to tackling terrorist finance. Just as there should be no hiding place for those who perpetrate terrorism, so there should be no hiding place for those who finance terrorism.

Global measures to freeze the assets of those suspected of involvement in terrorism are an important tool in suppressing terrorist finance. The global framework for freezing terrorist assets was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373, adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001. It is also set out in Special Recommendation III of the Financial Action Task Force the international standard setting body for anti-money laundering and counter terrorist finance.

The United Kingdom gives effect to its international obligations to freeze terrorist assets through Orders in Council under the United Nations Act 1946. The Government report quarterly to Parliament on the operation of the UK's terrorist asset freezing regime.

Consistent with our international obligations, the Government have put in place a robust and effective terrorist asset freezing regime. As set out in today's quarterly report to Parliament, as of the end of June 2009, a total of 237 accounts containing £607,661 of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK. As our quarterly reports set out, the UK has an active approach to reviewing cases and to granting exemptions licences to ensure that the asset freezing regime operates in a fair and proportionate way that is consistent with human rights.

The Financial Action Task Force reviewed the UK's terrorist asset freezing regime in 2007 and concluded that the UK was fully compliant with international standards, the first country to be awarded the fully compliant rating.

The Government keep the asset freezing regime under review to ensure that it remains operationally effective, fair and proportionate. Today the Treasury is laying before Parliament the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009. This Order in Council updates the UK's domestic framework for freezing the assets of suspected terrorists.

The overall objective of the changes is to tailor asset freezing restrictions to ensure that the prohibitions are focused more closely on areas of genuine operational concern, in particular the access to, control and use of funds by designated persons; and to strengthen and make more explicit safeguards in how the regime is operated where this can be done without compromising its effectiveness.

The main changes set out in the new Order in Council are:

Formally reflecting the Court of Appeal judgment in October last year which struck out the grounds for the Treasury to designate a person when the Treasury has reasonable grounds to suspect that they may be (as opposed to are) involved in terrorism.

The introduction of a further safeguard that designations must be necessary for public protection.

Setting a renewable 12-month time limit on designations.

Modifying the prohibitions on making funds, economic resources and financial services available for the benefit of a designation person so that they only apply if the designated person obtains, or is able to obtain, a significant financial benefit. The prohibitions on making funds, economic resources and financial services available directly to a designated person remain unchanged and are a blanket prohibition.

Modifying the prohibition on making economic resources available to a designated person by providing a defence for a person if they did not know and had no reasonable cause to suspect that economic resources which they provided to a designated person would be likely to be exchanged or used in exchange for funds, goods or services.

Modifying reporting provisions to bring obligations on money service businesses into line with other financial institutions.

Clarifying and expanding information gathering powers to ensure that the Treasury is able to request information from designated persons in all cases where this is necessary to ensure effective implementation of and compliance with the asset freeze.

Overall, these changes will improve the operation of the asset freezing regime, ensure that it remains fair and proportionate and help facilitate effective compliance by ensuring that prohibitions are more tailored and clearer in how they apply. The Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order will come into effect on 10 August 2009.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools Capital

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Mr. Vernon Coaker): It has become apparent in recent months that some local authorities are facing sudden and sharp increases in demand for primary pupil places. I am today announcing that £200 million of capital funding will be made available in the next financial year to authorities with exceptional need to assist them in building additional permanent primary school places by September 2011.

Detailed guidance on applying for this funding will shortly be made available by my Department. Local authorities will have four weeks to apply and I aim to announce allocations in September.

This funding is in addition to the £1.75 billion of additional investment being made available through the Primary Capital Programme over the next two years, which is supported by significant additional investment committed by local authorities. It is also in addition to the £939 million of capital investment which has been brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 to accelerate thousands of school modernisation projects across England and support jobs and local businesses.

I am also announcing today that the following six local authorities will enter the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme this month: Barnet, Bolton, Hampshire, Peterborough, Sunderland and Wigan. Five of these authorities are new to BSF in line with our aim of getting all authorities into the programme as soon as is practicable.

These six authorities have now demonstrated satisfactorily to Partnership for Schools (PfS) that they are fully ready to start the full development of their projects. Another six local authority projects will join the programme in three months time, with a further six three months after that. This rate of starts will maintain the current rate of delivery of BSF.

This is a prudent and affordable rate of progress for our major strategic programme to renew our schools infrastructure, and which brings benefits for the wider community as well as children.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire and Resilience

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Shahid Malik): I would like to inform the House about progress on the FiReControl project—part of our major programme of work to ensure that the fire and rescue service is fully equipped to meet the challenges and demands of the modern world.

Recent events, in both Camberwell and Edinburgh, have reinforced the very real significance of doing all we can to ensure the safety of the public and firefighters. FiReControl will provide the public and firefighters with very substantial safety benefits by establishing, for the first time, a linked national network of nine regional fire control centres across England. These will replace the current 46 stand-alone control rooms, operated in each fire and rescue authority (FRA) area.

On a day-to-day basis, the new system will improve firefighter safety, the management of incidents and both the efficiency and responsiveness of the service. Firefighters will have access to safety information and incident details through mobile data terminals, and satellite navigation and automatic tracking of fire appliances will enable more efficient use of resources. Emergency calls from the public will be automatically located and managed using spatial data right down to property level. Control rooms will share calls across the network to manage even the highest call volumes and thereby be more resilient in emergencies. The new network will also improve the country's ability to respond to terrorism, large-scale industrial accidents and natural disasters such as flooding.

FiReControl is a complex and demanding project that involves significant change to operating practices in the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) as well as the development and installation of a major new national IT system. In November 2008 my predecessor informed the House that the project was being rescheduled due to slower than expected progress with development of the new IT, and that we would continue to monitor progress carefully as there could only be certainty on final timings once we had made progress through the earlier stages.

Good progress is being made on the building of the nine regional centres and the setting up of the local authority controlled companies that will manage the centres. The delivery and installation of equipment in local fire stations is also on track. However, in recent months it has become clear that technical problems with developing the IT system in a way which will meet all our and FRS requirements mean that further time is needed to complete the project.

I am proposing therefore to extend the delivery schedule by 10 months. This means that the first FRSs will switch over to the regional control centres in spring 2011 and the last will switch over by the end of 2012. We have discussed this in detail with the representatives of FRSs and local government, and we believe that this is a realistic timetable. Key Olympic authorities will switch over in time to prepare for the games, and the network will provide robust fall-back arrangements for all FRSs over the Olympic period. I am today publishing a full revised schedule for switch over of all FRSs in all regions and copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

To ensure consistent progress on this revised timescale, we have agreed with EADS, our main supplier, and with key stakeholders, a new approach to delivery to give greater assurance on short-term milestones and closer engagement with FRSs.

We remain committed to meeting all the upfront costs associated with the project and to the principle that no FRA will bear any additional cost as a result of FiReControl implementation. Once the new network is established, many FRAs are expected to make savings. These can be reinvested in local priorities and frontline services. We will be updating the cost figures contained in the FiReControl business case in due course to reflect today's rescheduling.

FiReControl continues to form an important part of the fire and resilience programme, which has already delivered very substantial benefits for the FRS. The new dimensions project has given the FRS new vehicles, equipment, and training to respond to terrorism and natural disasters. The Firelink project is delivering new digital communications technology, which is giving the FRS access to a world class communications system. FiReControl will build on this successful delivery.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Troop Levels (Autumn 2009 Roulement)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): My right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton), announced in his statement to the House on 29 April 2009, that Headquarters, 6 (UK) Division would command the International Security Assistance Force's Regional Command (South) from November 2009 to November 2010, *Official Report*, column 46WS.

The next routine roulement of UK forces in Afghanistan will take place in October 2009. The force package that we plan to deploy will see the current lead brigade, 19 Light Brigade, replaced by 11 Light Brigade which will be committed to Afghanistan until April 2010.

The forces deploying include:

Headquarters, 6 (UK) Division
11 Light Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (261)
Headquarters, 8 Force Engineer Brigade
Headquarters, 101 Logistic Brigade
Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 846 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 857 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of Fleet Diving Unit III
The Household Cavalry Regiment
1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
28 Engineer Regiment
1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards
2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment
1st Battalion The Royal Welsh
3rd Battalion The Rifles
10 Queen's Own Ghurkha Logistic Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
33 Field Hospital
104 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
160 Provost Company Royal Military Police
Elements of 1 st Royal Tank Regiment
Elements of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment
Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 12th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 19th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 39th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
Elements of 39 Engineer Regiment (Air Support)
Elements of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)
Elements of 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers)
Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group
Elements of 2 (National Communications) Signal Brigade
Elements of 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division Headquarters & Signal Regiment
Elements of 7th Signal Regiment
Elements of 10th Signal Regiment
Elements of 14th Signals Regiment (Electronic Warfare)
Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Elements of 1st Battalion The Coldstream Guards
Elements of The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
Elements of 4th Battalion The Lancashire Regiment
Elements of 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment
Elements of 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh
Elements of 3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh
Elements of 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment
Elements of 4th Battalion The Rifles
Elements of 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 9 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 24 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 27 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion
Elements of 6 Close Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 7 Air Assault Battalion Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 102 Military Working Dog Support Unit
Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade
Elements of the Joint Civil Military Co-operation Group (CIMIC)
Elements of 148 Expeditionary Force Institute Squadron (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of Joint Medical Command
Elements of 253 Medical Regiment (Volunteers)
Elements of 254 Medical Regiment (Volunteers)
Elements of 205 Field Hospital (Volunteers)
Elements of 256 Field Hospital (Volunteers)
Number 1 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters
Number 2 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters
Number 3 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters
Number 8 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters
Elements of Number 3 Royal Air Force Police Wing
2 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
27 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
Elements of 3 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
Elements of 34 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
9 Squadron, Royal Air Force
31 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5 (Army Co-Operation) Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 12 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 14 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 18 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 24 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 27 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 28 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 30 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 78 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 617 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of the Tactical Supply Wing, Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Mobility Wing, Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Control Centre, Royal Air Force
Elements of 90 Signals Unit, Royal Air Force
Elements of 2 (Mechanical Transport) Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5001 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 3 Mobile Catering Squadron
Elements of Tactical Medical Wing
Elements of 93 (Expeditionary Armaments) Squadron
Elements of Tactical Imagery Wing

Volunteer and regular members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Afghanistan as part of our integrated force package, and we expect to issue around 710 call-out notices to fill some 650 posts. On completion of their mobilisation procedures, the reservists will undertake a period of training and, where applicable, integration with their respective receiving units. The majority will serve on operations for six or so months. As part of this commitment, we expect up to 21 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

I shall make a further statement on the units we expect to commit under 11 Light Brigade's planned replacement formation, 4 Mechanized Brigade, nearer the time of their deployment.

Military Low Flying

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The amount of low flying training carried out in the UK Low Flying System (UKLFS) during the training year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 was the minimum required for aircrew to reach and maintain their ability to fly at low level. The number of low flying training hours conducted was 51,888 hours, a reduction of 1,263 hours on the previous training year. This level of activity has been relatively constant over the last three years. The amount of operational low flying (between 250 feet and 100 feet) by fixed wing aircraft has further reduced by 34 per cent. from the previous training year, and there has now been a reduction of 64 per cent. over the last three years.

I have today placed in the Library of the House a report giving a detailed account of the low flying training that has taken place in the UK Low Flying System for the training year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

This year some changes have been made to the way in which the information in the report is presented; the most significant of these is that the data on the amount of low flying for dedicated user areas, principally used for helicopter training, are now being presented on the same basis as that for the rest of the low flying system.

Additional copies of "The Pattern of Military Low Flying Across the UK 2008-09" are available on request from the following address:

Air Staff
Complaints & Enquiries Unit
Ministry of Defence
Level 5 Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Alternatively it can be viewed on the MOD's website: www.mod.uk/aboutdefence/whatwedo/airsafetyandaviation/lowflying

Judicial Review Appeal

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): This important case arose from the tragic death of Private Jason Smith from heatstroke in Iraq in 2003 and was brought by Private Smith's mother. The Court of Appeal gave its judgment for the respondent on 18 May this year, while granting the Secretary of State permission to appeal to the House of Lords.

There is no longer any dispute over the question which initiated the case. The MOD has previously accepted that there are limited circumstances when armed forces personnel come within the UK's jurisdiction for the purposes of the European convention on human rights when they are deployed overseas. These include the circumstances of Private Jason Smith's death, where Private Smith was at all times within a British Army camp and British Army hospital and no third party nationals were involved in his death. It has already been agreed that a new inquest should be held into the cause of Private Smith's death which will be fully compliant with article 2 of the European convention on human rights. Jason Smith's death remains the source of great regret, and the MOD will continue to offer its wholehearted support to the coronial process, and every possible sympathy and attention to Mrs. Smith.

But the case as it has developed has raised issues of potentially very wide legal significance. These concern the extent to which actions under the Human Rights Act 1998 (which gave further effect to rights drawn from the European convention on human rights) can be brought in cases involving military personnel deployed on operations outside the United Kingdom. Given the importance of the issues raised by the Court of Appeal's judgment to how we plan and conduct military operations and to the men and women of the armed forces, I have decided that the right course would be to appeal to the House of Lords in order to obtain as much clarity as possible on the legal framework applying to operations overseas. As at all stages of the case, the Government will bear the costs of both sides in the litigation, whatever the outcome.

HEALTH

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): The Government have made two commitments in recent years on the treatment of children and young people aged under 18 years on adult psychiatric wards. I wish to report to the House on the progress made on these commitments.

The first commitment, made in November 2006, was that within two years no child under the age of 16 would be treated on an adult psychiatric ward.

The second commitment is to commence section 31(3) of the Mental Health Act 2007 in England by April 2010. This provision, which applies to voluntary (informal) patients as well as formal (detained under mental health legislation) patients, places a duty on hospital managers to ensure that patients aged under 18 are treated in an environment in hospital which is suitable having regard to their age (subject to their needs). The hospital manager has to consult a person who appears to them to have knowledge or experience of cases involving patients who have not attained the age of 18.

In its 12th Biennial Report the Mental Health Act Commission welcomed these commitments and commented that

"the ending of admissions of children and adolescents to unsuitable adult facilities is an ambitious undertaking".

In order to prepare for these two commitments £31 million capital was made available in 2007-08 to 17 projects specifically designed to eliminate the inappropriate use of adult psychiatric wards by children and young people. I can report that five projects have been completed with further projects, which will provide

31 new beds, 35 refurbished beds, and 13 beds relocated to purpose-designed facilities, in various states of completion.

In addition, the Department commissioned the National Mental Health Development Unit (NMHDU) to work on children and young people's issues within the Mental Health Act 2007 implementation programme. One of the main objectives of this work has been to support local areas to prepare for section 31(3) of the Mental Health Act 2007.

A number of products have been produced including:

The Legal Aspects of the Care and Treatment of children and Young People with Mental Disorder : A Guide for Professionals

A guide that describes the interaction between mental health legislation, the Mental Capacity Act, and children's legislation and which, for example, will assist adult mental health services clinicians to understand the issues they should take into account when working with under 18s.

The Safe and Appropriate Care Standards for Young People on Adult Wards

Standards prepared by the Royal College of Psychiatrists Research and Training Unit, in conjunction with young service users, parents, Adult and Child and Adolescent Service providers and commissioners, which provides guidance to trusts on how to assess the safety, environment and treatment offered to young people on adult wards.

In Our Words DVD

A training aid which includes contributions from young people, their parents, mental health advocates and health professionals on the treatment of young people with mental health problems.

Working Together to Provide Age Appropriate Environments for Mental Health Patients Aged under 18

Briefing to support adult mental health services (AHMS) and child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) commissioners to work together to develop more effective services to maintain young people in the community when it is safe to do so, and appropriate inpatient resources to meet their needs in a crisis or for medium to long-term treatment.

The Age Appropriate Environment System Dynamic Planning Tool

A model aimed at CAMHS and AMHS commissioners, providers, planners and analysts to enable them to devise and test plans to improve services to meet the needs of under 18s with severe mental health problems is available to download for free.

The Mental Health Act— essential information for Parents and Carers

NMHDU commissioned a leaflet for parents and carers from Rethink which has been distributed to CAMHS and AMHS and which is available to download for free.

Headspace Toolkit

The widely praised Advocacy in Somerset self advocacy toolkit has been updated, distributed to all CAMHS in-patient services and is available to download for free.

Additionally a series of training workshops aimed at CAMHS staff have been provided across England.

Year-on-year figures of bed days for under 18s show that consistent progress is being made. The number of bed days for under 16s and 16-17-year-olds on adult psychiatric wards has significantly reduced. In 2006-07, 12.2 per cent. of bed days for under 18s were on adult psychiatric wards whereas the figure for 2008-09 was 8.1 per cent. I would like to congratulate strategic health authorities, commissioners, and providers on the progress made.

The bed day figures for under 16s on adult psychiatric wards dropped to zero in Q3 2008-09 meeting the Government's commitment. However, the latest quarterly figures (January-March 2009) for bed days for under 18-year-olds receiving mental health treatment in England show three instances of under 16-year-olds having been treated on adult psychiatric wards, each for one day only.

It is not acceptable for young people to be put in this situation and those few areas where these latest cases have arisen must take action to prevent this happening again. In all these cases action has been taken to investigate the circumstances leading to an under 16-year-old being placed on an adult psychiatric ward and to press those responsible to put arrangements in place to ensure that in future similar situations are dealt with in line with the Government's commitment. The appropriate place for vulnerable young children is in an environment which is designed for children and young people. In the case of under 16s our view is that the appropriate place is a CAMHS ward.

To conclude, over the past five years the Government have been committed to improving access for children and young people with mental health problems in universal and specialist settings. What these incidents highlight are the need for continued efforts to improve access to emergency and specialist age appropriate inpatient services for under 18s which are close to young people's homes, and services to maintain young people in the community when it is safe to do so, following the example in adult services of outreach and crisis teams. The Government remain committed to developing mental health services further.

Bed days for under 18 year olds receiving mental health treatment in England within the NHS.

	Quarter	*Under 18- year-old on NHS CAMHS ward*	*16 to 17-year-old on NHS Adult Psychiatric Ward*	*Under 16-year- old on NHS Adult Psychiatric Ward*
2006-07	1	34,609	4,697	75
	2	28,171	4,780	25
	3	34,430	4,679	38
	4	39,409	4,511	53
2007-08	1	38,359	3,954	81
	2	37,935	3,893	112
	3	41,184	4,255	49
	4	40,072	4,926	133
2008-09	1	37,003	4,019	16
	2	36,973	3,713	4
	3	39,534	2,854	0
	4	42,065	3,101	3*

Note:
The figures shown above include the latest revisions to past quarterly returns and therefore differ from those previously published.
*This figure does not include a case which has come to the Department's attention in a whole life eating disorder unit and which was not reported to the Department by formal channels. Action is being taken to ensure that eating disorder units abide by the Government's commitment.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Criminal Records Bureau (Annual Report)

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): I announce that copies of the 2008-09 annual report and accounts for the Criminal Records Bureau have been laid before the House today. Arrangements are now in hand for publication.

JUSTICE

Lasting Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Public Guardian (Amendment) Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I have today laid before Parliament the Lasting Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Public Guardian (Amendment) Regulations 2009.

Lasting Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Public Guardian Regulations 2007 (2007 Regulations), set out the prescribed instruments that must be used to create a lasting power of attorney (LPA) for property and affairs or for personal welfare.

A consultation "Reviewing the Mental Capacity Act 2005: forms, supervision and fees" ran from 23 October 2008 until 15 January 2009. The consultation included draft LPA forms and invited comments on the revisions.

The forms underwent further revision to take on board comments received through consultation and further user testing has been undertaken with stakeholders and members of the public who had no prior knowledge of the forms.

The amendments to the 2007 regulations replace existing prescribed forms for instruments intended to create a property and affairs LPA or a personal welfare LPA with new prescribed forms. The tiles of the new forms detour slightly from the terms used in the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and are purely for presentational purposes. Property and affairs becomes property and financial affairs while personal welfare becomes health and welfare. Respondents to the consultation were in favour of the changes as they felt that they are a better description of the two types of LPA's.

It is intended that the new prescribed forms will be in place from 1 October 2009.

The Lasting Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Public Guardian (Amendment) Regulations 2009 provide transitional arrangements for the use of the prescribed forms in the 2007 regulations provided the form is executed before 1 April 2011.

The Lasting Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Public Guardian (Amendment) Regulations 2009 also make two minor changes to the 2007 regulations to correct errors.

Legal Aid and Prisoners

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Bach) has made the following written ministerial statement.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) will publish today a response to its consultation, published in February 2009, on prison law funding. The consultation focused on proposals to control the volume and cost of prison law cases and place funding on a sustainable basis for the future. Legal aid expenditure on prison law—which includes advice to prisoners on their treatment, discipline and sentence, and legal representation for parole hearings—has increased from £1 million in 2001-02 to nearly £22 million in 2008-09.

Following consultation, the LSC intends to implement a range of measures from July 2010 to control any further increase in prison law costs. The proposals, which will bring prison law funding arrangements in line with many other areas of legal aid, are:

A new fee scheme based on fixed and standard fees (amended in response to feedback from legal aid providers);

A strengthened eligibility test, coupled with more clarity on the cases the LSC will and will not expect to fund in future; and

A new quality requirement, based on 350 hours work annually, to ensure providers have sufficient experience and expertise in prison law.

In the light of consultation responses, the LSC has decided to assess the impact of these steps before introducing additional controls on the volume of cases or piloting alternative means of delivering prison law services, such as telephone advice.

Copies of "Prison Law Funding: A Consultation Response" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The document can be downloaded from the consultation section of the LSC's website at www.legalservices.gov.uk.

Inquests (Service Personnel)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make the latest in the series of quarterly statements to the House about the inquests of service personnel and others who have died overseas. Our deepest condolences go, as ever, to the families of the service personnel who have lost their lives in the service of their country, and in particular to the 31 who have died since our last statement.

All the families whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, or who have otherwise lost their lives in connection with the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, remain very much in our thoughts.

Today, we are announcing the progress that has been made since the written ministerial statement on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 7WS, with information about the conduct of inquests by the Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. This statement gives the position at 6 July.

The tables which accompany this statement again include information about those cases which involve a board of inquiry or a service inquiry.

Progress with inquests

At the time of the last statement, we reported that up to 27 April 230 inquests had been held since June 2006: 216 into the overseas deaths of service personnel and 14 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton or RAF Lyneham.

Since 27 April a further 11 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who died in operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. This makes a total of 241 inquests held since June 2006.

Since operations commenced in 2001 there have been a total of 265 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including five service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

We remain deeply grateful for the efforts of all the coroners who are involved in conducting these inquests, and totally committed in our support for the independent coronial system.

Our Departments continue to work closely together, and with the coroners, to review the way in which the system is working and to look for opportunities, prior to the implementation of the coroners' legislation which is currently before Parliament in the Coroners and Justice Bill, to make improvements for the benefit of the bereaved families.

Open inquests

i Pre-31 March 2007 Fatalities

The statement in May reported that there was one remaining inquest to be held into a death where the body was repatriated via RAF Brize Norton prior to 31 March 2007, into the death of Marine Wigley. That inquest has since been concluded and there are no outstanding pre-March 31 2007 inquests in the Oxfordshire coroner's district

ii Post-1 April 2007 Fatalities

Since October 2007, additional resources have been provided by the Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests does not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon district (since 1 April 2007 fatalities have been repatriated via RAF Lyneham). The coroner transfers inquests for service personnel to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible. We are pleased that the district continues to benefit from the experience and expertise of David Masters, who retired as coroner on 31 March, following his appointment as an assistant deputy coroner by his successor, David Ridley.

There are 76 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007 (36 involving deaths in the last six months). Of these, Mr. Ridley has retained 41 inquests, while 35 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. At 6 July, two fatalities had been repatriated but inquests were yet to be opened, and four recent fatalities awaited repatriation. Hearing dates have been set in 22 of these cases.

iii. Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain six inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries.

We shall continue to keep the House informed about progress with the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Library of the House which outline the status of all cases and the date of death in each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Office of the Public Guardian (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The "Office of the Public Guardian's Annual Report and Accounts for 2008-09" has been laid before Parliament today. This document gives full details of the agency's performance and expenditure for the 12 months from 1 April 2008, and includes the Public Guardian's annual report to the Lord Chancellor about the discharge of his functions pursuant to section 60 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

A revised version of the "Public Guardian Framework Document" has also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses to reflect recent changes to the governance structure of the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). References to the OPG's responsibility for the Court of Protection's administrative functions have been removed, reflecting the move of the Court of Protection from the Office of the Public Guardian to Her Majesty's Court Service on the 1 April 2009. The document now also reflects the OPG's new clearer governance arrangements. This now consists of two boards—the statutory Public Guardian Board and the OPG's Executive Board—following the removal of the OPG Agency Board as a third board in the previous structure.

Copies of the "Office of the Public Guardian Framework Document" will also be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and from the website of the OPG: www.publicguardian.gov.uk.

United Kingdom Supreme Court

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): On 2 April 2009 I announced that the Middlesex Guildhall had been handed over to the Ministry of Justice. I am pleased to be able to report further significant progress on the Supreme Court Implementation Programme—the programme remains on time and within budget.

First, I have received a written assurance from the noble and learned Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers that the Law Lords are satisfied that the refurbished Middlesex Guildhall will meet the needs of the new Supreme Court. The refurbishment has been completed to the highest standards, respecting the heritage of this unique building. This is consistent with both the status of the court and the needs of the Supreme Court Justices, court users and the public for modern accessible facilities. On this basis I have now signed the commencement

order that will enable the court to come into being on 1 October 2009, as I am satisfied the court will be fully operational by that date.

Lord Phillips has made the rules that will underpin the workings of the court and these have been laid before Parliament. In making the rules, Lord Phillips has taken into account his statutory duty to ensure that the rules are both simple and simply expressed and that they have a view to ensuring the court is accessible, fair and efficient. The rules have been widely supported on consultation.

In addition the responses to public consultation on the fees payable in the court have been analysed. A summary of the responses to consultation and the Government's proposed way forward have now been published. Consultees were in general agreement with the course proposed, with the exception of fees for devolution cases. While consultees agreed that the fees for devolution cases should be brought into line with civil fees generally, they were concerned that to make this change in one step represented too steep an increase—we have therefore decided to implement this change in stages.

The Fees Order for the court will be laid on this basis.

I previously announced that the anticipated running costs for the UK Supreme Court would be £12.3 million. At present Her Majesty's Court Service pays £1.2 million pension and national insurance contributions with respect to the Law Lords. For transparency this will be transferred to the UK Supreme Court from 1 October. This does not represent any additional cost to the public purse. For the first year we have provided an additional £300,000 to cover transitional set-up costs, this is being met from within existing resources. The costs of some aspects of the court's operation, including security, remain to be finalised and so the anticipated running costs will continue to be refined and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Ombudsman (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 has been laid before the House today.

TRANSPORT

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I regret to inform the House that the answer I gave on 8 July to a parliamentary question, *Official Report*, column 802W, about the breakdown of staff employed at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) was incorrect.

The MCA has checked the figures and the answer should read:

The number of staff employed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), broken down into the categories asked, since 2002 is shown in the table. The MCA's systems only hold records back to 2002:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Surveyors	173	177	188	194	190	192	181
Coastguard Control Centre	537	515	531	545	534	532	501
Administrative	386	411	423	473	467	472	422
Human Resources	47	55	50	57	58	58	54

Administrative staff includes, for example, Senior Managers and Policy Leads as well as Administrators.

Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future-Strategy

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement.

I am announcing today the publication of "Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future" (Cm 7682)—a carbon reduction strategy for transport. A key component of the "UK Low Carbon Transition Plan", also published later today, this document sets out the actions we are taking to deliver reductions in transport emissions in line with our obligations under the UK's carbon budgets to 2022.

It puts us on a path towards a low carbon transport system, giving people and business more low carbon choices about when, where and how to travel or to transport goods.

We have already begun—and will continue—a strong programme of activity to tackle the climate change impact of transport.

In December 2008, we agreed a demanding framework with our European partners for reducing CO_2 emissions from new cars. This alone is expected to save 7 million tonnes of CO_2 in the UK in 2020. In January 2009, alongside our statement on Britain's transport infrastructure, we set a pioneering target to reduce CO_2 emissions from UK aviation to below 2005 levels by 2050, in so doing, posing a challenge to the aviation industry to innovate and adopt better fuel efficiency. We have also made securing international agreement to reducing CO_2 emissions from aviation and shipping a key priority for the UN talks in Copenhagen at the end of this year.

In April, we made clear our intent to create a flourishing market for ultra-low emissions vehicles in the UK for both consumers and industry. This will be achieved through a combination of support for research and development, and a £250 million fund for consumer incentives and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. In May we announced that up to £29 million was available for large urban areas across England to bid to become the country's first sustainable travel city.

In June and July, we announced a range of measures to promote new, greener technology on our roads. Up to 150 low emission and all-electric vans will be introduced to public sector fleets; over 340 ultra-low emissions cars are to be demonstrated around the UK through a £25 million programme delivered by the Technology Strategy Board; and we launched a £30 million scheme to encourage uptake of low emission buses. And on top of our existing commitment of £140 million to support cycling, to improve the integration of greener travel modes, we also announced plans to radically improve station cycle storage at up to 10 major railway stations nationwide.

Alongside today's document, we confirm our commitment to working with our European partners to develop an ambitious and realistic mechanism to reduce CO_2 emissions from new vans. With the freight and logistics industry, we have also launched a working group to develop a consistent carbon measurement and reporting method and standard for the logistics transport supply chain.

Our efforts will not stop here. In the coming weeks we will emphasise the importance of addressing CO_2 from transport in the guidance we give to our local and regional partners as

they begin to develop new local transport plans and longer-term transport solutions. Finally, we are shortly to announce our plans for further electrification of the rail network.

The measures set out in strategy will save an additional 85 million tonnes of CO_2 over the third carbon budget period from 2018-22. This strategy is a signal of our determination to build a low carbon future.

Renewable Fuels Agency (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Renewable Fuels Agency's annual report and accounts for 2008-09 (HC 877) has been laid before Parliament today, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the schedule to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007. The annual report and accounts include the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General. Copies of the report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Article 14 of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order requires a further annual report to be published by the end of January 2010, detailing the operation of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations scheme in the 2008-09 obligation period. That annual report will also be laid before Parliament after publication, as provided in the order.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 16 July 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Informal Meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): My noble Friend, The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs, Lord Young of Norwood Green, at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has made the following statement.

"The informal meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers took place on 8 to 9 July 2009 in Jonkoping, Sweden. I represented the UK.

The theme of this informal meeting was labour market inclusion looking ahead to post-2010. The informal looked at maintaining employment and promoting mobility, upgrading skills and matching with labour market needs and increasing access to employment. Working time was also discussed over a Ministers-only lunch which I attended.

In the opening session, member states agreed on the importance of active social security and labour market policies. They stressed the importance of ensuring help for those moving between jobs and those already outside the labour market. While the crisis tested member states' resolve to conduct further reforms, now was the time to prepare Europe for the economy of the future.

Following on from the opening session, the meeting was split into three workshops, each devoted to a specific challenge: Workshop 1—Managing the impact of the financial crisis by increasing access to employment, Workshop 2—Facilitating access to employment by efficient reforms in the labour market and Workshop 3—Increasing employment through an active social security policy. I participated in Workshop 3 to present the UK approach to the reform of incapacity benefit and said that reform was ongoing. Others member states warned against repeating the mistakes of the past that caused long-term structural damage to economies.

The presidency concluded that it saw these discussions as feeding into its work on the post-2010 strategy. The commission concurred. While the current Lisbon strategy remained the right framework for action, its forthcoming revision would need to take better account of the social dimension. The commission would set out initial views in its forthcoming consultation document.

The meeting concluded with a private Ministers-only lunch discussion on the working time directive. Following the failure of negotiations on the directive, some member states insisted that any new proposal would need to deal with the opt-out. The UK along with Germany, Poland and others disagreed. A few member states urged caution and saw no point in proceeding if failure was clear from the outset. The Commission underlined the need to respect European Union law. Preliminary discussions would be needed with the European Parliament before deciding how to proceed. The presidency concluded that the majority of member states use the opt-out but that a way forward would need to be found."

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 7 July 2009. The following items were discussed:

Presentation of the presidency work programme

The Council took note of the presentation by the Swedish presidency of the ECOFIN work programme for the second half of 2009.

Follow up to the 18-19 June European Council

a) Financial supervisory framework—The Council took stock of the presidency's strategy for taking forward work on European financial supervision and regulation following the agreement reached at the June ECOFIN and European Council. The UK is supportive of the timetable presented, with legislative proposals expected on 23 September, and will engage fully in the upcoming negotiations to ensure that the legislation is in line with the agreement reached by leaders at the European Council, and in particular that any new powers granted to existing or proposed bodies would not impinge in any way on member states' fiscal responsibilities.

b) Climate change financing—Ministers also took note of conclusions agreed by heads at the June European Council on the financing of climate change. The presidency expects an agreement to be reached on a negotiating mandate at a meeting of the European Council in October, when ECOFIN will also revisit this issue. The Government believe that work should continue to ensure the EU reaches agreement on the key issues in advance of the Copenhagen conference in December.

Preparation for the G20 meetings

The UK updated the Council on the outcome of a G20 deputies meeting on 27 and 28 June. The presidency informed Ministers of its intentions of the handling of the preparation for further G20 meetings in September, including London meetings of G20 deputies on 3-4 September and G20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors on 4-5 September. There will be a lunch of EU Finance Ministers to prepare for these on 2 September. The Government will look forward to working closely with the presidency to ensure co-ordination of work taken forward at G20 and EU levels.

Pro-cyclicality

Following a report by the Economic and Financial Committee, ECOFIN adopted Council conclusions on pro-cyclical effects on financial markets. The conclusions assess work underway to reduce possible pro-cyclical effects of financial regulation, including on the issue of impaired assets. The UK is content with the conclusions, which represent a positive step forward on this issue, and looks forward to further discussion of the issue in the autumn.

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

a) Adoption of legal acts in the excessive deficit procedure—ECOFIN adopted Council decisions for Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Romania, formally entering these countries into the excessive deficit procedure, and issued recommendations on corrective action to be taken. It also issued a revised recommendation to Hungary on measures to be taken in order to correct its excessive deficit.

b) Adoption of Council opinions on updated stability and convergence programmes—The Council adopted opinions on the updated stability and convergence programmes of Slovenia, Slovakia, Austria, Belgium and Romania.

Any Other Business

Medium-Term Budgetary Objectives (MTOs) and Implicit Liabilities

The Council took note of issues raised by the Slovenian Minister regarding the methodology to be used by member states from this autumn when they set medium-term objectives for their national budgets.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): On 10 July 2009, I represented the UK at the budget Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN).

The Council conducted its first reading of the EC budget for 2010, and agreed a draft budget that was supported by all member states.

The Council meeting was followed by a conciliation meeting between the Council and the European Parliament to discuss the EC budget for 2010.

Provisional Outturn for Public Expenditure (2008-09)

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Liam Byrne): The Treasury is today publishing the "Public Expenditure 2008-09 Provisional Outturn" White Paper.

The White Paper is an annual report to Parliament on the provisional outturn for public expenditure. It focuses on spending within departmental expenditure limits (DEL) and annually managed expenditure (AME), and includes information on individual supply estimates, and administration costs and near-cash limits.

The outturn figures are described as provisional because, in some cases, they will be revised when Departments publish their final accounts.

A copy of the White Paper will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and will be accessible on the Treasury website.

Tax Law Rewrite

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): As the tax law rewrite project will soon complete the work of rewriting mainstream direct tax legislation, it is necessary to consider whether it should rewrite other parts of the direct tax code.

Since it was set up, the project has played a key role in modernising tax legislation and making it far more accessible and easier to apply. Its work has rightly been widely praised, and has provided considerable benefits for users. However the benefits of rewriting other parts of the direct tax code are less clear and there is less support for extending the work of the project into these areas. I am satisfied that when the project's next two Bills are enacted, the time will be right to bring this work to an end.

The achievements of the project would not have been possible without the dedication of everyone involved. Many tax professionals in the private sector have given their time and expertise in reviewing and improving the new provisions during their development, in a productive partnership with HM Revenue and Customs. Their input, and the guidance of the project's steering and consultative committees, have been vital in achieving the excellent quality of the rewritten legislation.

With the completion of the project's work, legislation for the mainstream direct taxes will be much easier for users to navigate and understand.

Gaming Machines

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): I am today publishing a consultation on the future of gaming machines tax policy, copies of which have been placed in the House Library.

Following reforms to gambling taxation over the last decade, five of the seven gambling tax regimes are now calculated on a gross profits basis. Gaming machines face a combination of amusement machine licence duty (AMLD), a licence fee paid before a gaming machine may be made available to play, and VAT at the standard rate on their takings.

Taxing on the basis of gross profits has been a success for other gambling regimes. The Government are considering whether to place the taxation of gaming machines on to the same basis, and wishes to hear from interested stakeholders.

The consultation period will run until 23 October to ensure stakeholders are given additional time to make representations. The consultation document is also available from the HM Treasury website.

Walker Review

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The Government strongly welcome the publication today of the consultation document of Sir David Walker's independent review of the corporate governance of UK banks and other financial institutions.

Corporate governance failures were a major contributor to the financial crisis and the weaknesses in board practice, risk management, control of remuneration and exercise of ownership rights identified must be addressed.

Sir David's proposals are detailed and comprehensive, setting a new benchmark for best practice both nationally and internationally.

The Government will carefully consider his proposals, including their wider and international implications, and in conjunction with the views arising from the consultation, make sure that robust measures are put in place.

Copies of the consultation have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

CABINET OFFICE

Annual Report and Accounts

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell): Today, the Cabinet Office's "Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09" (HC 442) has been laid before Parliament

The annual report and accounts reports a loss and a contingent asset following the termination of phase 2 of the SCOPE programme in July 2008.

The SCOPE programme was an information technology programme working with 10 partners across Government. It aimed to extend the benefits of communication and collaborative working afforded by current information technology by improving the way sensitive information was shared between and used by the security and intelligence agencies and Government Departments.

The first phase of the programme was delivered on time and within budget in 2007. It has delivered extremely valuable benefits to the intelligence community in Government and has ensured that all its constituent members are now connected electronically.

Phase 2 was about providing additional functionality, for example, to allow for greater collaborative working between the security and intelligence agencies and Departments.

Phase 2 of the programme was cancelled following the failure of the main commercial supplier to the programme to meet key contractual milestones. As a consequence of termination, it was necessary to write off and report as a loss in the annual report and accounts that part of the value of the asset under construction which had no prospect of becoming viable.

The Treasury has approved a write-off of £24.4 million which has been managed within the Department's net resource requirement and budget and constitutes a charge against non-cash programme expenditure in the resource departmental expenditure limit.

My Department is now working with the contractor to resolve issues arising from the termination of the programme, including consideration of the legal avenues available. The aim of the work is to ensure that Her Majesty's Government and, ultimately, the taxpayer recover the appropriate value from the supplier which relates to those undelivered parts of the programme. This is noted as a contingent asset in the annual report and accounts. The details of the discussions with the supplier are commercially confidential and are likely to remain so.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Gypsies and Travellers

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Shahid Malik): The Government have today published their first annual report on Gypsy and Traveller policies, as set out in its response to the Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Library of the House.

The Government are committed to a fairer, stronger society, in which disadvantage faced by all members of society is tackled. Fairness means ensuring that those Gypsies and Travellers who have no authorised place to stay have the same opportunities as others to a place they can call home, together with the same access to educational, health and other services. It means also that residents in local communities should not have to cope with the unauthorised developments and encampments that can be the consequence of a shortfall in authorised sites.

The report confirms that the framework put in place by the Government provides the tools to enable local authorities to tackle both the shortfall in site provision, and instances of unauthorised developments and encampments where they occur. The Government have published clear guidance to enable local authorities and other agencies to make effective use of the wide range of enforcement powers available to them. They now look to local authorities to be proactive in taking the lead in addressing the shortfall by identifying, in consultation with local communities, appropriate locations for sites which will have the twin benefits of creating homes for Gypsies and Travellers, and reducing the number of unauthorised developments which can be the cause of local community tensions.

The identification of authorised sites will also enable local authorities to reduce the costs of enforcement action related to unauthorised encampments, as well as providing access to even stronger enforcement powers when there are available pitches to which unauthorised campers can be moved. The savings from the reduction in enforcement action can then be deployed to other services to the benefit of the broader community, or reduced levels of council tax.

Thames Gateway Annual Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Shahid Malik): The Government have today published the "Thames Gateway Annual Report 2008-09".

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/thamesgateway/annualreport200809

Eco-towns and Zero Carbon Homes

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): Yesterday, the Government published their "Low Carbon Transition Plan". To respond to the challenge of climate change, we need to become a low-carbon country, achieving an 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

We must also meet the challenge to build more homes, so that everyone has a decent secure and affordable home.

To deliver both we need to change the way that we plan, design and build homes for the future. More than a quarter of Britain's carbon emissions come from our homes. We will need to reduce emissions from existing homes. The Government announced important measures

to do so yesterday and we will set out more later this year. But, one in three of Britain's homes in 2050 will be built between now and then. We need to make sure that our homes in future are cleaner, greener and cheaper to run from the out set.

Today I am reconfirming the Government's policy that all new homes will be zero-carbon from 2016 and announcing further details on the definition and standards we will legislate for.

New buildings are only part of the answer for a low carbon and sustainable future. A differently planned and more sustainable built environment can encourage more sustainable ways of living.

Today I am publishing the "Planning Policy Statement" which sets out the highest ever standards for green living, announcing the first four pioneering locations for Eco-towns in England and offering Government support to work with a further six second wave areas.

By radically rethinking how we design, plan and build we can create zero-carbon developments which combine affordable housing with green infrastructure, greater energy efficiency and a higher quality of life.

To support the Low Carbon Transition Plan and its route map to carbon reduction, today I am also announcing that we will review and combine the Climate Change and Renewable Energy Policy Planning Statements (PPS) consulting in detail on proposals before the end of the year.

Zero Carbon Homes

In July 2007, we announced that all homes would be zero-carbon from 2016. In December 2008, we published a consultation on the definitions of zero-carbon. I am announcing today details of the definition that will apply.

A zero-carbon home is one whose net carbon dioxide emissions, taking account of emissions associated with all energy use in the home, is equal to zero or negative across the year. Our definition of "energy use" will cover both energy uses currently regulated by the Building Regulations and other energy used in the home. Homes meeting the new requirements will be cheaper to run because of high energy efficiency requirements, and occupants will be less vulnerable to rising gas and electricity prices. These homes will have better controls, including smart meters, so that people can more easily manage and reduce energy use. Technology for people to generate their own low carbon heat and electricity, with payments for surpluses will be designed and built into new zero-carbon homes or developments as a matter of course.

Zero carbon homes will be designed and built to be highly energy efficient. Our consultation quoted two standards to illustrate our ambitions in this area. Respondents welcomed the proposition that energy efficiency should be the first priority, although many argued that the standards quoted were not suitable as a minimum regulatory standard to apply to every new home in England and that we do not have an appropriate established energy efficiency standard for the purpose of zero-carbon homes. I accept this.

I am therefore setting up a specialist task group, reporting to me in the autumn to examine the energy efficiency metrics and standards which will realise our ambition of the highest practical energy efficiency level realisable in all dwelling types. Following the task group's report, I intend to announce decisions on a clear new standard by the end of this year.

The net emissions of the home, taking account of its energy efficiency and on site energy supply (including, where relevant, connections to heat networks) will meet a minimum "carbon compliance" standard—in effect a regulatory level of carbon reduction to be achieved on-site compared to today's regulations.

I have decided to set that level to be as ambitious as possible for on-site carbon mitigation, while being technically achievable. This will therefore be 70 per cent. of regulated energy use, based on the assumptions laid out in our consultation document. We will consider updating this as necessary in the light of technical changes, such as developments to the standard assessment procedure energy assessment tool, to maintain this overall level of ambition and provide continued certainty to industry.

I can also confirm that new support for small scale renewable heat and electricity generation through the Renewable Heat Incentive and Clean Energy Cash Back, will be available for on-site renewables in zero-carbon homes, making these homes more attractive to occupants and potentially reducing the net costs faced by developers.

Any carbon not mitigated on site will be dealt with through a range of good quality "allowable solutions". The allowable solutions will cover carbon emitted from the home for 30 years after build. Responses to the consultation took different views about some of the solutions suggested. I have decided to indicate now those approaches that commanded broad support. We will consider with stakeholders the practical arrangements that would be required to permit them to be put in place and to ensure that standards are achieved in practice. I will announce decisions by the end of this year. Those that received broad support are:

Further carbon reductions on site beyond the regulatory standard;

Energy efficient appliances meeting a high standard which are installed as fittings within the home;

Advanced forms of building control system which reduce the level of energy use in the home;

Exports of low carbon or renewable heat from the development to other developments;

Investments in low and zero-carbon community heat infrastructure.

Other allowable solutions remain under consideration.

The wider policies supporting distributed energy will continue to develop over the coming years. Our consultation suggested setting a guideline maximum price we expect industry to bear in implementing allowable solutions. In the light of responses, I intend to do so following further work on costs. For the purposes of the impact assessment published today, I have included costs of allowable solutions up to the central option in our consultation of £100 per tonne of carbon dioxide, reflecting the cost of off-site renewable electricity.

Government will support industry as it responds to this challenge. Budget 2009 announced that the Government will report at the 2009 pre-Budget report on progress and set out its strategy to support a timely and effective housing supply response through the recovery, in order to maximise delivery of high quality, energy efficient homes, supporting our long term housing supply and environmental objectives. As part of this, the Government will identify, working with industry and other partners,

the best regulatory and policy framework to support the Government's long-term housing objectives. In making the announcement today, I am making clear the priority the Government attach to tackling climate change over other potential demands on land values. We will examine the cumulative impact and costs of our existing regulatory policies and proposals that potentially affect land value including current implementation plans in the round in the context of the PBR work, taking the zero-carbon policy into account.

Industry will need to develop innovative design and building technologies and techniques, and to support these efforts Government will work closely with the industry:

The Technology Strategy Board is working with partners to enable it to harness the market for environmentally sustainable buildings, since 2004 investing £46 million in this area. Under its Low Impact Buildings Innovation Platform a further total of £50 million is now earmarked for allocation to research relevant to new build by 2011. This includes over £30 million of capability building work to be awarded over the next two years and up to £8.5 million in new build demonstration programmes;

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has a carbon challenge programme which aims to accelerate the home building industry's response to climate change by building homes that reach level 6 of the code for sustainable homes. Four new communities are planned which will together provide around 1,700 zero-carbon, highly sustainable demonstration homes;

I am today announcing with the HCA support for the first schemes under the £21 million Low Carbon Community Heating Initiative fund, launched in Budget 2009. Schemes will be supported in Exeter, Nottingham, Milton Keynes, Southampton, Birmingham and Newcastle.

Eco-towns

Eco-towns respond to the demand to build more homes and to live in a more sustainable way. By radically rethinking how we design, plan and build our homes, we can create zero-carbon developments which combine affordable housing, environmental sensitivity, and outstanding quality. Eco-towns will pioneer genuinely sustainable living setting standards that will need to be followed more widely to deal with the challenge of climate change.

The new Eco-town Planning Policy Statement (PPS) that I am publishing today sets out the highest ever standards for green living, and linked to it I can announce the first four pioneer locations for England's Eco-towns. These are: Whitehill-Bordon, St. Austell (Clay Country), Rackheath (Norwich) and NW Bicester, all led or strongly supported by their local authorities who can see both the potential for their new eco town and the benefit for existing communities in regeneration, higher quality jobs and new green infrastructure. Each of these four locations has the capacity to link well into existing development—as well as the scale to function as a new settlement. None are self contained developments in the middle of the countryside.

These locations will receive continuing Government support including a share of a special £60 million growth fund to support local infrastructure.

Alongside the new Eco-towns PPS I am publishing a series of documents which demonstrate the detailed work and assessment on which my decisions today are based. These are:

an update of the Sustainability Appraisal;

a Sustainability Statement;

an Impact Assessment;

Summary of responses to the consultation on the draft PPS;

a Location Decision Statement.

I am placing copies in the Library of the House.

However the PPS is a statement about potential. The decision on whether or not the eco-town schemes go ahead is for the local planning authority. Schemes can be considered in local plans and will be the subject of individual planning applications, and local consultation, which will be decided on their merits by the local authority.

In addition to the first four pioneering locations in the PPS we have said we want to see up to ten Eco-towns by 2020, so I am making the offer to work with and help fund a further six more local authorities in developing proposals through regional and local plans. We have offered additional support to two authorities where proposals were not sufficiently advanced to be included in the PPS—Uttlesford and Doncaster to enable them to take forward these locations through their local plans if this is the preferred option they choose to pursue. I have set aside £5 million to support these and other areas to carry out further assessment and technical work including potential future locations to come through plans in other regions.

The eco-towns concept—more sustainable living in new communities—has attracted real interest. When a whole community is planned at this scale (5,000 homes is broadly the size necessary to support a secondary school) there is an opportunity to completely rethink how transport, employment, retail and other services are provided as well as designing housing to exemplary standards. In practice this means features such as smart homes with remote control of heating and ventilation, real time information on available transport, state of the art provision for home-working, including high quality broadband.

The PPS I am publishing today sets out for the highest standards for green living ever set. Eco-town developments must be able to demonstrate essential features to achieve the highest levels of sustainability. Examples of the PPS standards include ensuring:

zero-carbon status across all the town's buildings, including commercial and public buildings as well as homes—a significantly tougher threshold than any existing or agreed targets;

40 per cent. of the area within the town to be green space, at least half of which should be open to the public as parks or recreation areas;

a minimum of one job per house can be reached by walking, cycling or public transport to reduce dependence on the car;

all homes are located within ten minutes walk of frequent public transport and everyday neighbourhood services;

smart, efficient, affordable homes taking their energy from the sun, wind and earth.

Eco-towns offer great potential to test a wide range of innovative and emerging technologies because of the scale of the projects. To ensure we make the most of these opportunities, and to support business innovation, the Technology Strategy Board will work with the selected eco-towns to capture this potential. The Technology Strategy Board will look to co-ordinate and align with the work on eco-towns a range of activities drawing on current investments worth over £200m through Innovation Platforms in the areas of Low Impact Buildings, Intelligent Transport Systems and Services and Low Carbon Vehicles and its programmes in the area of Energy Generation and Supply and Advanced Materials.

Eco-towns can play a leading role in the development of electric cars through building in infrastructure such as charging points as a standard provision in all major public and services buildings. We will work with all the eco-town locations to develop their potential for supporting this technology and in piloting the next generation of electric and hybrid cars.

Eco-towns will be major building projects which could employ large numbers of local people, many new to the sector and who will require training in the industry. They offer an opportunity to ensure that existing skills are upgraded to deliver the low carbon built environment and equip the construction workers of the future with the skills in sustainable design and building. Where public funds are committed, public sector agencies will look to use clauses in delivery contracts to ensure a proportion of apprenticeships are offered and these are "green skills" apprenticeships.

Eco-towns can pilot and test new ways of delivering public services, as well as making them more sustainable and responsive to climate change, such as new and innovative schools to meet the needs of new and existing residents. Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) will support eco-towns to ensure the design of schools, including travel to them, and the delivery of play and youth services and facilities are both innovative and sustainable. We will work closely with the promoters of eco-towns and the relevant local authorities to look at how best to meet those needs with the aim of ensuring that each of the eco-towns has a zero-carbon school in place by 2013.

We want schools to be sustainable socially as well as environmentally. By 2010 all schools should be providing access to extended services for children and families. Eco-towns in particular should explore opportunities for co-locating children's and other support services alongside schools for example through Sure Start Children's Centres which bring together childcare, early education, health and family support services.

Eco-towns will be designed as healthy and sustainable environments encouraging healthy living for all through active design principles, community involvement and encouraging healthy behaviours. The Department of Health will work with other Government Departments and associated research bodies in seeking to achieve a zero-carbon standard for health and social care facilities in the eco towns.

Eco-towns also need to be sustainable travel towns, demonstrating how using "smarter choices" can secure significant increases in cycling, walking and public transport. All the homes in the demonstration projects should have secure cycle storage designed in from the outset.

Good transport links are essential to the success of any new community. Three of the four eco-town locations I am announcing today are well located for rail transport. For the fourth, Bordon, I am announcing funding support for the next stage of feasibility work, working with Hampshire county council, to establish if restoration of a rail link can be achieved sustainably and subject to a sound business case.

We want nature to be at the very heart of eco-towns and the development process will be used to restore wildlife habitats and weave the living landscape back together. We expect the eco-towns to become working demonstrations of the ways that biodiversity can contribute to safe, healthy and prosperous communities. Biodiversity projects are being developed at all four locations, and include the potential to work with the Eden project team.

Eco-towns are large developments which will require all parts of the public sector to work together, and close working relations between local and central Government. I therefore propose to invite each of the eco-town local authorities to look at how their LAA could provide a suitable framework for planning future service provision and delivery in and around the eco-town area, for example through a stronger focus on a lower tier local authority within the LAA arrangement or sub area locality agreement.

I propose to establish a formal relationship between local and central Government, in an arrangement based on the model of multi-area agreements (MAA), to negotiate the freedoms and flexibilities eco-town areas will need to realise their aspirations. I wish also to offer certainty that central Government are willing to work closely with the local authority and local communities to make the most of their new eco town opportunities.

In addition I am asking the Homes and Communities Agency to provide support, expertise and advice to local partners and I expect the HCA's first step to be inclusion of the four eco-town locations in the first wave of single conversations between the agency and local authorities, with the agency assessing the detailed proposals as they come forward from the promoters in each location, and advising each location on funding, including growth funding. Providing there are proposals which represent good quality and value for money and are deliverable within a mixed community context, provision of affordable housing support in these locations will be presented by HCA as a regional priority in the allocation of resources from the National Affordable Housing Programme.

The eco-town locations I am announcing today all have existing communities close by or within the area and I want them to benefit from their new eco-towns. We will, therefore, be inviting existing communities in the first eco-town locations to participate in the "Green villages, towns and cities" challenge for communities announced in the DECC Low Carbon Transition Plan published yesterday. In total, 15 communities will be selected to participate as "test-hubs", with local residents, businesses, and the public sector playing a leading role.

The need to develop thriving and sustainable communities able to take a strong role in shaping their community is at the heart of the eco-town concept. To support community anchor organisations in taking a leading role in shaping the eco-town proposals, and subject to local proposals, Government will invite eco-town pilot projects to apply for support within the £70 million community builders fund for community organisations, including for the purchase of community assets.

We have been well served by the Eco-towns challenge panel of independent experts and we want to maintain the creative contribution that independent professionals can make through the CABE design review process, CABE design support at local level, and the continuation of an independent advisory panel as the eco-town schemes are developed.

Despite the difficult current market conditions caused by the recession, I expect 10,000 homes built by 2016 of which 30 per cent. will be affordable. To start this

process we will support early demonstrator buildings to test and develop from the new technologies needed, and so that local communities can help shape their further development. For the next two years I am providing £60 million start up funding from the growth fund for this work for the four locations identified today. This is additional to mainstream funding for services. We expect that the bulk of investment in these schemes will be from the private sector, but eco-towns will also benefit from similar levels of public investment to any comparable large housing scheme and this will include continued growth funding over the period of major development.

Planning

With the new PPS, eco-towns set the gold standard in development planning, but low carbon living means planning for all new development to cut carbon emissions.

Our climate change "Planning Policy Statement" (PPS) published in December 2007 has put climate change at the heart of what is expected from good planning and complemented our earlier PPS on renewable energy. Neither now fully reflects the scale of the challenge we face. But neither fully reflects the scale of the challenge we now face in supporting the UK's transition to a low carbon country. We will therefore review and combine them, consulting in detail on proposals later this year.

DEFENCE

Borona Programme

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): On 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 66WS, my predecessor announced that Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) and its intimate supporting elements would move to Innsworth in Gloucestershire in the summer of 2010. At that time Cosford in Shropshire was our preferred site for 1 Signal Brigade (1 Sig Bde) and 102 Logistic Brigade (102 Log Bde) and our aim was to close Rhine Garrison and Munster Station by 2015. This would leave three enduring garrisons in Germany: Gutersloh, Paderborn and Hohne.

Continuing work on the Defence Training Rationalisation Programme means that Cosford will not be available to achieve this aim. The programme team responsible for the moves from Germany to the UK has therefore examined alternative site solutions and today I am announcing that the preferred site for 1 Sig Bde is now Stafford. This decision will need to be confirmed following scrutiny of the detailed plans for the move and the programme team will now focus on drawing up these plans, which will include a competition for the infrastructure and construction requirements at Stafford, with a view to occupation from 2013. The team will continue to consult all interested parties including the local county and borough councils, health and education providers and the trade unions.

I believe this is a positive defence initiative for the area and complements Stafford's growth point status which will enable a joint approach between the Government and the local authorities to support the defence community. Stafford is already the home of 22 Signal Regiment (22 Sig Regt) and moving other elements of 1 Sig Bde (7 and 16 Sig Regts) there provides a synergy that will be important to the Department and should also be beneficial to the local community.

Cosford remains our preferred site for 102 Logistic Brigade once the Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering (DCAE) moves to St. Athan as presently planned in 2014-15, and on current assumptions we envisage the Logistic Brigade moving in 2016. Cosford is a well found site that has enduring military utility and is designated as a MOD Core Site. We will continue to consider the other opportunities that Cosford affords us as the need arises.

These changes enable us to keep the closure of Rhine Garrison on track and this is currently envisaged as being in 2014. We would expect Munster Station to close in 2016-17 assuming 102 Log Bde moves to Cosford in 2016.

Defence Estate Development Plan 2009

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): Today the Department has published the Defence Estate Development Plan (DEDP) 2009—the first annual update of this vital internal planning document. The updated plan is evolutionary in nature and reflects the Department's consistent estate priorities. DEDP 09 sets out the authoritative framework, looking forward to 2030, for the coherent development of the estate to meet the future needs of defence, and the priorities for investment and rationalisation arising from it. It also informs our programme of engagement with the regions, which underpins the successful delivery of many of our estate programmes.

The key changes are evolutionary in nature and include, amongst others, cross-Government support to the armed forces as set out in "The Nation's Commitment", and revised targets for improving living accommodation for our people. Other changes reflect specific investment and basing decisions that support the generation of sustainable military capability.

I have placed a copy of the plan in the House of Commons Library. The document will also be widely circulated to external stakeholders and will be published on the internet.

Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): I am pleased to inform the House that a new non-departmental public body (NDPB) has been set up, entitled the "Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons" (SACMILL).

Previously SACMILL was a sub-committee of the Defence Science Advisory Council (DSAC), known as DOMILL (DSAC sub-committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons). DOMILL had become recognised as a valuable and authoritative group on the medical implications of the use of less lethal weapons, providing cross-Government advice.

A review by MOD's director general management and organisation (DGMO) has recommended that DOMILL should become a cross-Government NDPB in its own right, sponsored by the Surgeon General. This has placed the group on a permanent footing,

allowing it to work with other Departments directly rather than through MOD. I will retain oversight on behalf of MOD and will remain informed of the committee's activities.

Service Personnel Green Paper

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): I have today published a Green Paper "The Nation's Commitment to the Armed Forces Community: Consistent and Enduring Support".

Last summer's publication of the Command Paper, "The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans", was well received by the services, by veterans groups and by the public at large. We shall be publishing the first annual report in the autumn charting the progress that has been made. This work has already delivered significant improvements in a number of areas:

Doubling compensation for the most serious injuries;

Free further education for service leavers; and

Help for forces leavers to get on the housing ladder.

We said last year that we would not allow this strategy of support to our armed forces community to fade. Today's Green Paper sets out the next step in this process. We would like to see an enduring shift in the way in which public bodies think about the armed forces community, so that their special circumstances are taken into account at all stages, from policy formation to service delivery. The Command Paper was an important step forward; we must now make permanent the approach which it embodied.

This Green Paper sets out a range of ideas, including through possible legislation, for how we can achieve this. It focuses on two strands: making the principles enshrined within the Command Paper consistent and enduring, and providing a new route for recourse.

The ideas are intentionally broad and wide ranging. There is no single favoured option at this stage. We want to explore these ideas through a public consultation, where everyone can have their say about the best way forward. The responses received will allow us to make informed, collective decisions on how best to take this work forward and deliver real and lasting effect for the armed forces community.

Where the options relate to devolved matters in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales we will work with the devolved Administrations who are responsible for a number of areas such as health, housing, education, skills and transport in determining how best to take forward the principles of achieving equal or similar levels of support for the armed forces community. In these areas the Devolved Administrations will wish to consider the responses to this consultation in respect of devolved matters and determine a way forward that is appropriate for them, in consultation with their strategic partners. The UK Government will work with them to deliver a solution which supports the armed forces community across the UK.

Those who serve on our behalf place all that they have on the line for this country. In return, the nation has a commitment to make sure that they have the support they need and deserve, when they need it. The consultation period will complete on 31 October 2009.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

National Park and Broads Authorities

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): In July last year DEFRA launched an open consultation to seek the views of a range of stakeholders on the principle of whether some members of National Park and Broads Authorities should be directly elected.

The majority of the national park authorities' membership comprises local authority and parish councillors selected by their respective councils, with the remainder being appointed by the Secretary of State in recognition of the national interest. The Broads Authority has a different membership structure under its own primary legislation to reflect the broads' navigational interest.

During the passage of the Broads Authority Private Bill the question arose of whether there should be parish members on the Broads Authority. As a result this issue was included in the co[illegible] on direct elections.

A total of 490 responses were re[illegible]d to the consultation. The strongest support for the principle of direct elections came from respondents within the Broads Authority and New Forest national parks for reasons of local democracy and local representation in relation to planning decisions, but there was very little support for larger authorities to accommodate directly elected members.

Most stakeholders considered that direct elections would not lead to any improved effectiveness or efficiency of national park authorities, including the authorities themselves. Many national park authorities, local authorities and parish councils expressed concern that direct elections in place of their members would have the effect of disenfranchising the local authorities and parish councils which the park authorities work with leading to the effect of serious repercussions in relation to their influence with other bodies, particularly at regional and national level.

There appeared to be no consensus on which category of members to replace to accommodate directly elected members. All categories of members have provided a significant contribution to the effective working of the Authorities. However, many individuals who live in the parks and MPs have raised the issue of democratic accountability and local representation for local communities in the parks.

I have been impressed with the range of community engagement that already occurs, and having carefully considered the responses I have decided not to make any changes to the current membership arrangements. I am proposing ways of improving the accountability of the national park authorities and to apply more consistently some of the examples of best practice across all parks.

The park authorities will be required to apply the 'Duty to Involve' measures contained in the Local Government and Public Health Act 2007, which will assist local authorities and others in understanding what the park authorities are, their functions and how people can get involved.

Although there are a range of accountability measures already in place, including the holding of authority meetings in public, local area agreements, formal

performance assessments and annual inspections by the Audit Commission, I have also asked the park authorities to examine other ways of engaging the public and local residents in the decision making process, for example;

- Making the reporting of progress and performance more open and transparent including information on progress in delivering the objectives set out in the national park management plans.
- Considering whether existing forums provide sufficient opportunities for public involvement in priority setting and improving the engagement of parish councils.
- Undertaking regular resident and visitor surveys to obtain feedback on the services provided by the authorities, openly publish analysis of these, and demonstrate how they are shaping the delivery of services provided by the authority.

Given the ability of parish members to provide local knowledge, I will also consider more closely the role they play in existing national park authorities, and ways of enhancing the parish member appointment processes to ensure they are made more consistent and include opportunities for wider public involvement.

I have asked for a report back to my Department in 12 months time on how the park authorities are building on their existing arrangements for engaging the public and local residents.

On the issue of appointing parish members to the Broads Authority, while there was some support for these appointments this should not be at the expense of a reduction in the existing categories of membership. Although I am not in favour of adding parish council members to the Broads Authority at this time, I am prepared to reconsider the matter if local government restructuring meant that there was a need in any case to revise the Broads Authority's membership.

FOOTNOTE:

Examples of existing and proposed accountability measures in addition to those mentioned above:

Existing mechanisms

Methods by which national park authorities are currently accountable for their activities and decisions are numerous and include:

- NPA meetings being held in public, with the papers made available, including on websites.
- Formal NPA performance assessments being undertaken which includes peer and stakeholder review and rigorous independent scrutiny.
- A commitment to public participation which goes beyond statutory public consultation on the preparation of the national park management plan and subsequent publication and monitoring of delivery.
- Publication of NPA corporate plans and other strategies.
- Undertaking resident and visitor surveys to test opinion and receive feedback on services and priorities.
- Publication of newsletters to both residents and to visitors from beyond the National Park boundary, and customer satisfaction surveys designed in order to improve performance and to ensure services meet customers' needs.
- Hosting consultative forums that bring town and parish councils, amenity groups and other local associations together to discuss shared priorities, and run community and stakeholder forums to gather views.

Some possible new measures under consideration

- NPAs sharing good practice in the area of public involvement and early experience of implementing the 'Duty to Involve' requirements.
- NPAs could consider if cost effective improvements can be made to the publishing of forthcoming meetings.
- NPAs could explore whether they can enhance the support given to capacity building of parish councils. This might entail, as an example, running a joint event for parish councils on the planning system to help build their capacity to engage with policy development and respond to planning applications, and offering annual planning liaison meetings with each parish council to improve understanding of the process.

Rural Payments Agency

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I have set the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) the following performance targets for 2009-10.

Service delivery quality

To administer common agricultural policy and other schemes to meet the following requirements:

- To have paid 75 per cent. by value of valid single payment scheme 2009 claims by 31 January 2010 and 90 per cent. by value of valid 2009 claims by 31 March 2010.
- To process and pay at least 90 per cent. of valid claims by volume for non-single payment scheme schemes within ministerial guidelines and 99 per cent. within the set European Commission deadlines or in their absence within 60 days of receipt of the claim.
- To record 98 per cent. of notifications of births deaths and movements of cattle on the cattle tracing system within 14 days of their receipt.
- To make 98 per cent. of rural development programme for England payments for Natural England and regional development agencies in accordance with agreed service level agreements.

To demonstrate a continued commitment to customers by achieving a minimum annual average customer satisfaction score of 7.0 out of 10.0, as measured through surveys of external customers, and by reducing the number of complaints received compared with 2008-09.

Value for public money

- To demonstrate clear progress towards achieving the Treasury disallowance target of 2 per cent. or less of fund value, for all CAP schemes administered by the RPA.
- To demonstrate a 9 per cent. reduction from the 2008-09 year in the cost of administering the agency without compromising service delivery.

Capacity and capability

- To demonstrate improved capacity and capability to meet targets and implement change.

Further details are given in the RPA business plan for 2009-10, copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): I wish to update the House on recent developments related to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG, Kew).

I am pleased to announce that on 1 August 2009 Sir Neil Chalmers, Warden of Wadham College, Oxford and a former Director of the Natural History Museum, will commence an independent review of RBG, Kew. Sir Neil will be supported by a small team of independent consultants. The last review was carried out in 2001, although there was a separate independent audit of Kew's scientific activities in 2006.

Non-departmental public bodies such as RBG, Kew benefit significantly from regular and objective reviews, which examine their role, performance and priorities. To carry out such a review now gives us a timely and valuable opportunity to examine how RBG, Kew can continue to deliver its statutory functions effectively and maintain the quality and value of its scientific contribution in critical areas such as the conservation of global biodiversity.

The following terms of reference have been drawn up to guide the review:

to conduct an evaluation of the performance of the Royal Botanic Gardens, (RBG) Kew in fulfilling its statutory obligations since the last review in 2001;

as part of the evaluation, to pay particular attention to resourcing and the effectiveness of income generation, infrastructure and heritage management and support; to consider how the scientific and other activities of RBG, Kew support the objectives of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and other Government Departments; and to review the existing DEFRA sponsorship arrangements;

to consider in the light of this evaluation and the views of other customers and stakeholders whether the services, activities, and organisational arrangements at RBG, Kew remain the most effective means of achieving its own, DEFRA's, as well as Government-wide objectives, such as those relating to climate change, conservation and biodiversity, overall science policy, and the operational efficiency agenda;

to assess what changes, if any, are needed in the light of the findings of the review to improve the quality, effectiveness and value for money of RBG, Kew services, and to set out the rationale and to recommend appropriate options to Ministers. These should address how best to ensure a sustainable financial future for RBG, Kew and its world class science.

The review will be carried out openly and transparently and users, customers and stakeholders of RBG, Kew will be consulted. Sir Neil's recommendations will be published along with the Government's response.

I will update the House as necessary.

Animal Products (Imports)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Fitzpatrick): As required under the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002) the Government will publish today a review of controls on the import of animal products for the financial year 2008-09. I welcome the opportunity to review and report on efforts during the past year to reduce the risk of disease entering the country via imports of animal products.

The control of imports of animal products remains a major concern for the Government as we fully appreciate the devastating effect that disease outbreaks can have on our farming of livestock and crops and on the environment and, in trying to protect animal health, we know how important it is to take a variety of measures at the border and inland. It has once again been a challenging year in monitoring the constantly changing disease situation around the world and evaluating and responding to threats. We continue to ensure that veterinary checks are carried out on legally imported animal products from non-European Union (EU) countries and work closely with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)/ United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) and other relevant Government Departments to combat the risk of major diseases entering the country through illegal imports from outside the EU.

UKBA continues to deliver an enforcement strategy that targets anti-smuggling activity on the highest risk traffic to combat illegal imports of animal products into Great Britain (GB) and to review deployment of resources and react flexibly in response to changes in the pattern of risk.

There continues to be a joined-up approach across Government Departments on an overall communications strategy to raise awareness among international travellers of the personal import rules for food, with a great deal of publicity continuing to be undertaken inland within GB, at the border and also overseas.

These are some of the highlights of our working during the year:

EU veterinary week in November highlighted the programme of already ongoing work in respect of our cross-Government personal imports campaign at border control points, including a stand at Heathrow airport, terminal 3 during the week which had over 5,000 visitors and was covered by BBC Breakfast news;

new TV filler "Don't bring me back", produced to support our overall personal imports campaign, has achieved some excellent airtime across a variety of channels with most of the transmissions going out in peak evening viewing time. It has built in value to be one of the top ten fillers of 2008-09. It has also received out of home play in locations such as surgeries and gyms;

food and veterinary office (FVO) visit in November 2008—inspectors indicated that the UK has a functioning import control system and recognised further improvements made by the UK.

We will continue to monitor and assess the changing threats from around the world, and work with HMRC/ UKBA and other enforcement partners to make sure that our enforcement activity at UK borders is targeted at the current risks.

Copies of the Review are available on the DEFRA 'personal food imports' website: www.defra.gov.uk/ animalh/illeqali, and will be sent to stakeholders for information seeking their feedback. Hard copies will also be available on request.

Single Payment Scheme

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): As at 30 June, the end of the regulatory payment window for the 2008 single payment scheme, a total of £1.625 billion, representing some 99.69 per cent. of the estimated total fund had been paid in full payments to 104,199 claimants.

These figures confirm that the agency has helped to ensure that the UK as a whole has met the EU requirement that 96.154 per cent. of 2008 scheme payments be made by 30 June. This follows earlier confirmation that the agency had met its formal performance targets for this scheme year.

Reaching these targets continues to demonstrate improvements in RPA's performance and levels of service to its customers and provide another important step forward for the agency.

Of the outstanding 2008 claims on which processing is not complete, approximately 400 are expected to result in a payment in due course. Work continues to complete the necessary validation of those claims as soon as possible. Interest will be paid to claimants on sums paid after 30 June on the same basis as for previous scheme years. The agency will continue to address any cases of individual hardship as sympathetically as possible.

Alongside that work, RPA has already begun processing the 107,000 or so claims that have been submitted under the 2009 SPS. Formal payment targets will be announced separately, but I know the agency Chief Executive is expecting to at least match RPA performance under the 2008 scheme when nearly £1 billion was paid out by the end of December.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): I am pleased to announce Her Majesty the Queen's appointment of Timothy Godwin OBE, QPM as the next Deputy Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

I made my recommendation to Her Majesty following an open competition for the selection of a new Deputy Commissioner and having regard to the recommendations made to me by the Metropolitan police authority and representations from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

I am confident that Timothy Godwin will be an excellent Deputy Commissioner and will help the Commissioner to lead the Metropolitan police service in delivering for the public both in London and nationally.

Consultation (Charges)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The biggest shake-up to our border protection and immigration system for over 45 years is well underway. The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill, which will fundamentally overhaul the laws regarding obtaining British citizenship is currently progressing through Parliament. We will also look to simplify our immigration laws further through legislation to be published later this year in Parliament.

The UK Border Agency was established in April 2008 to create a strong new force at the border by bringing together immigration, customs and visa checks to strengthen the UK border. We want the UK to stay open and attractive for both business and visitors, but at the same time we are determined to deliver a system of border control which is among the strongest in the world.

Inward investment and tourism benefit Britain greatly. The Government are committed to boosting Britain's economy by bringing the right skills from around the world and ensuring that it is easy to visit legally. We want to continue to welcome the holidaymakers, visitors, business people and genuine students who come here, recognising the valuable contribution they make to economic growth and the way they enrich our society through cultural exchange.

For the immigration system to command public support, both among the British public and legitimate migrants, we need an immigration system that is fair and effective. The integrity of the immigration system depends on robust borders, with effective security overseas and in the UK ensuring and enforcing compliance with our immigration laws. To help achieve this, those who benefit directly from our immigration system (migrants, employers and educational institutions) should contribute to the costs of the system and enable us to meet our strategic objectives.

Later this summer the Government will publish a consultation document on charging for certain services we provide. To maintain our world class immigration system currently costs over £2.2 billion per annum. UK Border Agency currently recovers approximately 30 per cent. of this spend through fees for applications and services we offer. We believe it is right that users of that system make an appropriate contribution to meeting those costs, to help manage the burden on the UK taxpayer. The purpose of consulting is to ensure that we are getting that balance right in the broader interests of the UK.

The consultation document will set out some options on how we can charge for our services. We want a genuine debate on the most appropriate way to charge. We will be engaging with stakeholders throughout the consultation period in order to get the views and ideas from as many people as possible. Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available for downloading from the UK Border Agency website:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/consultations/current/

Identity and Passport Service Annual Report and Accounts

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Identity and Passport Service Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 have been laid before the House today and copies placed in the Vote Office. Publication will take place shortly.

Independent Police Complaints Commission Annual Report

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): I am pleased to announce that today my right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and I are laying before Parliament the Annual Report of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), which will be published today.

This is the fifth annual report from the IPCC. The report covers the work of the IPCC during 2008-09 and includes a discrete chapter on the discharge of their responsibilities in respect of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. The report also includes a chapter on

deaths during or following police contact, which shows continued year-on-year decreases in the number of deaths.

During this year the IPCC has continued to make significant improvements in their performance having set some ambitious targets. The IPCC has a key role in increasing confidence in the police complaints system which will, in turn, impact positively on public confidence in the police. In a recent survey conducted by the British Market Research Bureau, 88 per cent. of those surveyed said they thought the IPCC would treat a complaint against the police fairly. I am satisfied that the IPCC is ready to meet the challenges. We will continue to work with the IPCC to ensure it continues to meet its statutory remit.

Intercept as Evidence

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): In her written ministerial statement to the House on 12 February, *Official Report*, columns 87-88WS, the then Home Secretary, the right hon. Member for Redditch (Jacqui Smith), provided a progress report on the work being undertaken following the publication of the Privy Council review of intercept as evidence in January 2008.

I am pleased to be able to provide a further update, and to explain why I have concluded it is right to provide the House with a full report after the summer recess.

Since February, detailed work has focused on testing the practical impact and effect of the model developed. This work has been undertaken in concert with experienced independent legal practitioners. The programme is now complete, and work is now in hand to draw the emerging conclusions and test their validity. The Advisory Group of Privy Counsellors, the right hon. Sir John Chilcot, my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Archer of Sandwell, the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Sir Alan Beith) and the right hon. and learned Member for Folkestone and Hythe (Michael Howard) is following this closely. Indeed they also see merit in seeking further advice on key points for, as they noted in their interim report in February, the issues are complex. I know they share my determination to get this right. I should like to thank them for their continuing commitment and invaluable contribution.

I look forward to discussing with them the final conclusions of the programme. I shall then provide a formal report to Parliament on the full findings of the work programme, and the Government's decision in the light of them, soon after the return following the summer recess.

Independent Safeguarding Authority Annual Report and Accounts

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): I am pleased to announce that the annual report 2008-09 and accounts of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will be laid before Parliament today.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Reports and Resource Accounts (2008-09)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have today published, and laid before Parliament, the Department for International Development Annual Report and Resource Accounts for 2008-09 (HC 867-I and HC 867-II).

The report sets out the good progress we have made this year in meeting our aim of alleviating poverty in the poorer countries of the world. It provides the first full year reporting of progress against our 2007 public service agreement and our departmental strategic objectives, and reports against targets set in previous spending reviews that are still current. The report also includes our full set of accounts for 2008-09 and the progress we have made on the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006, further underlining our commitment to transparent and accessible reporting of UK development policies and programmes.

JUSTICE

Housing: Proportionate Dispute Resolution

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I am today announcing the Government's response to the Law Commission's report on Housing: Proportionate Dispute Resolution.

The Law Commission published its report on 13 May 2008. This follows a major programme of work on the reform of housing law. Unlike most other Law Commission reports, this report does not focus solely on reform of substantive law but rather looks at the broader social issues of how housing problems arise and how they might be better addressed.

The report makes recommendations in three broad areas: (i) better advice and assistance (ii) non-formal (that is, not involving a court or tribunal) dispute resolution and (iii) formal dispute resolution.

The Government broadly accept all of the Commission's recommendations on the provision of better advice and assistance. Substantial progress has already been made in improving advice provision and encouraging early engagement, for example, by promoting and signposting court users to the community legal advice helpline and the community legal advice website.

The report recommends that promotion of mediation and alternative dispute resolution is an important component of non-formal dispute resolution. The Government are committed to promoting mediation and using alternative dispute resolution as a tool to ensure court action is a last resort.

The Law Commission also recommends the transfer of jurisdiction for a number of different types of cases, including stand-alone disrepair cases, from county courts to tribunals. The Government have already, separately, confirmed that they will transfer dispute resolution and other proceedings arising out of the provisions of the

Mobile Homes Act 1983 to residential property tribunals. However, it is not satisfied that a case has been made out for any other transfers.

The Government also reject the Law Commission's recommendation that the county court should have powers to grant interim relief pending the outcome of a local authority internal review in homelessness cases. It is usual for parties to have to exhaust all alternative remedies before coming to court. This is a key feature of our policy of encouraging early resolution of disputes/problems, with the court only being used in the last resort. Local authorities are empowered to take decisions on homelessness applications and there are statutory procedures that are in place to ensure that this is done fairly. The Government consider that there is a significant risk that any changes in this area would be exploited to circumvent these procedures to the detriment of those who are genuinely homeless and in priority need.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The tribunals service was created in April 2006, bringing together the administrative support for over 23 tribunals from across government into a single organisation so that tribunals were visibly independent of original decision makers, and to bring improved quality and efficiency in the provision of administrative and management support.

The provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007—TCE Act— followed these administrative changes and created a new judicial and legal framework, bringing together a range of formerly separate tribunals into a new unified two-tier tribunal structure—the first-tier and upper tribunal—under a senior president, Lord Justice Carnwath. The first-tier and the upper tribunal were established under the TCE Act on 3 November 2008, with the first-tier tribunal being the first-instance tribunal for most jurisdictions. The upper tribunal mainly, but not exclusively, reviews and decides appeals from the first-tier tribunal. It also has the power to deal with judicial review work delegated from the High Courts of England and Wales and Northern Ireland and from the Court of Session.

The TCE Act has provided a cohesive statutory framework for a unified tribunal system dealing with nearly 600,000 cases a year which is committed to improvement and innovation for the benefit of the public.

The TCE Act also contains provisions for the jurisdictions of most existing tribunals administered by the tribunals service to transfer into the new two-tier structure. The main exception to this is the system of employment tribunals, which will remain as a distinct pillar within the tribunals system. The structure is designed to be flexible so that, in the future, when Parliament decides to create a new appeal right or jurisdiction, it will not be necessary to create a new tribunal to administer it.

Both the first-tier and upper tribunal are divided into chambers that group together jurisdictions, and their judiciary, dealing with like subjects or where individual panels need the same types of members. The following chambers have been established in the first-tier tribunal:

Social Entitlement (3 Nov 2008)

War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation (3 Nov 2008)

Health, Education and Social Care (3 Nov 2008)

Tax (1 April 2009)

In the upper tribunal the following chambers have been established:

Administrative Appeals (3 November 2008)

Tax and Finance (1 April 2009), and

Lands (1 June 2009)

Further chambers dealing with general regulatory matters and immigration and asylum appeals are to be established in 2009 and early 2010.

Everyone who holds a judicial office within the tribunals service, including those who have or will be transferred into one of the new chambers, have been asked to take the oath of allegiance. So far 2,622 judges have taken the oath.

The new judicial structure allows for the flexible deployment of judges, known as "cross ticketing", within and across the new chambers. This will mean that suitably qualified judiciary can hear cases in jurisdictions other than the one to which they were first appointed without the need for a further Judicial Appointments Commission competition. This will reduce the costs of training and support. It will also enable the flexible deployment of judiciary to meet fluctuations in workloads between jurisdictions; it will encourage greater consistency of standards and approach across previously disparate jurisdictions; it will assist where there are difficulties in finding judges for particular locations and where there are recruitment difficulties in smaller jurisdictions. Working with the judiciary, the tribunals service has identified £6 million of efficiency savings relating to judicial activity in 2009-10 in areas such as reducing adjournments and more effective deployment of judges. A further £10 million in 2010-11 is now being sought.

The judges within this new structure are currently subject to widely differing rates of remuneration inherited from the tribunals from which they have transferred or will transfer and which have or will be abolished. Under the existing arrangements, therefore, many office holders will find themselves doing effectively the same job as each other for what would be unequal pay. This would hamper effective operation of the system and the delivery of efficiencies as well as leave pay inequalities in place. To address these issues, in March 2007 the Government commissioned the Senior Salaries Review Body to propose a pay structure for the tribunals judiciary following implementation of the TCE Act. The SSRB delivered its report No.66, Review of Tribunals' Judiciary Remuneration, in November 2008. The report includes 18 recommendations and proposes a single salary structure for tribunals judiciary linked to that already in operation for the courts judiciary and some tribunal judges. The report and the Government's response to each of the 18 recommendations have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The Government broadly accept those SSRB recommendations in relation to legally-qualified salaried and fee-paid tribunals judiciary, as an important step in

supporting the tribunals service and the new judicial structure. Addressing the issues identified by the SSRB enables the tribunals system to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible.

While the Government recognise and support the important role played by non-legally qualified members, it has decided not to implement those recommendations that apply to non-legal members. In taking this decision, account was taken of the level of increases being recommended by the SSRB and the lack of market-based justification in the current economic and public expenditure climate. The Government will be prepared to review any specific recruitment and retention issues, which might arise, with any targeted salary or fee supplements being paid at the discretion of the Lord Chancellor. The Government will keep under review the arguments for drawing a link between the pay of fee-paid and salaried judiciary and that of non-legal members in the light of recruitment and retention data and the overall economic climate.

The impact of this new pay structure will see no change for over 92 per cent. of the salaried judiciary and 37 per cent. of legally qualified fee-paid members. Non-legally qualified members pay will be unaffected by these changes. Pay costs are expected to be no more than £160,000 in the current year and £400,000 incrementally in the remaining four transitional years.

The creation of the tribunals service and the implementation of the TCE Act have been major steps in delivering improved services to tribunal users and a more effective and efficient system. Rationalisation of the judicial structure and, as a consequence, judicial pay is a key part of that.

Legal Aid Reform (Priority Cases)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend, the Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

The Ministry of Justice has today published proposals to refocus limited civil and criminal legal aid resources on priority cases.

Proposals in the first part of the paper are the product of joint working between the Legal Services Commission and the Ministry of Justice, and suggest a range of changes to the funding rules to ensure that legal aid funds are being directed to meritorious cases. Proposals include:

- reforming the way that the public interest is considered in deciding whether to grant legal aid by establishing a new committee to include non-lawyers, and creating a ring-fenced budget for these cases;
- removing certain low-priority cases, such as low-value damages claims, from scope for civil funding, where issues can be resolved instead through complaints procedures or ombudsman schemes;
- tightening the existing rules for granting legal aid for judicial review, following a significant decline in the number of successful permission applications; and
- notifying the other side when civil legal aid is applied for to discourage fraudulent applications from those outside the financial eligibility limits.

Proposals in the second part of the paper have been developed by the Ministry of Justice and are also aimed at focusing resources on priority cases. The first proposal concerns the removal of advice and assistance on prisoner treatment issues from the scope of the Criminal Defence Service. Funding will be available to prisoners with serious concerns about their treatment under the civil scheme, subject to passing the relevant civil funding code criteria. This includes the need to exhaust the prison internal complaints procedure in most cases in advance of seeking legal advice. This proposal builds on the reforms to Prison Law funding which were published by the Legal Services Commission yesterday.

The second proposal concerns the removal of the delegated powers for solicitors to self-grant legal aid in judicial review cases. This follows the rise in failed judicial review applications, many of which are funded through legal aid. With the exception of housing judicial review, civil and criminal legal aid providers will no longer be able to self-grant emergency representation in judicial review and will need to seek approval in advance from the Legal Services Commission.

The third proposal concerns restricting routine access to the civil legal aid scheme in England and Wales for those who are not residents in the UK. Funding for serious matters such as mental health detention, childcare or child abduction proceedings, domestic violence protection or emergency housing matters would remain available. Funding would also continue for overseas British citizens, European citizens involved in cross border disputes, and those whose country is a party to a bilateral agreement providing access to legal aid in the UK.

The consultation paper, "Legal Aid: Refocusing on Priority Cases", is available on the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk. Responses are invited by 8 October 2009.

Penalty Notices for Disorder

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Revised operational guidance to police forces on the issue of penalty notices for disorder for retail theft and criminal damage has been published today. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Under the PND scheme, established under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (sections 1-11), the police can issue fixed penalty notices of £80 for minor retail theft, criminal damage and cannabis possession. Recipients have 21 days in which either to pay the penalty or elect to have their case heard in court. If no action is taken, a fine of one and a half times the penalty amount is registered against the offender by the magistrates court.

Under section 6 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, the Secretary of State has the power to issue guidance to the police on the issuing of penalty notices. The latest version of the guidance was issued in March 2005. In view of concerns raised over the inappropriate use of PNDs, we have now issued strengthened revised guidance on retail theft. This restricts use of the disposal to first-time offenders who are not substance mis-users where the value of goods stolen is less than £100 or where damage caused is less than £300. The definition of retail theft has also been tightened to ensure that the disposal can be considered only for cases of shoplifting where normally the goods recovered are fit for re-sale.

I am very grateful to those hon. Members who have made representations to me about this issue, especially the hon. Member for the Vale of York (Miss McIntosh).

Freedom of Information Act (Records Management)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): I have today laid before each House a revised copy of the Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the

management of records, issued under section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have also published a copy of the Government's response to the public consultation entitled "The Freedom of Information Act 2000: The designation of additional public authorities". Copies of this document are available in the Libraries of both Houses and also in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

These publications support the Government's plans to increase the accessibility of public information and promote the culture of openness and transparency in public life. On 10 June the Prime Minister committed to a reduction of the 30-year rule to 20-years in response to the 30 year rule review. The Government are considering carefully the practical details of implementing a new rule and aim to publish their full response in late summer.

Responses to the consultation entitled "The Freedom of Information Act 2000: The designation of additional public authorities" show considerable support for the principle of extending the coverage of the Act to additional organisations through a series of section 5 orders.

The response proposes an initial, focused section 5 order to be accompanied by action outside the Act to promote proactive publication—by voluntary adoption of the ICO's model publication scheme—and openness—by reminding public authorities and contractors of the existing guidance on access to information, which should inform contracting practices and responses to requests for information. The current list of bodies proposed for inclusion in this first section 5 order are:

Academy schools

Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)

Financial Ombudsman Service

UCAS

These bodies will be consulted directly, and the Government aim to bring forward a section 5 order early in the 2009-10 session. The response also makes clear the Government's intention to engage with Network Rail and utility companies to consider whether section 5 or primary legislation might be appropriate means of including those bodies within the FOIA regime too.

FOI depends on good records and information management. This is recognised in the FOI Act by provision at section 46 for guidance to be issued in the form of a code of practice. The first code of practice was issued in November 2002, nearly seven years ago. Much has changed since then, not least the increased use of information technology to create, store, share and publish records and other information. These changes have made it necessary to update the guidance and today the Lord Chancellor is issuing a revised code of practice.

As well as addressing some of the challenges of digital records management, the revised code takes account of new ways of collaborative working. It also emphasises the business benefits of good records and information management and its relevance to data protection and other information legislation, as well as to freedom of information.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

State Opening

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Her Majesty the Queen will open the new Session of this Parliament on Wednesday 18 November 2009.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Prison Service

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I am pleased to announce that I am today publishing the Northern Ireland Prison Service annual report and accounts 2008-09. They combine the agency's annual performance report and agency resource accounts in a single document that provides a comprehensive overview of the prison service's financial and non-financial performance for the year. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House. It is also available online from the agency's website at: www.niprisonservice.gov.uk.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Gifts

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published a list of gifts received and given by Ministers valued at more than £140 for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. Copies of the lists have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Ministerial Travel

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published a list of all overseas visits undertaken by Ministers costing £500 or more during the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate. Total expenditure on Ministerial overseas visits for 2008-09 is £9.4 million. Copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Official and Charity Receptions: 10 Downing Street

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published a list of official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing Street for the financial year 2008-09.

The total cost of official receptions held at 10 Downing Street and Chequers for the financial year 2008-09 was £136,000. The costs of the charity receptions are funded by the charities involved.

Date	Event	Numbers	Host
18/03/2009	Government - Real Help Now	90	Prime Minister
17/03/2009	Charity - London Jewish Museum	80	Mrs Brown
12/03/2009	Government - Health Taskforce	100	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown
10/03/2009	Charity - Mentoring and Befriending Foundation	120	Mrs Brown
10/03/2009	Charity - RNIB Reception	80	Mrs Brown
05/03/2009	Government - LGBT History Month	150	Prime Minister
03/03/2009	Charity - McAslan Family Trust	100	Mrs Brown
02/03/2009	Charity - Tesco Mum of the Year	45	Mrs Brown
26/02/2009	Charity - Reading Heroes	70	Mrs Brown
24/02/2009	Charity – St. John Eye Hospital	100	Mrs Brown
18/02/2009	Government - Rugby, Injured Players Foundation	100	Prime Minister
10/02/2009	Charity - Save the Children	100	Mrs Brown
28/01/2009	Government - Regional Editors	150	Prime Minister
27/01/2009	Charity - Centerpoint	100	Mrs Brown
26/01/2009	Government - Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network	150	Prime Minster
21/01/2009	Government - Lobby Journalists	150	Prime Minister
20/01/2009	Charity - Whizz Kids	100	Mrs Brown
15/01/2009	Government - Diana Awards	50	Prime Minister
12/01/2009	Government - Religious Leaders	150	Prime Minister
16/12/2008	Charity - Oxford Philomusica	100	Mrs Brown
16/12/2008	Government - Sun Military Awards	80	Prime Minister
15/12/2008	Government - Christmas Tea	100	Prime Minister
09/12/2008	Charity - Dyslexia Action	80	Mrs Brown
04/12/2008	Government - Teach First	150	Prime Minister
02/12/2008	Charity - Women for Women	80	Mrs Brown
02/12/2008	Government - Eve of Session	170	Prime Minister
25/11/2008	Charity - Caron Keating Foundation	40	Mrs Brown
24/11/2008	Charity - Leeds Pianoforte Competition	100	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown
24/11/2008	Daily Mail Children's Champions	40	Prime Minister & Mrs Brown
19/11/2008	Government - Special Olympics (held at the British Museum)	170	Mrs Brown
18/11/2008	Charity - Sir John Soane Museum	80	Mrs Brown
17/11/2008	Government - Global Fellows	150	Prime Minister
12/11/2008	Government - Apprenticeship	150	Prime Minister
11/11/2008	Charity - London Jewish Museum	80	Mrs Brown
11/11/2008	Government - Armistice Anniversary	100	Prime Minister
27/10/2008	Government - Black History Month	150	Prime Minister
22/10/2008	Government - Para;ympics 2008	500	Prime Minister
21/10/2008	Charity - Fight for Sight	80	Mrs Brown
20/10/2008	Government - Peace Awards	150	Prime Minister
14/10/2008	Charity - Dress for Success	80	Mrs Brown
13/10/2008	Charity Dinner - Waterford School Trust	40	Mrs Brown
08/10/2008	Government - British Mountaineering Council	150	Prime Minister
07/10/2008	Charity - Lord Mayor's Appeal	150	Mrs Brown
03/10/2008	Government - Church Leaders	150	Prime Minister
03/10/2008	Government - Olympics Reception(held at Lancaster House)	670	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown
02/10/2008	Government – BSME - Reception	150	Prime Minister
01/10/2008	Government - Older Peoples Day	150	Prime Minister
01/10/2008	Government- Sally Keeble Alcohol Licensing campaign	150	Prime Minister
01/10/2008	Pride of Britain Award winners	40	Prime Minister & Mrs Brown
29/09/2008	Government - National Council for Educational Excellence	150	Prime Minister
15/09/2008	Charity - London Fashion Week	200	Mrs Brown
11/09/2008	Charity - Michael Palin Centre	80	Mrs Brown
10/09/2008	Government - Fulbright Scholars	180	Prime Minister
09/09/2008	Charity - Alan Senitt Memorial Trust	130	Mrs Brown
09/09/2008	Government - ATA Veterans Badge presentation	180	Prime Minister
03/09/2008	Charity – Middlesbrough Institute for Modern Art	80	Mrs Brown
18/08/2008	Charity - Wellbeing of Women	120	Mrs Brown
24/07/2008	Government - Local Heroes/Voluntary Sector	150	Prime Minister
23/07/2008	Government - Women's Land Army	120	Prime Minister
22/07/2008	Government - Press Lobby	200	Prime Minister
22/07/2008	Charity - Sarah McKechnie Foundation	120	Prime Minister
16/07/2008	Government – TA100 Anniversary	80	Prime Minister

Date	*Event*	*Numbers*	*Host*
15/07/2008	Charity - DEERA International	80	Mrs Brown
11/07/2008	Charity – Transplant in Mind	70	Mrs Brown
10/07/2008	Government – Police Bravery	160	Prime Minister
07/07/2008	Government – Business in the Community	150	Prime Minister
02/07/2008	Government – NHS 60th Anniversary	150	Prime Minister
01/07/2008	Government – Creative Economy Programme	150	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown
27/06/2008	Charity Maggies Centres	60	Mrs Brown
26/06/2008	Government - Veterans Day	40	Prime Minister
18/06/2008	Government – Big Arts	150	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown
17/06/2008	Charity – Tom Rhys Pryce	80	Mrs Brown
10/06/2008	Government - Carers	150	Prime Minister
10/06/2008	Charity – PACT	50	Mrs Brown
05/06/2008	Government – Spitfire Tribute Foundation	80	Prime Minister
02/06/2008	Government – Daycare Trust	150	Prime Minister
22/05/2008	Government – Excellence in Nursing	35	Prime Minister
13/05/2008	Charity – Pilotlight	80	Mrs Brown
12/05/2008	Government – Show Racism the Red Card	150	Prime Minister
07/05/2008	Government – Global Day of Prayer	150	Prime Minister
06/05/2008	Charity – New Children's Hospital Appeal	40	Mrs Brown
28/04/2008	Government – Basra Development	150	Prime Minister

Official Hospitality (Chequers)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published a list of those who have received official hospitality at Chequers for the financial year 2008-09.

Marcus Agius
Kate Agius
Tim Allan
Lord Alli
Lisa Aziz
Sly Bailey
Peter Bailey
Martin Baker
Rt Hon. Ed Balls MP
Lord Bassam of Brighton
Rt Hon. Margaret Beckett MP
Leo Beckett
Nikki Bedi
Sue Birtwistle
Sir Ian Blair
Lady (Felicity) Blair
Sir Victor Blank
Lady (Sylvia) Blank
Ozwald Boateng OBE
Stuart Bowery
Tom Bradby
Claudia Bradby
Lucy Bristowe
Benedict Brogan
Rt Hon. Nick Brown MP
Rt Hon. Des Browne MP
Maura Browne
Lord Browne of Madingley CB
Bill Bryson
Cynthia Bryson
Kay Burley
Emma Burstall
Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP
Sarah Byrne
Rt Hon. Sir Menzies Campbell MP CBE QC
Lady (Elspeth) Campbell
Jimmy Carr
Silvia Cassinis
Carolyn Choa
Peter Christian
Rt Hon. Helen Clark
Vittorio Colao
Rt Hon. Yvette Cooper MP
Karoline Copping
Judy Daish
Matthew d'Ancona
Eric Daniels
Nici Daniels
Rt Hon. Alistair Darling MP
Maggie Darling
Lord Davies of Abersoch CBE
Lady Davies
Sir Howard Davies
Peter Davis
Melanie Dawes
Gloria De Piero
Robert Dewar
Derek Draper
Rt. Hon. Lord Drayson
Lady Drayson
Jack Dromey
Elaine Dumelow
Johan Eliasch
Sir Richard Eyre CBE
Bruce Forsyth CBE
Jonathan Freedland
Kate Garraway

Lesley Garrett CBE
Dr Chris Gibson-Smith
Marjorie Gibson-Smith
Pamela Gillies
Teresa Gleadowe
Tom Glocer
Maarit Glocer
Richard Gnodde
Kara Gnodde
Sir Fred Goodwin
Lady (Joyce) Goodwin
Chris Gorell Barnes
Michael Grade CBE
Francesca Grade
Prof. Malcolm Grant CBE
Chris Grant
Paul Hamann
Rt Hon. Harriet Harman MP QC
Patrick Hennessy
Stephen Hester
Barbara Hester
Vikki Heywood
Brent Hoberman
Genevieve Hoberman
Lucy-Anne Holmes
Dame Kelly Holmes DBE MBE
John Hood
Rt Hon. Geoff Hoon MP
Nicola Horlick
Rima Horton
Prof. Caroline Humphrey
Nick Hytner
Clive Jones
Rt Hon. Tessa Jowell MP
Ana Paula Junqueira
Prue Keely Davies
Ann Keen MP
Alan Keen MP
Lorraine Kelly
Nick Kenyon CBE
Ghislaine Kenyon
Kyeong-Soo Kim
Justin King
Claire King
Mervyn King
Prof. Francesca Klug OBE
Martha Lane Fox
Vince Leigh
Will Lewis
Rebecca Lewis
Ian Livingston CBE
Debbie Livingston
Diane Lobatto
Matt Lucas
Dr John Macinnes
Kevin Maguire
Rt Hon. Lord Mandelson
Anna Mann
Clive Mann
Lesley Manville
Hon. Debbie Matthews
Charlie Mayfield
Elizabeth Mayfield
Davina McCall
Neil MacGregor
Barbara Melander
Rt Hon. Ed Miliband MP
Rhodri Morgan
Julie Morgan
Eugene Moshan
Sir Andrew Motion FRSL
John Motson
Anne Motson
John Mulholland
Rt Hon. Paul Murphy MP
Rt Hon. Jim Murphy MP
Claire Murphy
Colin Myler
Carol Myler
Rt Hon. Lord Myners CBE
Lady Myners
John O'Farrell
Jackie O'Farrell
Dick Olver
Pam Olver
Charlie Parsons
George Pascoe Watson
Sarah Peters
Andrew Porter
Prof. Anne Marie Rafferty
Lord Rees of Ludlow
Prof. Alison Richard
Alan Rickman
Matthew Robertson
James Robinson
Michael Rosen
Peter Sands
Dr Charles Saumarez Smith
Romilly Saumarez Smith
John Saumarez Smith
Laura Saumarez Smith
Carey Scott
Most Rev. and Rt Hon. John Sentamu
Margaret Sentamu
Sir Nicholas Serota
Michael Shew
Paul Skinner
Rita Skinner
Penny Smith
Steve Smith
Sir Kevin Smith CBE
Lady (Teresa) Smith
Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup GCB, AFC, DSc, FRAeS
Lady (Mary) Stirrup
Dame Barbara Stocking DBE
Emma Thompson

Justine Thornton
Betsy Tobin
Baroness Vadera
Benedicte Venn
Katharine Viner
Richard Wallace
David Walliams
Prof. Cathy Warwick
Richard Warwick
Tina Weaver
Phil Webster
Lord West of Spithead GCB, DSC
Lady West
Jill Whittaker
Kathleen Williams
Emma Williams
Greg Wise
Andrew Witty
Caroline Witty
Rt Hon. Shaun Woodward MP
Camilla Woodward
Dr. Jane Zuckerman

Special Advisers

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Listed below are the names of special advisers in post at 16 July 2009, the special advisers' pay ranges for 2009-10, the number of special advisers in each pay band by Department and the total pay bill cost of special advisers for 2008-09.

All special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers to provide assistance on the full range of their appointing Minister's departmental responsibilities.

Appointing Minister	*Special Adviser in post*
The Prime Minister	Greg Beales Theo Bertram Nicola Burdett Nick Butler Konrad Caulkett (p-t) Matt Cavanagh Brendan Cox Dan Corry Colin Currie (p-t) Patrick Diamond Michael Dugher Justin Forsyth Stuart Hudson Michael Jacobs Gavin Kelly Richard Lloyd Kirsty McNeill David Muir Sue Nye (p-t) Nick Pearce Lisa Perrin Wilf Stevenson Anthony Vigor Stewart Wood John Woodcock
Minister for Cabinet Office and the Olympics and Paymaster General	Robert Philpot
Chief Whip (Commons) and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury	Gary Follis Luke Sullivan
Chief Whip (Lords)	Ben Coffman Sue Jackson
First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Lord President of the Council	Geoffrey Norris Patrick Loughran
Minister of State (Business)	Matt Cooke
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families	Francine Bates Alex Belardinelli
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	Ann Rossiter Jake Sumner
Minister of State (Housing)	Ian Parker
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport	Philip French Lenny Shallcross
Secretary of State for Defence	Alaina Macdonald Andrew Bagnall
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change	Polly Billington Tom Restrick
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Wesley Ball Beatrice Stern
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	Madlin Sadler/Sarah Schaefer (job share)
Secretary of State for Health	Katie Myler
Secretary of State for the Home Department	Clare Montagu Mario Dunn
Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal and Minister for Women and Equality	Ayesha Hazarika Anna Healy
Leader of the House of Lords, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Philip Bassett Jonathan Pearse
Secretary of State for International Development	Richard Darlington Stephen Doughty
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice	Mark Davies Declan McHugh
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Oonagh Blackman
Secretary of State for Scotland	John McTeman Tom Greatrex
Secretary of State for Transport	Claire MacAleese David Learn
Chancellor of the Exchequer[1]	Sam White Catherine McCleod
Chief Secretary	Tony Danker David Mills Graham Dale
Secretary of State for Wales	Andrew Bold Dan Lodge
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	Will McDonald Eleanor Wilcox

[1] In addition, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Torsten Henricson-Bell and Geoffrey Spence to the Council of Economic Advisers.

Pay bands for 2009-10

The pay bands and pay ranges for special advisers for 2009-10 are as follows:

Scheme Ceiling	£142,668
Pay Band 4	£88,966-£106,864
Pay Band 3 and Premium	£66,512 -£103,263
Pay Band 2	£52,215-£69,266
Pay Band 1	£40,352-£54,121

Advisers by Pay Band

At 16 July 2009, there were 74 Special Advisers in post. The number of special advisers in each pay band by department is as follows:

Department	*Pay band*[1] *1*	*2*	*3*	*4*
No. 10[2]	4	5	14	
Cabinet Office		1		
Chief Whips' Offices (Commons and Lords)	2		2	
Business, Innovation and Skills	1	1	1	
Children, Schools and Families		2		
Communities and Local Government		1	1	
Culture, Media and Sport			1	
Defence		2		
Energy and Climate Change			2	
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1	1		
Foreign and Commonwealth Office[3]			1	
Health		1		
Home Office		2		
Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal and Minister for Women and Equality		1	1	
Leader of the House of Lords and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	1			1
International Development	1	1		
Justice (Lord Chancellor)			1	
Northern Ireland Office			1	
Scotland Office		1	1	
Transport		1	1	
HM Treasury[4]	1	3	3	
Wales Office		1		
Work and Pensions	1	1		
Total	12	26	30	1

Paybill costs

The paybill for special advisers in 2008-2009 was £5.9m[5].

[1]Plus three special advisers whose pay bands have yet to be agreed.

[2]Plus two special advisers who are paid beyond Pay Band 4 but within the scheme ceiling.

[3]Job share

[4]Includes the two members of the Council of Economic Advisers who are employed on special adviser terms.

[5]This figure includes salary, severance pay and estimate of pension costs.

UK Visits 2008-09

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published a list of the UK visits I made during the financial year 2008-09.

Date	*Official visit to:*
1 April	London
2 April	London
8 April	London
14 April	London
21 April	Inverness
30 April	London
8 May	Belfast
9 May	Eden Project/ Plymouth/ Exeter
17 May	Edinburgh
19 May	Chandler's Cross, Hertfordshire
22 May	London
23 May	London
28 May	Aberdeen
3 June	London
16 June	Belfast
23 June	London
24 June	London
27 June	Manchester
30 June	Leatherhead
4 July	Sunderland/ Newcastle
15 July	London
22 July	London
24-25 July	Stratford-upon-Avon/ Gaydon, Warwickshire/ Coventry
26 July	Trowse, Norfolk
28 August	Port Glasgow, Scotland
2 September	London
4 September	Liverpool
8 September	Birmingham
9 September	Brighton
16 September	Belfast
19-20 September	Manchester
3 October	Luton
9 October	London
9 October	Birmingham
10 October	Swindon
17 October	Nottingham
21 October	Sittingbourne
12 November	Watford
21 November	Harefield, Middlesex
28 November	Leeds/ Halifax
2 December	London
4 December	London
9 December	London
11 December	London
2009	
7-9 January	Derby/ Liverpool/ Birmingham/ Swindon/ Newport/ Cardiff
12 January	London
16 January	London
23 January	Sellafield/ Glasgow
9 February	Bromley-by-Bow
13 February	Corby/ Coventry
23 February	Southampton
26 February	Ipswich
27 February	Oxford
28 February	Bristol
6 March	Dundee
9 March	Belfast

Date	Official visit to:
10 March	London
10 March	London
12 March	Manchester
31 March	London

Advisory Committee on Business Appointments

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published the 10th report of the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. The report provides an account of the work of the committee in giving advice about appointments that Ministers and senior Crown servants wish to take up after leaving office. The report covers the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am grateful to Lord Wilson of Tillyorn KT GCMG PRSE, who will stand down from the committee at the end of this month, having served as a member, and more recently the interim chair, and to the other members of the committee for their contribution over this period. All have been most generous in giving their time and expertise to the committee's work.

The Government are in the process of refreshing the membership of the committee. Dame Juliet Wheldon QC and the right hon. Lord Lang of Monkton joined the Committee from 1 April; the right hon. Lord Macdonald of Tradeston CBE joined from 1 May; and Lord Dholakia OBE DL joined from 1 June. I am grateful to Sir John Blelloch KBE, the right hon. Lord Maclennan of Rogart and the right hon. Lord Morris of Aberavon KG QC, who have retired from the committee in recent months having given it long and loyal service.

Work on the refreshment of the committee will be completed over the summer, and a further announcement will be made in due course.

Chief Surveillance Commissioner, Interception of Communications Commissioner and Intelligence Service

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I can announce to the House that I have arranged for the annual reports of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Christopher Rose, HC 704, the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Paul Kennedy, HC 901, and the Intelligence Services Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Peter Gibson, HC 902, to be laid before both Houses on Tuesday 21 July 2009.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) established, for the first time in the UK, a comprehensive regulatory system to govern the use of a range of investigatory techniques, some of which had been used without any statutory regulations or safeguards for decades. RIPA set out clear parameters within which these techniques could be used, and established an independent oversight regime and an independent complaints tribunal.

The Home Office is now in the process of reviewing the statutory codes of practice on covert surveillance and property interference, and on covert human intelligence sources. It has recently completed a public consultation exercise on the revised codes of practice, and on all public authorities able to use certain techniques regulated in RIPA, the ranks at which those techniques can be authorised, and the purposes for which they can be used. The Government will shortly table statutory instruments giving Parliament the opportunity to debate a range of proposed revisions to the RIPA framework, following this consultation exercise.

I am grateful to Sir Christopher, Sir Paul and Sir Peter, and to their support staff, for their work on these reports.

The Road to 2010: Addressing the Nuclear Question in the 21st Century

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I am today laying before the House the Government's "Road to 2010" plan (Cm 7675). This is a strategy that will lead us into the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference and beyond. The "Road to 2010" covers every dimension of the nuclear issues that are facing us today and sets out how the UK will play a leading role in tackling them. Next year's conference provides an opportunity to renew and re-invigorate the bargain at the heart of the NPT which grants states access to civil nuclear power in return for a commitment not to proliferate nuclear weapons, and places a responsibility on nuclear weapons states to show leadership on the question of disarmament.

The UK remains committed to the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons, and to ensuring that nations have access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. All states, including Iran and North Korea, have a right to such access—and we are ready to help, so long as these states reject the development of nuclear weapons. To promote the development of cost-effective civil nuclear technology which cannot be diverted for use in weapons programmes, we are launching a nuclear science centre of excellence. This centre will enhance collaborations between academia, industry and Government, both domestically and internationally, to focus on this important and difficult task. The Government are committing £20 million over the first five years to this centre.

All nuclear material must be held securely, to prevent it falling into the hands of terrorist groups or hostile states. The UK believes that nuclear security must become the fourth pillar of the global nuclear framework, alongside civil power, non-proliferation and disarmament. Momentum for greater nuclear security is growing, with President Obama announcing a nuclear security summit in the spring of next year, which the UK will take a full part in. In order to help reduce the risk that material will be lost or stolen, the UK is making an offer to assist any nation with security improvements should they request our help. This assistance could be in the form of using our expertise to strengthen security, for example through improving facilities or through training personnel. To improve our defensive measures, the Government are also providing an additional £3 million to maintain our world-leading forensics and detection capability at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE).

The Government recognise that urgent action is required to address proliferation of nuclear weapons. The "Road to 2010" plan sets out a phased approach which will

enable progress on non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament. In the first instance, steps must be taken to improve transparency of current weapons capabilities, as we seek greater control to prevent expansion of those capabilities. The second stage is verifiable multilateral reductions in arsenals. Finally, we must work globally both to establish the security conditions that will enable a world free from nuclear weapons and to overcome the technical and policy challenges associated with the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. For our part, as soon as it becomes useful for our arsenal to be included in a broader negotiation, Britain stands ready to participate and to act.

There is growing momentum across the globe to tackle these strategic challenges. The UK has been a civil and military nuclear power for many decades and so we have a great deal of expertise to offer. As we head towards next year's NPT review conference, I am committed to making the UK a leading nation in the drive to develop credible answers to the nuclear questions that face us today. It is vital that we make progress—I believe this strategy sets out what the UK can do alone and in partnership with other countries in the period up to the conference and beyond to bring us the security and prosperity we seek in the decades to come.

TRANSPORT

Cost of Ministerial Cars for 2008-09

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has made the following ministerial statement:

I am publishing today details of the number of and cost to Departments of the provision of allocated cars and drivers by the Government Car and Despatch Agency to Ministers during 2008-09.

The figures are:

Department	*No of Cars*	*Contracted Cost*	*Notes*
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	6	274,000	1&2
Cabinet Office	7	426,200	3
Leader of the House of Commons, the Government's Equalities Office and the Leader of the House of Lords	3	223,100	
Department for Communities and Local Government	6	418,300	
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	3	243,400	
Department for Children, Schools and Families	5	360,900	
Department of Energy and Climate Change	3	99,000	
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	4	262,400	
Department for International Development	4	272,000	
Department for Transport	4	289,800	
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	5	301,400	
Department for Work and Pensions	6	428,800	
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	5	367,700	
Department of Health	6	409,000	
HM Treasury	6	350,900	
Home Office	6	483,300	
Law Officers' Department	2	148,200	
Ministry of Defence	1	85,100	
Ministry of Justice	5	310,600	
Northern Ireland Office	2	286,200	
Scotland Office	2	103,900	
Wales Office	2	137,000	

Notes:

1. The Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs was a post held jointly between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The Government cars (GC) service costs were met by BERR.

2. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Consumer Affairs was a post held jointly between the Department for International Development (DFID) and BERR. The GC costs were met by DFID.

3. Cabinet Office figures include cars for Ministers in the Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister's Office and the Minister for the Olympics.

Crossrail

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): On 14 July last year, my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, South (Mr. Harris), made a statement offering assurance to Parliament that a statement will be published at least every 12 months until the completion of the construction of Crossrail, setting out information about the project's funding and finances. This assurance was placed on the Crossrail Register of Undertakings and Assurances.

Government are committed to ensuring that there is a high level of transparency as to the progress and cost of the Crossrail project. Our intention in this area was set out in the Heads of Terms which were signed in November 2007. The Heads of Terms have now been superseded by the Crossrail Core Agreements, binding legal documents which set out the funding, governance and delivery arrangements for the Crossrail project. These were signed by the Secretary of State for Transport,

Transport for London, and Cross London Rail Links Ltd on 3 December last year, and were published in the House Library, with an accompanying statement to the House. Since the assurance was given, Cross London Rail Links Ltd has also changed its name to Crossrail Ltd.

In line with my hon. Friend's assurance to the House I am therefore publishing this statement within 12 months of the Crossrail Act 2008 coming into force on 22 July 2008, and set out below the information outlined in that assurance:

Total funding amounts provided to Crossrail Ltd by the Department for Transport and TfL in relation to the construction of Crossrail in the period 22 July 2008 to 30 May 2009.	£200.922 million
Expenditure incurred by Crossrail Ltd in relation to the construction of Crossrail in the period 22 July 2008 to 30 May 2009 (excluding recoverable VAT on land and property purchases).	£196.803 million
Total expenditure incurred by Crossrail Ltd in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period 22 July 2008 to 30 May 2009 (excluding recoverable VAT on land and property purchases).	£196.803 million
The amounts realised by the disposal of any land or property for the purposes of the construction of Crossrail by the Secretary of State, TfL or Crossrail Ltd in the period covered by the statement.	Nil

The numbers above have been provided by Crossrail Ltd and are drawn from their accounts for the relevant periods.

I can also confirm that the costs of the construction of Crossrail are likely to fall within the agreed budget, based on best current estimates of costs provided by Crossrail Ltd.

The Government remain fully committed to Crossrail. This is a long-term major infrastructure project helping, and responding to, London and the South-East's transport needs for the next half century and more.

We remain confident that Crossrail will be delivered on time and on budget and that the project can be funded as planned.

Annual Report and Resource Accounts

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has made the following ministerial statement.

I have today published the Department's Annual Report and Resource Accounts for 2008-09 (HC 454). Copies have been laid before Parliament and placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report sets out the Department's activities and achievements over the last year. It also describes the Department's future expenditure plans for the period of the spending review 2007-10.

Highways Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has made the following ministerial statement.

A new framework document which sets out the relationship and the revised governance and sponsorship arrangements between the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency has been published.

Copies of the document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available on the Department's website: www.dft.gov.uk and the Highways Agency website: www.highways.gov.uk.

Local Transport Act 2008 (Passenger Focus)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Local Transport Act 2008 includes powers for the Secretary of State to confer additional functions on Passenger Focus (formally known as the Rail Passengers' Council—the statutory rail passenger watchdog) so it can represent bus, coach and tram passengers. The Act also enables secondary legislation to be made requiring certain persons to display certain information relating to public transport.

The Department for Transport is today publishing a consultation on a draft order to extend Passenger Focus' remit and draft regulations requiring bus and coach operators to display information on their vehicles about who passengers should contact if they want to make a complaint. Copies of the consultation materials will be made available on the Department's website: www.dft.gov.uk/consultations, and are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Local Transport Act 2008 (Designated Bodies)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): Under section 19 of the Transport Act 1985, the Secretary of State has the power to designate bodies who may issue permits under that section to eligible community transport operators. These section 19 permits allow the holder to operate transport services for hire or reward, subject to certain conditions, without the need for a full public service vehicle operator's licence.

While developing the policy proposals now contained in the Local Transport Act 2008, the Government signalled their intention to review the current list of designated bodies. The Department for Transport will shortly be publishing a consultation on how it intends to advance this review. Copies of the consultation materials will be made available on the Department's website—www.dft.gov.uk/consultations—and will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

ATOL Protection Contribution

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The air travel organiser's licence (ATOL) system provides financial protection to those taking flight-inclusive package holidays overseas. It ensures that in the event of a tour operator becoming insolvent,

consumers already abroad can complete their holidays and be returned to the UK and those who have paid for their holidays but have not yet departed will receive a full refund. It is operated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The failure of XL leisure group in September 2008 and the effects of the recession have caused serious financial difficulties for the air travel trust fund (ATTF), which meets the insolvency protection costs of the ATOL scheme. To help address this, between April and June this year, the CAA consulted on possible increases to the ATOL protection contribution (APC) paid by travel companies to the ATTF. The consultation looked at a range of possible increases to the current charge of £1 per passenger to between £2.50 and £3.50 per passenger.

Following the consultation, the CAA provided advice to the Secretary of State recommending the APC be increased from £1 to £2.50 per passenger with effect from 1st October 2009. After careful consideration, I have decided to approve the recommended increase. I am aware of the extra burden this will place on travel companies and consumers at difficult times, which is why I have agreed to an increase at the bottom of the range consulted on by the CAA. I believe this strikes the right balance between ensuring the future financial stability of the ATTF while keeping additional burdens on travel companies and consumers as low as practicable. I believe that £2.50 for the protection that ATOL provides represents a good deal for consumers—it is cheaper than stand-alone airline failure insurance and represents less than 0.5 per cent. of the average ATOL holiday price. The CAA intends to review the rate of the APC before the ATTF moves into surplus, projected to be by the spring of 2012.

The increased APC will allow the ATTF access to additional commercial credit facilities which will benefit from an increased and extended Government guarantee that the Government have agreed to in principle. The Government also intend to consult on reforms to the ATOL system in the autumn to make it fairer and more understandable for consumers. A copy of the CAA's advice to the Secretary of State and a summary of consultation responses will be placed in the House Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Annual Social Fund Reports

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman): I am pleased to announce publication of the annual report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2008-09 and the Social Fund Commissioner's annual report 2008-09.

The Secretary of State's Annual Report on the Social Fund for 2008-09 (Cm 7677) has been laid before Parliament and will be published later today. Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The report records that total gross expenditure in 2008-09, excluding winter fuel payments, was over £1.1 billion. This included over 252,000 non-repayable community care grants and over 3 million interest free loans together worth over £761 million, funeral and cold weather payments totalling over £258 million and almost 263,000 Sure Start maternity grants worth almost £133 million. In addition an estimated 9 million households benefited from a winter fuel payment at an estimated cost of around £2.7 billion.

The Social Fund Commissioner's report will be published later today and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

ICL Inquiry Report

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): On 11 May 2004, a tragic factory explosion occurred at the ICL Plastics premises in Glasgow. Nine people were killed and 33 were seriously injured. Proceedings were subsequently taken against ICL Tech Ltd and ICL Plastics Ltd under the Health and Safety at Work,etc. Act 1974 and in August 2007 the companies pled guilty to the charges. I would like to express my sympathy to the bereaved families and to the injured survivors.

In October 2007, the Government and the Lord Advocate of Scotland announced a joint investigation into the explosion. Lord Gill, Lord Justice Clerk, was appointed chair of the joint independent inquiry in December 2007. Today, I am pleased to announce the publication of Lord Gill's report.

I would like to thank Lord Gill and his team for the way in which they handled the inquiry and for fulfilling the terms of reference so efficiently.

The key message from this report is that this was an avoidable disaster and that its causes are clear. While the inquiry has established that the primary responsibility for safety lay with the site user, it has identified that there were failings across the system.

In the case of the site user, the report sets out serious failings in risk assessment, inspection and maintenance, among others. It refers to both certain inadequacies in the liquid petroleum gas (LPG) safety regime in which it operated in the mid 1970s and late 1980s and the urgency of HSE's response since the explosion.

The Government welcome the report and we fully accept Lord Gill's recommendation that a 'sharper, clearer safety regime' is needed for LPG bulk installations.

Lord Gill's report proposes that this should be achieved through a four phase action plan:

The replacement of metallic pipework and steel risers on a systematic and prioritised basis; and early inspection of all buildings that have a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply to identify any hazardous features from the design or layout;

the establishment of a permanent and uniform safety regime to govern the installation, maintenance, monitoring and replacement of all LPG systems, including clear guidance on responsibilities of supplier and user;

the development of a continuing and planned safety regime, particularly in relation to the use of polyethylene pipes; and

the improvement of communications between suppliers, users and HSE and also within HSE.

In responding to Lord Gill's report the immediate priority is the replacement of buried LPG pipework.

The HSE has already announced a joint programme of work with UKLPG for the systematic replacement of buried LPG metallic pipework. This will be a prioritised programme starting in October.

The Government also agree that further improvements are needed to the safety regime in this area, and we expect to provide a full response to Lord Gill's report in January next year. I have therefore today asked the chair of HSE and its board to consider the report's findings and to report back to me on progress by the end of September, addressing both Lord Gill's criticisms of its actions since the explosion and how the report's recommendations can be taken forward. I have asked HSE to explore with the LPG suppliers and users and with trade unions how improvements to the LPG safety regime can be made.

I will report back to Parliament in the autumn on the progress that has been made and I will ensure that hon. Members have the opportunity to feed in their views before the Government's full response to Lord Gill's report is issued.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Rent Service and Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): I am pleased to announce that the Department for Work and Pensions has today laid in the House the 2008-09 annual reports and accounts for the Rent Service (HC652) and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (HC841). The annual reports and accounts for Jobcentre Plus, the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's separate report on its client fund account will be laid as soon as possible.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 20 July 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Higher Education

The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy): My noble Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Mandelson) has made the following statement:

This Government are committed to expanding higher education.

There are currently record numbers of students in higher education with 300,000 additional students in the system since 1997. Government spending on higher education is over 25 per cent. higher in real terms than in 1997. By contrast, funding fell by 36 per cent. under the previous Government.

Our expansion of higher education is more important now than ever before, as we continue to invest in developing a highly skilled work force that is well placed to win the jobs the future economy will offer.

Demand for places this year is unprecedented, demonstrating that people continue to see higher education as a good investment and a valuable route to a good job and rewarding career.

We want to support all those with the aspiration and ability to succeed in higher education. Work with the sector indicates there are institutions able to recruit more students to meet the increased demand without compromising the quality of their offer.

Therefore an extra 10,000 higher education places will be made available to universities this year to support more students in going to higher education this year.

The Government will pay the student support costs for extra places in courses related to the new industry, new jobs agenda such as science, technology, engineering and maths—areas which will equip young people with the skills they need for the jobs of the future.

The package will fund the financial support for these students, which includes, for full-time students the fee loans to cover the cost of the tuition fees charged by institutions.

Institutions wishing to take additional students will be able to charge students on full-time courses in England up to £3,225 in tuition fees in 2009-10, the same as for other students. A tuition fee loan is available to eligible students to cover the full cost of the fee.

No additional teaching grant from HEFCE will accompany these additional students. It is for universities to manage their own admissions and we are confident that many will want to offer high quality places to students on this basis.

This is a fiscally neutral change—the costs of supporting the extra students will be met through reprioritising existing budgets and reducing the optional five year holiday on repayment of student loans to two years.

The repayment holiday on student loans was announced in July 2007. All students starting a higher education course in 2008-09 or later, taking out their first student loan and having a repayment start date of April 2012 or later are entitled to a repayment holiday. The intention is to help borrowers to manage their finances if there are other changes in their lives. Qualifying borrowers will now be offered the choice of putting their student loan repayments on hold for up to two years as opposed to up to five years as announced in July 2007.

The expansion described here is a proposition affordable to Government and viable for universities in order to meet an important need: helping thousands more people achieve their ambitions.

It is up to individual institutions whether or not or how many places they want to offer on this basis and we will ask HEFCE to oversee the process.

This funding for student support, which will be reprioritised from within existing BIS budgets, is in addition to the extra funding for additional student numbers provided in this year's HEFCE grant letter. That funding was expected to result in an additional 3,000 full time entrants in 2009-10 as well as growth in part time entrants.

As a result of this announcement, we expect that there will be 50,000 more accepted applicants this year than just three years ago.

Icelandic Water Trawlermen Scheme

The Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs (Kevin Brennan): My noble Friend the Minister for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations, Lord Young of Norwood Green, has made the following statement.

I am pleased to announce that the Government will shortly be launching the new compensation scheme for former trawlermen who fished in Icelandic waters.

Under this scheme, we will calculate the aggregate time served by each trawlerman during the last 20 years of their career on vessels that fished in Icelandic waters, and make additional payments whenever the payment due under this calculation exceeds the total already paid to them under the two previous compensation schemes. Claimants will only be eligible for payments where they can meet a qualifying test which requires two years' aggregate service on vessels that fished in Icelandic waters during the four years of the cod wars, or the last four years of a trawlerman's career if he left the industry before 31 December 1976.

This approach will direct additional payments to those people who were disadvantaged under the previous scheme, because they had long Icelandic careers, but received reduced payments or no payments at all as a consequence of the brenks rule, which the parliamentary ombudsman criticised in her 2007 report.

We will consider claims from anyone that applied under the previous schemes, or from anyone that has not applied previously where they can submit good and reliable documentary evidence supporting their claim. We have agreed to add an extra vessel to the original list of Icelandic vessels and will consider the case for adding further vessels, assessing any evidence submitted against criteria based on that used under the previous scheme.

We plan to formally launch the scheme on 31 July. At launch, we will announce the scheme through local newspapers in each of the ports concerned; establish a helpline to deal with queries and issue copies of the application forms and scheme rules; and place this information on the BIS website: www.bis.gov.uk. We will also write to everyone that replied to the recent consultation paper. We will allow nine months from launch for people to submit claims. However, no payments will be made until the vessels list has been finalised.

We believe this scheme represents a fair and equitable way forward. It has been designed to meet the concerns raised by the parliamentary ombudsman in connection with the previous scheme, and will enable an estimated 1,000 former trawlermen to receive additional payments totalling around £5 million to £10 million.

Statement of Insolvency Practice 16

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): The Insolvency Service is today publishing its first report on the operation of Statement of Insolvency Practice 16 (SIP 16).

SIP 16 sets out required practice for insolvency practitioners who carry out pre-packaged administrations. The Insolvency Service's report examines practitioners' compliance with the SIP in its first six months of operation, and the conduct of directors who have engaged in pre-packs. A further report will be issued in early 2010.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report is available at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/insolvencyprofession andlegislation/policychange/sip16-final.pdf

TREASURY

EC Budget White Paper

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): I am today laying before Parliament the annual European Community Finances White Paper "Statement on the 2009 EC budget and measures to combat fraud and financial mismanagement" (Cm 7640). This White Paper is the 29th in the series. It gives details of revenue and expenditure in the 2009 EC budget and covers recent developments in EC financial management and measures to counter fraud against the EC budget. It also includes updated details on the own resources decision, the UK consolidated statement on the use of EU funds in the UK, and new text on the European economic recovery plan.

Tax Credits

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Tax credits are delivering guaranteed minimum incomes for working families and families with children, reducing child poverty, and improving work incentives. In these tough economic times they provide support to 20 million people including around 6 million families and 10 million children. Take-up is now higher than for any previous system of income-related financial support for in-work families.

Against this backdrop HM Revenue and Customs has today published its estimate of error and fraud in tax credits for 2007-08. The collection, analysis and publication of this data help inform efforts to strengthen the administration of the programme.

The analysis—based on a sample of 4,100 cases—estimates error and fraud at 8.6 per cent. of finalised tax credit entitlements for 2007-08. This comprises error favouring the claimant at 7.8 per cent. of finalised entitlements, and fraud at 0.7 per cent. This compares with the 2006-07 central estimate of error and fraud at 7.8 per cent.

The Government are determined to reduce the incidence of error and fraud in tax credits. In July of last year, the Government set HM Revenue and Customs a target to reduce the combined levels of error and fraud in tax credits to no more than 5 per cent. of finalised entitlement by the end of March 2011. HMRC is committed to delivering to achieve this target.

At the same time HMRC also published a new strategy for reducing error and fraud. By using the Department's improved understanding of risks, and of customer needs, it has already introduced additional checks and interventions tailored to help prevent error entering the system while ensuring those who abuse the system are caught. HMRC has also been embedding this deeper understanding of customer behaviour into its entire compliance programme, deploying resources to areas of greatest risk.

By helping customers to get their claim right from the outset, and to keep their award on track, HMRC is reducing the risk of loss and improving customer service. Through the tax credits transformation programme it is now offering better support to customers—for example, HMRC is helping new customers to make their claim accurately, tailoring the level of extra support to their particular needs. The Department is also contacting large numbers of customers to check that their tax credits award remains up-to-date throughout the year and continues to reflect their current circumstances. Additional assistance is also being provided to some vulnerable customers when they renew their claims. Overall HMRC is contacting over 500,000 customers this year offering additional help.

HMRC has also introduced additional checks of many new claims, making better use of information it already holds to prevent financial loss from some of the most frequent mistakes. It is also contacting certain customers who have not reported changes of circumstances for some time to offer assistance to make sure their award is up to date and correct. HMRC is also expanding its outreach work through children's centres by providing advice and support to customers.

On fraud, the Department has implemented a range of measures designed to restrict the opportunity for abuse of the system. These include tighter control on the issue of claim forms, fraud awareness training for staff, and deploying compliance officers in tax credit call centres. Efforts to target organised fraud have successfully reduced the level of identified losses due to organised fraud from the levels in 2005-06. HMRC prevented incorrect tax credits payments due to organised fraud of £66 million in 2007-08.

HMRC is also getting tougher on individuals who commit fraud. It is increasing its use of data matching, using information from a wide variety of sources, within Government and beyond, to identify those who attempt to abuse the system. It is also sharing intelligence with other Government agencies and investigating cases jointly with the Department of Work and Pensions. Those who are caught face being charged a penalty and interest in addition to repaying the amount they defrauded, and in the most serious cases, the Department can and does prosecute. This approach is consistent with HMRC's vision about being passionate in helping those who need it and being relentless in pursuing those who bend or break the rules.

HMRC will use the analysis published today to refine its strategy further.

A copy of these statistics has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and is available on the HMRC website.

CABINET OFFICE

Government and Voluntary Sector Compact

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith): I am today placing in the Libraries of both Houses copies of the report of the annual meeting held on 2 December 2008 and the action plan 2009-10.

The independent Commissioner for the Compact, Sir Bert Massie spoke about the state of the relationship between Government and the sector and the findings from the debate on the future of the Compact:

To keep a values based and voluntary Compact;

To update the Compact as a single document that takes account of changes over the ten years since the Compact was first signed;

To look at changes to the structure of the Commission for the Compact and options to put it on a statutory footing.

We now have the opportunity to renew the Compact for the 21st century, to ensure it is stronger and capable of delivering for both the public and third sectors in a changing economic environment. Simon Blake, the Chair of Compact Voice, and I, as representatives of the two signatories to the Compact, have asked Sir Bert to begin work engaging both sectors on updating the Compact documents, and in making changes to the Commission. This will build on work the Commission has already achieved to ensure the Compact is better understood and accepted.

The refresh of the Compact is a major piece of work to be done as part of our joint action plan for the next year. The action plan has been developed by the Commission, Compact Voice, Office of the Third Sector and the Local Government Association—taking account of the discussion at the annual review. Along with the report of the annual review meeting I am also placing copies of the Joint Compact Action Plan 2009-10 in both Houses. The action plan is grouped around four themes:

Raising the profile of the Compact

Building our knowledge

Embedding in structures, processes and policy

Maintaining the relevance of the Compact.

At the annual review meeting my predecessor also announced the baseline for annual reporting on the commitment to three-year funding for the Third Sector by Government Departments. The percentage of the value of all Government grants that have been reported to OTS that are for three years or more is 85.4 per cent. A baseline will also be set in 2009-10 for performance on contracts and performance by NDPBs and agencies.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

East of England Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Shahid Malik): My right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is today publishing the revision to the east of England plan—the revision to the East of England regional spatial strategy—concerning accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and travelling showpeople, together with the accompanying supporting document, which includes a summary of consultation responses and a sustainability statement. This final, single issue revision to the east of England plan reflects consideration of responses to the consultation on the Secretary of State's proposed changes, which were made in the light of the recommendations of the independent panel who conducted an examination in public into the draft policy.

This is the completion of an important single issue revision to the east of England plan, which was published in May 2008. It builds on the foundations of the draft policy, which was prepared by the east of England regional assembly and the findings of the independent panel who conducted an examination in public.

The policies that are published today become part of the East of England plan and provide a framework for local planning authorities to prepare relevant policies in their development plan documents, which must be in general conformity with the East of England plan.

The strategy reflected in the final policies aims to guide development of additional accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and travelling showpeople in the East of England most immediately to 2011, and in the longer term to 2021.

The policies adopt the independent panel's conclusion that the number of pitches in the region should be slightly increased from the total proposed in the draft policy, in recognition of the pressing need for additional accommodation in the East of England. They also reflect the panel's conclusions that the revision should make provision for additional transit sites for temporary use by Gypsies and Travellers and more permanent plots for seasonal use by travelling showpeople. The spatial strategy reflected in the policies provides for meeting the most pressing accommodation needs where they arise coupled with an equitable distribution of additional pitch and plot requirements across the region's local authority areas.

The policies were subject to assessment under the habitats regulations. The sustainability statement concludes that the policies are in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and that they do not give rise to adverse environmental impacts.

The culmination of this single issue review of the East of England plan represents an important milestone in putting in place a strategic framework for addressing the pressing accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller and travelling showpeople communities. The essential task now is to ensure that the policies are implemented quickly and effectively. We look forward to working with the local authorities and other key partners on their delivery.

The policies resulting from the review, together with the supporting document have been placed in the Library of the House and have been provided for all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

Planning

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): On 2 April 2009 the Government informed Parliament about the review into the extent and impact of housing development on garden land. This explained that the review would be carried out in two stages.

I can today confirm that we received 127 detailed responses from local planning authorities to stage 1 of the review, and that stage 2 is being carried out by Kingston University, London. I have asked them to consider the following:

whether there has been any increase or decrease in development in gardens from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2008, and the reasons for any change;

the impact of the brownfield definition and brownfield target in planning policy statement 3 on any increase or decrease in development in gardens;

whether development on garden land is widespread, or confined to a handful of authorities or certain areas of the country;

the contribution that this type of development makes towards local housing delivery objectives and the impact that any restrictions on development on garden land would have;

the role of the planning inspectorate in determining appeals for development on garden land—typified by accusations that they force the hand of local authorities by routinely overturning decisions on garden development;

whether local authorities are developing local policies in line with advice from Government and the policy in planning policy statement 3, and in particular whether local policies on brownfield development and trajectories are being developed; and

whether local policies developed in accordance with PPS3 are effective in supporting local authorities' decisions on garden development at appeal, and to establish the common reasons for local objections to development on garden land.

Our aim is to conclude the review and make a further announcement and publish summary findings and evidence to Parliament after the summer recess.

The purpose of the review is to establish whether there is a clear and genuine problem with the extent of housing development on gardens. And, as we have previously confirmed, the Government are committed to considering action if the evidence confirms a problem, provided that any changes should not have the effect of undermining our objectives on housing.

Planning Policy Statement (Coastal Erosion)

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): I am today publishing a consultation on proposals for new Planning Policy on Development and Coastal Change, and I am placing copies of the consultation in the Library of the House.

Coastal communities have historically adapted to the changing coastline as sea levels have risen steadily since the end of the last ice age. However, on the basis of the latest projections provided by UKCP09[1], climate change is likely to exacerbate erosion and coastal flooding with rising sea levels and a potential increase in the intensity, severity and frequency of coastal storms over the next 100 years.

Government are committed to managing the impact of coastal erosion and flooding in a sustainable manner, and this includes ensuring that our spatial planning policies support communities that are resilient to the risks presented by climate change.

Strong planning policy to manage coastal flooding is already in place through planning policy statement 25. However, currently planning decisions in relation to coastal erosion risks are made with reference to planning policy guidance note 20, which adopts a strongly precautionary approach, restricting any development in areas at risk of coastal erosion. This means that even appropriate development that would support the economic and social viability of a coastal town or village is unable to go ahead.

To deal with this, the proposed development and coastal change policy aims to strike a better balance between economic prosperity and the need for further defence of the coastline, alongside reducing the consequences of coastal change on communities.

The draft policy promotes a strategic risk-based approach to managing future physical changes to the coastline, so that long-term adaptation of communities can be planned while allowing necessary development that is appropriate and safe. It will also introduce a more co-ordinated approach to planning and investment at the coast, ensuring that spatial strategies to deliver regeneration and sustainable economic development take proper account of the impact of physical processes affecting the coastline and decisions regarding the planning and management of coastal defences.

This consultation forms part of a wider package of actions being taken forward to deliver the Government's sustainable flood and coastal risk management approach set out in the "Making Space for Water" strategy. The "Coastal Change Policy" framework, which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced for consultation on 15 June, provides a package of policy measures to help coastal communities and local authorities manage and adapt to the increasing risk of coastal flooding and erosion.

The proposed changes I am setting out today will play a part in assisting coastal communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change and facilitating economic activity in coastal areas. The consultation closes on 12 October 2009.

[1]The "UK Climate Projections 2009", published 18 June 2009

DEFENCE

Haslar Hospital Site

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The Royal Hospital Haslar is an important historical site. It opened to patients in 1754 and formally ceased to be a military hospital in 2007, although it continued treating NHS patients until July this year when clinical facilities and Defence Medical Services personnel were transferred to the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, and elsewhere.

The future use of this site, which extends to some 23 hectares and comprises around 75,000 square metres of buildings, 13 of which are Grade II listed, is clearly an important issue locally and nationally. Accordingly, in 2008, the Ministry of Defence commissioned an Enquiry by Design led by the Princes Regeneration Trust and the Princes Foundation for the Built Environment. The enquiry concluded that alternative uses should include new enabling development and that every effort should be made to retain some medical and health care presence on the site.

An expressions of interest campaign was undertaken earlier this year and a number of bids were received by the closing date. I am announcing today that Our Enterprise, a community interest company that brokers and delivers bespoke commercial partnerships between charities, social investors, commercial operators and the public sector to deliver large-scale integrated regeneration projects, has been chosen as our preferred bidder for the site. Our Enterprise has been chosen as our preferred bidder for the site in accordance with Government policy on the disposal of historic buildings. We expect to exchange contracts with the purchaser and complete the transfer by the autumn, if not earlier.

Our Enterprise has a vision of promoting the quality of life for both individuals residing on the site and for Gosport as a whole and will continue social and health care on the site by providing a "Veterans Village", student accommodation, community health care and a commercial centre as well as residential uses. I believe that the choice of preferred bidder for Haslar is good news for the local community, and will preserve the heritage and visual aspects of this important site.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement.

The OSPAR Radioactive Substances Strategy was agreed by Ministers of all contracting parties in 1998. The objective of the strategy is to prevent pollution of the maritime area covered by the OSPAR convention (convention for the protection of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic) from ionising radiation through progressive and substantial reductions in radioactive discharges.

It was agreed that contracting parties should report to the OSPAR Commission on progress in achieving the aims of the 1998 strategy.

Today, an updated Strategy for Radioactive Discharges (the first having been published in 2002) was published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change. The UK Discharges Strategy forms our national report on progress and will be presented at the next OSPAR ministerial meeting in 2010.

The UK Strategy is available via the DECC website: www.decc.gov.uk.

HEALTH

Regulation of Social Care

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): The General Social Care Council (GSCC) is the professional regulatory body for social workers in England and has statutory responsibility for investigating complaints against social workers. In June, the Department of Health became aware that a backlog of conduct referrals had developed at the GSCC and liaised with GSCC to determine the scope and nature of the problem.

On 2 July, Ministers were alerted as the GSCC had identified a backlog in the management of 203 complaints against social workers registered with it. Ministers were very concerned about any risk to the public and met the Chair and Chief Executive of the GSCC on 6 July to seek reassurances from them. The Council reported that there were 21 cases where the allegations, though unproven, suggested that there could have been an ongoing risk of harm to members of the public.

Ministers asked the Council to ensure that urgent action was taken to address any potential threat to public safety that could arise if these individuals were continuing to work as social workers, by establishing their whereabouts, to ensure that any who were still in employment were being safely and appropriately managed while the allegations were investigated. GSCC has been working to ensure that any employers of these individuals are aware of the allegations made and to ensure that the individuals concerned have not sought employment elsewhere.

On Friday 17 July, the Department received information from the GSCC regarding all 21 cases. The GSCC confirmed that either the individuals concerned are employed as social workers by known employers who are aware of the allegations that have been made and are managing any risks or, as far as the Council can ascertain, they are not currently employed as social workers.

In the light of Ministers' concerns around public safety, my officials facilitated a team to work with GSCC to ensure that all cases in the backlog were reviewed to determine if any were high risk. Following this review, a small number of other cases have been identified which are being investigated. Ministers are seeking urgent further assurances that every possible step has now been taken to ensure that none of these individuals present a current risk.

In all cases where the GSCC has assessed that there may be a potential ongoing risk, panels are scheduled to have met by Friday 24 July to consider the imposition of an interim suspension order on the individual in question pending the outcome of the GSCC's investigations.

The fact that a backlog of conduct referrals, some of which had not been adequately risk assessed, has built up is a matter of extreme concern. We understand that GSCC has therefore suspended its Chief Executive while it looks into how the issue arose.

As an interim measure, Paul Philip, currently Deputy Chief Executive at the General Medical Council, is joining GSCC as acting chief executive.

The Department of Health is today commissioning the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence to carry out a wide-ranging review of the governance and performance of the GSCC. The purpose of the review is to establish what further action is needed to ensure that Ministers, Parliament and the public can have confidence that the GSCC is effectively carrying out its statutory duties to promote high standards of conduct and practice in order to protect the public. The GSCC supports the review, which will report to Ministers by the end of September.

NHS Access (Foreign Nationals)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): Since the publication of the cross-government immigration enforcement strategy "Enforcing the rules: a strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our

immigration laws" the Department of Health and the Home Office have been working together to review the rules on charging non-UK residents for access to National Health Service services in England.

The House will wish to know that the joint review has concluded and the Government are today able to outline its conclusions.

The National Health Service was founded over 60 years ago. Sixty years on, this Government remain committed to their founding principles; a national health service for the benefit of the people of the United Kingdom, free at the point of delivery and funded by general taxation.

However, it is neither feasible to operate the NHS without proper controls over access, nor fair, in an age of mass global travel and movement, to ask the taxpayer to fund unrestricted access to non-UK/EEA nationals. It is the Government's responsibility to protect NHS resources from exploitation or inappropriate use.

That is why, in concluding the review, the Government are today announcing measures to support a clearer and fairer system of access to NHS services—a transparent system that will maintain the confidence of the public by preventing inappropriate access.

The Government have decided to maintain the current system of charging non-residents for most secondary care (hospital) services. Treatment in an accident and emergency department, and treatment for specified infectious diseases that could create a public health risk, will remain free to all. The Government also propose limited extensions to the current range of exemptions from charges for hospital treatment for certain non-residents.

Persons seeking refuge or asylum are already exempted from charges for the duration of their application including the full appeal process. The Government have not been persuaded that this full exemption should be extended to all of those whose application has failed but have not yet left the country. It has however recognised the case for those whose claim has been refused but who are being supported by the UK Border Agency because they would otherwise be destitute, have children and/ or because it is impossible to return them home through no fault of their own. It is therefore proposed that an exemption from charges is extended to this group.

The Government also propose to exempt from charges all unaccompanied minors, including those in local authority care, while clarifying the principle that the accompanying parent or guardian of a non-resident minor is responsible for the cost of their NHS treatment. Together with the exemption for victims of human trafficking that was introduced from April this year, these changes reinforce the protection and rights to health care of the most vulnerable groups, regardless of their residential status.

While maintaining the principle that other visitors or irregular migrants who are not specifically exempted should be charged for their treatment, and that, in non-urgent circumstances, treatment will be withheld if the costs are not paid, the Government remain firmly committed to the requirement that immediately necessary and other urgent treatment should never be denied or delayed from those who require it. We are currently engaging with key stakeholders to ensure that guidance to the NHS in this respect is clear and comprehensive.

The principles of providing immediately necessary treatment must always be applied to any maternity care, to ensure that the health of the mother or baby is not put at any risk. Maternity treatment therefore must never be delayed or denied. However, the Government have not been persuaded that charges should be abolished in relation to non-exempt patients for maternity treatment. There is clear case evidence that a small number of visitors enter the United Kingdom specifically to use NHS maternity services.

In relation to HIV treatment, the Government recognise that clinical evidence on treatment, including their role in prevention, is developing constantly. Moreover, HIV is a major global problem, the control of which creates significant financial as well as human costs. We will therefore undertake further analysis of the latest medical and public health evidence together with consideration of how the current policy on treatment aligns with the Government's wider international aid strategy for HIV. This analysis will inform a future decision on whether the current treatment policy (that only initial diagnosis and counselling is offered free of charge to non-UK residents or individuals who are not otherwise exempt) should be revised.

The Government also propose that the period of absence for current residents that can be disregarded for the purpose of determining continued eligibility for free NHS hospital treatment in England is extended from three to up to six months. This proposed change reflects the increasing tendency towards longer periods of travel overseas for some people, and will protect the rights of British citizens who travel abroad while still residing substantively in the United Kingdom.

The Government acknowledge that general practitioners are well placed to take account of the health care needs of their local communities. GPs also play a pivotal role in the provision of public health services (in which they are currently at the forefront of our response to the threat of pandemic swine flu). Since the inception of the NHS GPs have had the responsibility of determining whether a particular individual should become a patient of their practice. This applies to all patients and while the discretion we give to GPs is limited, for example, decisions must not be discriminatory, we do not believe that any specific changes are required in respect of foreign nationals. Where an individual is refused registration, a GP is able to offer routine treatment on a private fee paying basis, but must provide any immediately necessary treatment free of charge.

A small minority of visitors deliberately seek to enter the UK, legally or illegally, in order to access NHS services without payment, some returning on a number of occasions for additional treatment while their previous debt remains unpaid. We therefore believe that there is a strong justification for practical working level co-operation between the NHS and UK Border Agency to apply immigration sanctions to those seeking leave to enter or remain when they have substantial uncleared debts to the NHS. It is only fair that these individuals are prevented from returning to the United Kingdom, or extending their stay here, until they have cleared their

debt. The Government therefore propose to amend the immigration rules to provide that non-EEA nationals will normally be refused permission to enter or remain in the United Kingdom if they have significant debts to the NHS.

The Government are also attracted to the principle of visitors (who are not covered by EEA or other reciprocal health agreements), being required to have personal health insurance provision, as is already the case in some other countries. We intend initially to seek views on the merits and feasibility of such a scheme that will inform further work to evaluate possible options.

The proposals apply to England only. The Government will however consult with devolved Administrations, particularly with regard to the proposals on health tourism and health insurance where they may be benefits in a United Kingdom wide approach.

The proposed policy changes in this statement will be put to public consultation in the autumn and full supporting information will be provided at that time. Subject to a positive consultation outcome, revised regulations will then be laid as required to enable changes to take effect.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Counter-terrorism

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): Today, 20 July, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) changed the UK threat level from international terrorism from *severe* to *substantial*. This means that a terrorist attack is a strong possibility.

The change in the threat level to *substantial* does not mean the overall threat has gone away—there remains a real and serious threat against the United Kingdom and I would ask the public remain vigilant.

The decision to change the threat level is taken by JTAC independently of Ministers and is based on the very latest intelligence, considering factors such as capability, intent and timescale. *Substantial* continues to indicate a high level of threat; and that an attack might well occur without further warning. The threat level is kept under constant review.

Forced Marriage Case Handling Guide

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): Today the Forced Marriage Unit (a joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office unit) launches its Forced Marriage Case Handling Guide for MPs and Constituency Offices.

The guide aims to help Members of Parliament and their staff when they are faced with issues related to forced marriage. It offers background on the issue and gives suggestions of best practice for supporting victims and dealing with their families. It gives details of the Forced Marriage Unit and of non-Government organisations who can offer help and advice and also gives contact details of UK embassies/ High Commissions overseas.

The new guide is available from the House Library. The guide can also be accessed on the Forced Marriage Unit's website at: www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage, and further hard copies can be obtained directly from the unit at the following address:

Forced Marriage Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Room G58
Old Admiralty Building
London SW1A 2PA

Proceeds of Crime

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I am pleased to be able to provide a schedule of costs, which has been prepared exceptionally for 2008-09, following the merger of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) on 1 April 2008.

The figures in the schedule show the sum of assets recovered by SOCA in 2008-09 to be in the region of £3.9 million more than the cost of their recovery activities using the powers inherited from ARA. SOCA is tasked with reducing the harm caused to the UK by organised crime, and numbers alone do not tell the full story, but in the first year of SOCA's use of these new powers it exceeded the Government's target for civil recovery on its own. The Government believe that SOCA's performance in this area of activity fully vindicates its decision to merge both agencies.

The figures provide, as far as it is possible to do, an assessment of the costs incurred by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in recovering assets using powers inherited from ARA during the first year following the merger. Assessing the costs associated to a single work stream within SOCA has proved challenging and significantly more complex than the calculations that could be made for ARA, which was focused on a single area of activity. Given that former ARA work is now only part of a larger organisation with much wider aims and objectives and significantly larger and more varied overhead costs, a like-for-like comparison is difficult.

SOCA's remit is to reduce the harm caused to the UK by serious organised crime. To achieve this SOCA deploys a range of tools. These include: criminal justice interventions (arrests and prosecutions); action to deny criminals access to assets through the use of proceeds of crime legislation and other measures; the disruption of criminal markets and organisations; and the use of ancillary orders such as Serious Crime Prevention Orders. The use of these tools is mainstreamed into the operational activity of the agency. Most operations deploy a number of these tools. It is not possible to identify, in a manner which could be audited, the costs associated with the use of specific tools within any given operation. The identification of costs for powers inherited from ARA is less problematic as civil recovery operations were run as a discrete area of the business in 2008-09.

The receipts from SOCA's asset recovery work are not intended to cover the operating costs of SOCA as a whole.

Summary Analysis of ARA/SOCA Expenditure on Asset Recovery (2003-04 to 2008-09)

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
	ARA	*ARA*	*ARA*	*ARA*	*ARA*	
	Actual	*Actual*	*Actual*	*Actual*	*Actual*	*Actuals*
	£'000	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	
1. Total Reported ARA Expenditure	10,889	14,085	23,617	24,927	24,598	
2. Less						
i) Centre of Excellence Direct Costs	-759	-1,231	-1,625	-1,731	-2,034	
ii) Overheads on C of E Costs(2)	-637	-1,033	-1,363	-1,379	-1,779	
3. SOCA Costs						
i) Direct Costs						
- Staff						6,374
-Other Including Receivership Fees						5,910
ii) Overhead Recharges (Notes 3 & 4)						4,885
4. = Cost of Asset Recovery Activities	*9,493*	*11,821*	*20,629*	*21,817*	*20,785*	*17,169*
5. Adj for Change of VAT Status (Note 5)						-853
6. Comparable Annual Cost Levels	*9,493*	*11,821*	*20,629*	*21,817*	*20,785*	*16,316*
7. Cash Value of Assets Recovered	-2	-4,384	-4,119	-15,912	-9,225	-20,175
8. Net Cost (Surplus) In Year	*9,491*	*7,437*	*16,510*	*5,905*	*11,560*	*-3,859*
9. Cumulative Cost (Surplus)	*9,491*	*16,929*	*33,439*	*39,344*	*50,904*	*47,044*

Notes

1. *Overview*—This statement compares costs in SOCA of taking forward proceeds of crime activities previously undertaken by ARA. It includes an accumulated cost at the request of NAO as the original remit for ARA was that this work would in the longer-term be self-funding. The 2008-09 outturn shows a surplus for the first time, mainly because overhead costs in SOCA are much lower than those in ARA.
2. *Centre of Excellence Overheads* for 2003-04 to 2005-06 are calculated at 84 per cent. of direct costs based on the average of the 2006-07 and 2007-08 actual costs reported by ARA.
3. *Overhead costs in SOCA* are c 40 per cent.based on full recovery of all SOCA's infrastructure costs (that is, accommodation; security; IT systems etc) across operational activity areas including former ARA services.
4. *The overhead savings are represented in practice* by the fact that SOCA has been able to reduce accommodation costs in London and also by the ability to release c 50 FTE staff into other SOCA operational activities following the merger.
5. *SOCA costs include VAT* which ARA was able to recover—VAT is cost neutral in total public purse terms and deducted from SOCA costs to facilitate direct comparison with ARA costs. Even without this adjustment, a surplus would be shown in 2008-09.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations System-wide Fund

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): The new White Paper "Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future" sets out the Government's vision of a more focused and effective UN that plans, manages and delivers 'as one' for the world's most vulnerable people. The Government's intention is to put more of our funding through system-wide mechanisms that encourage a joined up, efficient and effective UN effort.

Today I am confirming a pledge I made at the 2008 MDG High-level Event to provide £40 million (over 2009 to 2011) through the new UN MDG "Delivering as One" fund. This new facility, developed jointly with Spain, Norway and the Netherlands, will fund UN-led development work in countries where UN agencies have agreed one programme, one budget, shared back-office services and one strong leader. Experience over recent years indicates that this approach leads to a stronger, more effective and efficient UN at country level, better able to support developing countries' national programmes to meet the MDGs. So far 12 developing countries have adopted this 'one UN' approach and others are expected to follow. UK funding will be closely linked to performance to ensure that the new fund contributes to improved efficiency and effectiveness in the UN's work.

JUSTICE

Access to Justice

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Today we are announcing the Government's response to the Civil Justice Council's report on "Collective Actions: Improving Access to Justice through Collective Actions".

The Civil Justice Council published its report on collective actions on 12 December 2008. The report proposed that a general legal right for representative bodies to bring collective actions should be created, and that this should be possible either in respect of an identified group of claimants or on behalf of an entire class, that is, for both named and unnamed claimants. Whether to allow a particular collective action to proceed, and whether on an identified group or class basis, would be a matter left to judicial discretion.

The Council's recommendation included:

Increasing the types of representative bodies that can bring claims.

Making the judiciary the gatekeeper of the procedure.

Permitting claims to be brought on an opt-out basis where it is in the best interests of justice.

Changing the law to permit the award of aggregate damages.

The Government are grateful to the Civil Justice Council for carrying out this review, and welcome the report and its analysis, identifying where further work

or reforms are needed and setting out the case for change. The report has been carefully considered and the Government have concluded that collective actions would be best taken forward on a sector by sector basis. We do not believe that the creation of a generic right to collective action would be appropriate.

There are a number of reasons why we have reached these conclusions. A generic right would introduce the possibility of collective actions for any and all types of civil claim in every sector of society and the economy. It would be very difficult to assess impacts across the entire economy and if the overall benefit was positive that might fail to highlight individual areas where the impact might be adverse.

In addition there may be substantive law issues relating to damages. The potential for a shortfall or surplus cuts across the compensatory principle underpinning (most) civil damages and the appropriate approach may vary according to the type of claim involved and in particular the type of representative body bringing the action.

Nevertheless, collective actions are potentially a useful way to manage mass legal claims in a number of areas where a large number of people are likely to have related grievances. However, there may be strong arguments both for and against the introduction of collective action in any particular sector and the Government do not think it would make sense to impose a one size fits all policy across the whole economy.

Each sector will be responsible for deciding whether to introduce a right of action and for developing the required legislation, where there is evidence of need and following an assessment of economic and other impacts. For example, if the consumer sector, having considered alternative approaches and taken account of stakeholder views and economic impacts into account, decided that collective court actions offered a way forward then they would be able to ask Parliament to give representative bodies the right to bring actions on behalf of consumers.

The Government will work to develop a framework document which will in essence consist of a "toolkit" for legislators. It will identify the key features that legislation granting new rights of action will need to contain. In conjunction with this the Ministry of Justice will develop rules of court. These will be designed to interface with new rights of action and will be sufficiently flexible to deal with any different approaches taken by sectors in respect of such issues as authorisation of bodies, allocation of damages and whether claims are to be brought on an opt-in or an opt-out basis.

Subject to any sector-specific exceptions, the rules will also include provisions for mandatory use of alternative dispute procedures, certification, security for costs, case management and fairness hearings.

Copies of the Government response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and it is available on the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk. The Civil Justice Council's report is available on the Civil Justice Council website at: www.civiljusticecouncil.gov.uk.

Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Government have today published the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill. The Bill includes the following reforms, to:

The Civil Service

Place the Civil Service and Civil Service Commissioners on a statutory footing, and enshrine the Civil Service's core values in statute.

Treaties

Enshrine in statute the procedure for pre-ratification scrutiny of treaties by Parliament, and give legal effect to a vote against ratification.

House of Lords

Phase out the hereditary principle in the House of Lords, by ending by-elections for hereditary peers; provide for the disqualification from the House of Lords of peers convicted of a serious crime or subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order; enable the House of Lords to expel or suspend its Members in certain circumstances; and provide for peers to resign and disclaim their peerages.

Demonstrations around Parliament

Repeal sections 132 to 138 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, removing the requirement to give notice of demonstrations around Parliament, as well as the offence of holding a demonstration without the authorisation of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. The Bill will instead enable the police to be given proportionate, alternative powers to maintain access to Parliament.

Human Rights—"Somerville"

Reconcile the time limit for human rights claims under the Northern Ireland Act 1988 and the Government of Wales Act 2006 with that in the Human Rights Act 1998. Due to the interface between this Bill and parallel provision for Scotland in an Act of the Scottish Parliament which has yet to receive Royal Assent, the same provision for Scotland will be introduced by amendment at the appropriate time.

Judicial Appointments

Remove the Prime Minister from the process of making appointments to the new Supreme Court (this complements non-legislative measures ending his involvement in the appointment of other Members of the senior judiciary of England and Wales); and remove the provision enabling the Judicial Appointments Commission to assume responsibility for magistrates' appointments.

National Audit Office

Provide a modern governance arrangement for the National Audit Office, and change the tenure of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Transparency in accounting for NDPBs

Align the spending mechanisms of non-departmental public bodies with the existing budgetary treatment.

The Bill follows the proposals in the Governance of Britain Green Paper of July 2007 (CM 7170) and the publication of a draft Bill (published in March 2008, Cm 7342-11).

The issues covered in the draft Bill were the subject of examination by three Select Committees:

The Joint Committee on the Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill (report of 31 July 2008, HL Paper 166-1, HC Paper 551-1);

The Justice Committee (report on the Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill (provisions relating to the Attorney General), HC 698); and

The Public Administration Select Committee (report on Constitutional Renewal: Draft Bill and White Paper, HC 499).

The Government are very grateful indeed for the work of these Committees, and are publishing, today, their response to these reports.

On 3 July 2007, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a major statement on the case for constitutional reform. Alongside this, more detail was given in the governance of Britain Green Paper. A number of subsequent separate consultation papers were published, including on the role of the Attorney-General (CM 7192), judicial appointments (CM 7210), war powers and treaties (CM7239) and protest around Parliament (CM 7235). The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill was published on 25 March 2008 (CM 73423-2) and a Joint Committee of both Houses set up to consider the draft Bill.

The Government have taken full account of the responses to the consultation and the reports of the Select Committees in finalising the proposals in the Bill.

A fundamental aim of the governance of Britain agenda has been to reduce the power of the executive, including by ending the use of relevant royal prerogative powers, and to enhance the role of Parliament. The provisions in respect of the civil service and treaties mark a major move in that direction. The Government have already announced that it would ensure that the Commons will have a pivotal position in determining whether the United Kingdom goes to war, by means of a war powers resolution. Drafts of this have already been published and will go before Parliament in the autumn.

House of Lords

Detailed work on the reform of the Lords had been undertaken in parallel with the governance of Britain agenda. A White Paper was published last July (2008, CM) building on the decisions of the Commons in February 2007 in favour of an 80 per cent. or 100 per cent. elected House of Lords. No proposals in respect of the Lords were therefore included in the draft Constitutional Renewal Bill.

However, in view of recent events and increased interest in the Lords' reform agenda, the Government have decided to include in the Bill reforms to:

a) end the hereditary peers by-elections, thus phasing out the hereditary principle, and

b) provide for the resignation of peers and powers for their expulsion, suspension and disqualification in certain circumstances.

The Government are fully committed to comprehensive reform of the Lords, based on four principles, all of which were endorsed by the cross-party group (see White Paper, An Elected Second Chamber, July 2008, Cm 7438):

The primacy of the House of Commons, enshrined in the Parliament Acts, and in rules and convention;

Independence of Members, supported by their serving a single, non-renewable term of three normal-length Parliaments, and, as set out originally in the 2007 White Paper (The House of Lords: Reform, Cm 7027), by a system of election which prevents a single party gaining an overall majority;

Direct election, such that the second chamber has a democratic mandate underpinning its revising role, but one that is never as a whole more up to date than that of the Commons; and

Sensible transitional arrangements in respect of existing peers.

There remain outstanding questions, which the Government will seek to answer in final proposals after the summer, with draft legislation for pre-legislative scrutiny as soon as possible. The two key issues are the electoral system and the size of the elected element (80 per cent. or 100 per cent.). The Government are giving careful and active consideration to resolving these questions in such a way as to make best use of a transitional period.

Attorney-General

The Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill contained provisions in respect of the office of Attorney-General, following the governance of Britain Green Paper, which set out the Government's commitment to enhancing public confidence and trust in the office, and the Government said that they would listen to the views of all those with an interest. A consultation paper was subsequently published on 25 July 2007. Of all the matters covered in the draft Bill, this has been the subject of most extensive comment, with bespoke reports from the Justice Committee and the Select Committee on the Constitution and extensive treatment—including minority views, with support from across all three main political parties—from the Joint Committee on the draft Bill.

Those reports disclosed a wide range of views on the direction that reform of the office might take. For example, the Justice Committee favoured separating the Attorney's legal and political functions; a majority of the Joint Committee disagreed; and the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution noted that 'there are a number of different ways in which the post of Attorney might evolve', providing an overview of the different options and arguments.

In the event, the significant, necessary reforms to the role of Attorney-General are being achieved without the need for legislation. For example, the Attorney has reached a new settlement with the Directors of Public Prosecutions, the Serious Fraud Office and Revenue and Customs Prosecutions to improve relationships, guarantee prosecutorial independence while ensuring an appropriate degree of accountability and to improve transparency about the relationship, as reflected in the new protocol setting out the respective responsibilities of the Attorney and the Directors. This builds on the Prime Minister's statement in July 2007, that the Attorney-General has herself decided, except if the law or national security requires it, not to make key prosecution decisions in individual criminal cases. Furthermore, the new protocol makes it clear that the Attorney General will not be consulted in any case which concerns an MP or peer or where there is a personal or professional conflict of interest, other than where her decision is required by law. This protocol will be published by the Attorney very shortly. Furthermore, the Attorney-General now only attends Cabinet when matters affecting her responsibilities are on the agenda.

Given that it has been possible to make these reforms to the office of Attorney-General without legislation, the Government have concluded that it is not necessary to include legislative changes in respect of the Attorney-General.

Parole Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Since its creation in 1968, the role of the Parole Board has changed significantly, from an advisory body to a court-like decision-making body.

It has evolved in light of legislative changes, court judgments and changing caseloads, but its functions, status and resources have not been systematically considered in light of these changes.

I am today therefore announcing a consultation on options for the future of the Parole Board. The consultation period will last from 20 July 2009 until 20 November 2009.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. They are also available at: www.justice.gov.uk. The Ministry's website also gives details of how to respond to the consultation exercise.

Family Legal Aid

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

The Government are committed to funding legal aid for family cases, and currently dedicate £582 million each year to family legal aid. In real terms, in the last seven years expenditure on family representation has increased by 25 per cent. while the number of people helped has dropped by 11 per cent. For this reason, we have been working to re-design the system to get the best value for the tax payer and to ensure that our priority of protecting and helping vulnerable children is met.

On 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 120WS, I announced a consultation paper, "Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010", published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Legal Services Commission (LSC) which set out proposals for legal aid payments for family work to apply from 2010. The consultation closed on 3 April 2009, following an extension of the original closing date of 18 March, which was granted following requests from representative bodies.

The consultation paper focused on two new payment schemes:

The Private Law Representation Scheme, which will bring all private family work (excluding advocacy) within a standard fee regime.

The Family Advocacy scheme, which creates a single graduated fee scheme covering payments to both solicitor advocates and barristers for public and private family law cases.

There is a significant overlap between what solicitors and barristers do, and this consultation proposed that barrister and solicitor advocates would receive the same fees for the same advocacy work and most respondents agreed with this principle.

I remain convinced that it is right to proceed with a harmonised family advocacy scheme and intend to do so.

Since the formal consultation ended, the Legal Services Commission has had a substantial amount of constructive engagement with stakeholders. They have provided a considerable amount of detailed advice on how to improve the structure of both the advocacy and representation schemes—primarily to recognise complexity in cases.

Our original proposals have been substantially revised to reflect many of their suggestions. This has required a considerable amount of reworking of the assumptions that underpin the modelling of the fee schemes. I have concluded that in order to ensure that those models are as accurate as possible, further analysis is required before we publish the final fee schemes.

My officials and the Legal Service Commission will be working on the fee schemes over the summer. They will be finalised and announced in time for the September bid round for new civil contracts in April 2010.

Legal Aid Reform

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is publishing today a response to its consultation, published in March 2009, on best value tendering (BVT) of criminal defence services. The consultation set out plans to pilot BVT in Greater Manchester and Avon and Somerset and, subject to the outcome of the pilot tender process, to roll-out BVT more widely during 2010-12.

The consultation was clear that the introduction of BVT would bring significant change to the way in which criminal defence services in the police station and magistrates' court are currently funded. However, BVT offers the potential to secure the long-term sustainability of criminal defence work by enabling legal aid providers to offer their services at a sustainable price that reflects the costs of provision in their local area. The proposals have been designed to secure best value for taxpayers' money and provide opportunities for practitioners to undertake more work where they have the capacity to do so.

The LSC intends to go ahead with the BVT pilot as planned, with the tender process beginning in October 2009. However, the LSC has listened carefully to concerns raised by those responding to the consultation and has been persuaded that there is a strong case for delaying the wider implementation of BVT until at least 2013 to enable a full evaluation of the impact in the two pilot areas.

The consultation response also details the final BVT model to be implemented in the pilot areas including the adjustments that have been made as a result of the consultation. In particular, the LSC intends to implement a more flexible, localised approach to maximum market share in response to concerns raised by respondents. It also intends to allow firms to undertake a small amount of police station work outside the area in which they have won a contract so that they can continue relationships with established clients.

Copies of "Best Value Tendering for CDS Contracts 2010: A Response to Consultation" will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The document can be downloaded from the consultation section of the LSC's website at: www.legalservices.gov.uk.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have today placed a copy of the Boundary Commission's annual report for the period 2008-2009 in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available on the Boundary Commission website at: www.boundarycommission.org.uk.

OLYMPICS

Government Olympic Executive Quarterly Economic Report

The Minister for the Olympics, (Tessa Jowell): I am publishing today the Government Olympic Executive's quarterly economic report, "London 2012 Olympic and

Paralympic Games Quarterly Economic Report July 2009". This report explains the latest budget position as at 30 June 2009, and outlines some of the many wider economic benefits to the UK.

The Olympic project remains on time and within budget. The overall £9.325 billion public sector funding package for the London 2012 games remains unchanged and the anticipated final cost of the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) programme is the same as it was at the end of March 2009 at £7.234 billion.

On the eve of our three years to go celebrations, the ODA continue to make good progress on the Olympic park, recently announcing that they had hit all of their ten milestones. Good progress is being made on all of the principal venues and on 16 July the ODA announced that the outer shell roof structure of the Olympic stadium had been completed just 14 months after construction started.

The report also confirms that the London 2012 games are providing business and employment opportunities around the UK in challenging times. There are now over 4,000 workers on site. Of these, 10 per cent. were previously unemployed. To date £3.5 billion worth of contracts have been directly awarded by the ODA, 98 per cent. of these to UK companies.

I would like to commend this report to the members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest and support of the London 2012 games.

Copies of the quarterly economic report July 2009 are available at www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Workers Memorial Day (Consultation)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): On 27 July my Department will publish a Command Paper on workers memorial day.

Discretionary Social Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman): The Secretary of State's changes to the discretionary social fund, which took effect in the south-west region from 27 April 2009 and the east midlands region from 8 June 2009, will be partially extended to Glasgow from 27 July 2009.

The changes introduce a requirement for most customers to be interviewed at a local Jobcentre Plus office when they make a third or subsequent application for a crisis loan to cover living expenses.

During such an interview customers will be provided with a leaflet that contains details of local and national organisations that can provide money management advice. The leaflet has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament and copies are also available in the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 21 July 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Learning and Skills Council for England

The Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs (Kevin Brennan): I would inform the House that the Learning and Skills Council for England has today published its annual report and accounts for the period to 31 March 2009. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

Banking Act 2009

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The Government are today publishing two consultation documents on implementation of aspects of the Banking Act 2009, as part of their programme to protect depositors and maintain financial stability.

The Banking Act established a permanent special resolution regime (SRR) to provide the authorities with the tools to deal with banks and building societies that fail. Many of the detailed provisions are set out in statutory instruments, and the Government have committed to consulting on a number of these. The consultation documents that have been published today are:

Consultation on the Building Societies (Insolvency and Special Administration) Order 2009 and related insolvency rules, and on financial assistance to building societies; and

Consultation on the FSMA 2000 (Contribution to Costs of Special Resolution Regime) Regulations 2009.

Some of the secondary legislation included in these two documents has already been made on an urgent basis to enable the effective resolution of the Dunfermline Building Society. For these statutory instruments, the Government will consider whether to bring forward amending instruments in the light of consultation responses. The other instruments will be revised as appropriate in the light of consultation responses before being made.

The first document, "Consultation on the Building Societies (Insolvency and Special Administration) Order 2009 and related insolvency rules, and on financial assistance to building societies", sets out detailed proposals for supporting building societies and protecting their customers in the event of failure.

The first part of the consultation concerns applying the bank insolvency procedure and the bank administration procedure to building societies UK-wide. The bank insolvency procedure is designed to ensure that in the event of a bank failure depositors eligible for compensation under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) receive their payments quickly, or have their accounts transferred to another institution, and that the affairs of the failed institution are wound up in the interests of creditors as a whole. The bank administration procedure is designed to support a partial transfer, which is an important tool available to the authorities under the SRR to enable them to split up a failing bank by transferring part of its property to a commercial purchaser or a Bank of England-controlled bridge bank. Applying these procedures to building societies will ensure that building societies, their members and creditors are treated in the appropriate way corresponding to the treatment of banks, their depositors and other creditors in the event of insolvency or administration.

The second aspect of the consultation deals with the provision of financial assistance to building societies. Section 9B of the Building Societies Act prohibits building societies from creating floating charges on the whole or part of their undertaking or property. This may make it difficult for societies to offer appropriate security to the Bank of England, or any other provider of necessary financial assistance. An interim measure, made under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, enables societies to grant floating charges to the Bank of England in connection with the provision of financial assistance. The Government are now consulting on legislation to replace this interim measure and on a further measure that would make it easier for building societies to convert financial assistance given in the form of Treasury bills or other securities into cash.

The second document is entitled "Consultation on the FSMA 2000 (Contribution to Costs of Special Resolution Regime) Regulations 2009". A principle of the SRR is that the FSCS should contribute to the costs of the operation of the SRR. This contribution is capped at the amount of compensation the FSCS would have paid, less the recoveries it would have made if the institution were in default and the FSCS were engaged in the normal way under FSMA. The regulations were made on 29 March 2009 in order to enable the Treasury to require the FSCS to make payments in connection with the resolution of the Dunfermline Building Society. The consultation document seeks views on the regulations.

Debt Relief (Poor Countries)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The Government remain determined to lead global efforts to tackle poverty in the world's poorest countries. As part of that, they are fully committed to delivering on their international debt relief commitments to ensure the poorest countries are not faced with an unsustainable debt burden.

To support these efforts, I am today publishing a consultation on legislation designed to tackle creditor non-participation in the "Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative". By opting out of international debt relief efforts, and pursuing the full value of claims through the courts, this minority of private creditors can negate the benefits of debt relief. This is at the expense of poor countries and British taxpayers. The proposed legislation would limit the scope for creditors to recover their debts above a set level, unless the courts consider it just and equitable for them to do otherwise.

Copies of the consultation have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Anti-Avoidance: Capital Allowances

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The Government are taking action today to counter tax avoidance schemes involving capital allowances on plant or machinery. Legislation will be introduced in the 2010 Finance Bill, to prevent tax avoidance through the transfer of an entitlement to benefit from capital allowances on plant or machinery, used for the purpose of a trade, where the tax written down value of the plant or machinery exceeds its balance sheet value ("latent capital allowances").

The proposed legislation will apply where there is a change of ownership of a company as part of arrangements, one of the main purposes of which, is to transfer to the purchasing group an entitlement to benefit from the latent capital allowances available to the company which is purchased.

The proposed legislation will also apply where there is a change in ownership or profit-shares of a consortium company, or partnership involving companies, as part of arrangements where one of the main purposes is to transfer the entitlement to benefit from the latent capital allowances. Draft legislation, which will take effect from today, 21 July 2009, will be published as soon as practicable.

A technical note explaining the material that will be contained in Finance Bill 2010 will be published on HMRC's website today.

Copies of today's HMRC technical note have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are accessible on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Equitable Life

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Liam Byrne): I can today provide an update to the House on the continuing progress of Sir John Chadwick's work in relation to Equitable Life.

On 16 June 2009, Sir John Chadwick issued a document that set out his proposed approach and issues to be addressed, alongside announcing his formal appointment of Towers Perrin as actuarial advisers and establishing a website, through which interested parties can keep informed of his work as it progresses and make representations to his Office.

The document intended to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on Sir John's proposed approach and Sir John requested that comments be returned in written form to his Office by 17 July 2009. I am pleased therefore to inform the House that Sir John has received a range of representations on his proposals, including from Equitable Life and an Equitable Life members group, a range of policyholders, and the Government. Sir John is in talks with these interested parties and he is now reviewing all representations with a view to identifying the next stages of his work.

Running concurrently with this work I can also inform the House that Towers Perrin, the appointed actuaries to Sir John, have already begun to thoroughly review and analyse the many hundreds of thousands of extensive policyholder records that have been provided by Equitable Life.

Sir John intends to publish a further document in August. This interim report will contain a definitive statement of his approach for determining relative losses and a definitive list of the specific issues he will address.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Democratic Renewal

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): I am today announcing a consultation on local democratic renewal. This follows the commitment set out in "Building Britain's Future" to explore ways of increasing both the powers and the accountability of councils and city regions. Local democratic renewal forms a major part of the Government's proposals for constitutional reform, alongside other strands for debate including reforming the House of Lords; considering a written constitution; reviewing the electoral system; and increasing public engagement in politics.

The founding principle of local government is that citizens have the right to influence the decisions that affect their lives and their communities. A key way in which local citizens are able to exercise that right is their ability to elect a strong local council which can lead and shape their area. That is why the role of councillors and councils, with their unique democratic mandate, is critical to making sure that local services are responsive to the needs of their local communities. Citizens have a right to have their voices heard, and to expect those delivering services to care what they think.

Citizens rightly expect that councils should be the centre of local decision making, and the one place that they can go in order to influence and challenge what local services are doing. In order to do this, councils must be fully equipped to act on behalf of local residents, with the powers to scrutinise and shape local public services, and respond to local need.

There is a large and untapped pool of people who would like more say in what happens in their area, and it is right that both central and local government do more to give them greater direct control over the decisions that affect their lives and their community. But we must also recognise that in today's time-poor society, citizens have only limited time to give.

There are other imperatives driving the need for stronger local government. First, it is to increase democratic accountability, since councils, uniquely among local services, have a direct democratic mandate from residents. Secondly, it is a way of promoting greater value for money. Local government has already saved £4.5 billion through efficiency measures since 2004. By giving them greater powers to oversee and co-ordinate all the money coming into their area, they will better be able to drive change and improvement, cutting out duplication and waste. Thirdly, councils have a vital role to play in promoting economic development. They are best placed to bring together partners from across their area to support residents and prepare for future prosperity. And finally, delivering personalised services. As the drive continues to deliver personalised services and enforceable entitlements it will become ever more important to ensure that local services are delivered flexibly and in response to local needs.

Recent reform has gone some way to giving councils the powers they need to play this stronger role. The three year financial settlement means that councils have much greater certainty to plan ahead. They have powers to promote the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of their area. And they have powers of scrutiny to challenge and hold to account some of those who provide public services and serve their local communities.

This consultation sets out proposals to radically reform and strengthen local government so that it is even more able to take on a new role in serving residents by strengthening public service delivery.

It contains proposals to:

Put local authorities at the centre of local decision making. Our aspiration is that they should be the one place where citizens, through their councillors, can hold local services to account. This would mean that when citizens go to vote, they are electing someone who can act on their behalf in relation to every aspect of public spending in their area. We propose to achieve this by enhancing local authorities' power to scrutinise other bodies, and extending the range of bodies that these powers can be applied to. This builds on the concept of the total place initiative, which gives councils a unique role in scrutinising all the money that comes into their area.

Strengthen local government's ability to act in the local interest. We ask whether councils have the powers that they need to respond effectively to local challenges, or whether there are barriers which prevent them using the powers they already have. This will be essential to enable local authorities to deliver the minimum entitlements set out in Building Britain's Future. We also set out our response to the recent LAML judgement: proposing to introduce a specific power enabling councils to engage in mutual insurance and exploring what other arrangements councils may want to engage in but which may fall beyond the existing power to promote well being. We also ask whether more could be done to further reduce the burden of inspection and clarify when and where central Government should intervene in local government.

Strengthen local authorities' ability to tackle climate change. We propose to give councils more direct responsibility for fighting climate change, perhaps through introducing local carbon budgets.

Support sub-regional working. We set out a range of options to make sure that the greater powers being devolved to city-regions and other sub-regional partnerships are matched by greater transparency and accountability for local residents.

Achieve a clearer relationship between central and local government. We set out the principles in which central and local government broadly operate and ask whether these should be more formally articulated, in order to give citizens greater clarity and certainty about our respective roles and functions. We also explore the possibilities for overseeing these more formal arrangements—potentially through an ombudsman or a joint select committee, subject to the outcomes of the consultation and the views of Parliament.

The consultation seeks views on these proposals and will run from 21 July until 2 October 2009. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Reform of Council Housing Finance

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): On 30 June I announced my intention to publish a consultation document on reform of council housing finance before the summer recess. I said that this would contain proposals to dismantle the housing revenue account subsidy system and replace it with a devolved system of responsibility and funding which would devolve control from central to local government and increase local responsibility and accountability.

I am publishing the consultation document "Reform of Council Housing Finance" today. I am placing copies of this in the Library of the House. The document can also be downloaded from the consultations section of my Department's website at: www.communities.gov.uk and I am seeking responses by 27 October 2009.

A fully self-financing locally devolved system cannot be implemented in a single step, but I want to move as rapidly as possible to put these reforms in place. I will work with all those with an interest in improving council housing to deliver this major devolution of responsibility and accountability.

Business Growth Incentives Scheme

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): I am today announcing the publication of the Government's response to our public consultation on "Reforming the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme", which sets out that we will distribute a total of £100 million to local authorities in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The Government launched the consultation on 25 August 2008 and invited comments to help refine their thinking before a new scheme was introduced for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The consultation closed on 20 November 2008.

Given the broad support the Government's proposals have received, the revised scheme will largely be as proposed in the consultation, although with two significant changes made in response to the representations we received.

(a) Instead of the mapping of local authorities into 28 sub-regions plus London as originally proposed for the purposes of the scheme, we have decided to recognise 55 smaller sub-regions including London. We believe this will go a long way towards reflecting local views about the economic relationships that actually exist;

(b) Instead of the proposed split of rewards between district councils and county councils in two tier areas (which would have favoured the upper tier), we have decided to divide rewards equally between them.

The decision on sub-regional mapping follows further consultation, in February 2009, further to which we invited all local authorities, including those that did not respond to the consultation, to enter into discussions with nearby authorities in an effort to reach a local consensus about the sub-regional mapping they wished the Government to consider.

In the consultation responses, the balance of opinion was that we should publish a provisional list of sub-regions for comment first rather than proceed directly to publish a final list, which we have done at annex A of our consultation response.

Here we are also setting out the proposed allocation of the £50 million available in 2009-10.

A period of two weeks will now be available to authorities to make any final representations on both the provisional list of sub-regions and on the provisional allocations for 2009-10, before those allocations are made.

The Government's response to the consultation, along with the provisional list of sub-regions and provisional allocations for 2009-10, is available on the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/labgi/labgischeme2/

Copies of these documents are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Stoke-on-Trent Council

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): On the 8 May my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), the then Minister for Local Government, announced to the House that, as part of a programme of action to help the people of Stoke-on-Trent restore to the city good city governance, the Government were minded to make an Order under section 86 of the Local Government Act 2000 specifying a scheme of whole council elections from 2011. He also announced that to enable the focus of all to be on this 2011 new start, and while an electoral review is being undertaken, the Government were minded to include in the Order provision to cancel the 2010 elections for the city council. He explained that before taking final decisions there would be a short 'soundings' period until the 18 June to provide an opportunity for interested parties to make representations to us.

That soundings period is now complete and I am today announcing that, having regard to the representations we have received, we have decided to go ahead with a scheme of whole council elections for Stoke-on-Trent city council from 2011. We intend to lay the necessary Order before Parliament as soon as practicable.

We have, however, concluded that there is not a sufficiently strong case for cancelling the 2010 elections for the city council, and hence the Order will not include provision to cancel these elections.

We reached these conclusions having regard to the 11 representations we received during the soundings period. There was broad support for whole council elections, but a number of concerns were raised about cancelling the 2010 elections to the city council, including from the Electoral Commission which considered that on the available evidence, a clear case for cancelling the elections had not been made.

In his 8 May announcement my right hon. Friend also indicated that he was asking the Electoral Commission to undertake an electoral review of Stoke-on-Trent which would consider the size of the council and the warding arrangements for the City. The Electoral Commission has now directed the Boundary Committee to undertake this review, which we understand will begin shortly.

We are confident that these measures to reform the electoral arrangements of Stoke-on-Trent will help provide for the people of Stoke-on-Trent the opportunity they need to achieve that well governed city, with high quality public services, successful economic regeneration, and improved quality of life, which they deserve.

Departmental Hospitality

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Shahid Malik): I am today publishing a list of receptions hosted by Ministers at the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2008-09.

The total cost of these receptions was £23,500.

Date	*Host*	*Event*	*Venue*	*Number of Attendees*
03-07-08	Secretary of State (the right hon. Hazel Blears MP	CLG Joint Reception for Beacon Awards Winners and Empowerment White Paper at LGA Conference 2008	Windsor Hall, Bournemouth International Conference Centre	120
08-07-08	Secretary of State (the right hon. Hazel Blears MP	CLG Summer Press Reception	Eland House	50
10-07-08	Secretary of State (the right hon. Hazel Blears MP	Local Priorities: Local Area Agreements Stakeholder Reception	Eland House	120
15-07-08	Secretary of State (the right hon. Hazel Blears MP	Thames Gateway Investor Reception	Methodist Hall, One Brokage Walk, Westminster	50
07-10-08	Secretary of State (the right hon. Hazel Blears MP	Eid UL-Fitr Reception (co-hosted with Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	400
15-12-08	Secretary of State (the right hon. Hazel Blears MP	CLG Christmas Press Reception	Jubilee Room, House of Commons	50
04-02-09	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Iain Wright MP	HCA Transition Reception for Chairs and Chief Execs of housing growth areas and Local Delivery Boards	Portcullis House	25

Tackling Race Inequalities Fund

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): In February, the Government announced proposals to support third sector organisations through the Tackling Race Inequalities Fund. Today, I am pleased to announce to the House that 27 national and regional organisations will receive grants totalling £8.8 million over two years.

The third sector organisations are:

1990 Trust
Age UK (Age Concern and Help the Aged)
Association for Real Change (ARC)
Black Environment Network
Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG)
Business in the Community (Race for Opportunity)
Clinks
Council for Ethnic Minority Communities, Northamptonshire (Limited)
Exell3 Limited
Friends, Families and Travellers
Humber All Nations Alliance
MENTER (Minority Ethnic Network Eastern Region)
Network for Black Professionals
North of England Refugee Service
Olmec
Operation Black Vote
PATH Yorkshire
Race Equality Foundation
Race on the Agenda (ROTA)
Runnymede Trust
Show Racism the Red Card
Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust
The Afiya Trust
The Innerlink Foundation
The Monitoring Group
The Rural Media Company
Workers' Educational Association (WEA)

Funding is subject to agreeing detailed work programmes and monitoring and reporting arrangements. Organisations will be expected to show how they make effective use of the financial assistance to deliver real impact.

The fund will support a range of organisations working to tackle race inequalities and promote equality of opportunity for people of all ethnic groups. It will enable organisations to contribute to policy making.

DEFENCE

MOD Annual Report and Accounts

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am pleased to announce that I am today publishing the Ministry of Defence's annual report and accounts 2008-09. It combines the Department's annual performance report and departmental resource accounts in a single document that provides a comprehensive overview of the MOD's financial and non-financial performance for the year, including the Departments contribution towards public service agreements and departmental strategic objective targets. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. It is also available online from the Department's website at: www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceFor/Researchers/.

This last year has been a challenging one for defence. Operational tempos remained high, with operations in Afghanistan and Iraq continuing, although now in Iraq we have seen the end of our combat role and the return of the majority of our personnel.

In those theatres and others, British forces have made, and continue to make, an enormous contribution to international security. Recent sad events have highlighted the commitment of all those involved, not just the men and women of the armed forces and the civilians who support them, but also those family members who remain at home and provide vital support to those who serve their country. The success of defence is dependent on them—they continue to do an exceptional job—and the Government remain committed to providing the support that they need and rightly deserve.

Armed Forces Pay Review Body

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Ms Judy McKnight as a member of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, for a three year term of office commencing on 1 September 2009. This appointment has been conducted in accordance with the guidance of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

BVT (Terms of Business Agreement)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): The Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS) highlighted the need for restructuring in the maritime industry to reduce overcapacity in the UK warship build and support industry after the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers (QE Class) have been built, and to ensure in the future a sustainable world-class industrial base. It is paramount that we balance supply and demand in the future, primarily to sustain key maritime skills and jobs that will, in turn, ensure our key industrial capabilities (KICs) are preserved.

As part of the response to the DIS, the shipbuilding and support activities of BAE Systems and VT Shipbuilding came together last year to form a new single company—BVT Surface Fleet Limited (BVT). The company, which is integral to the QE Class and Type 45 programmes, was established as MOD's strategic complex warship design and build partner, and to work collaboratively with Babcock on surface warship support.

Our joint aim is to deliver, in time, a world-class capability for the UK and global markets. In order to achieve this, we have been negotiating a long-term business agreement with BVT. Known as the terms of business agreement (TOBA), I am pleased to announce to the House today that we have now concluded these discussions and signed a 15 year commercial deal with the company. Worth around £230 million per year to BVT to sustain KICs required for essential operational sovereignty, the TOBA gives an unambiguous commitment to the company for a certain minimum level of workload in the areas of warship design and build work, and elements of warship support covering all surface warships. In return, BVT has committed to the transformation of the sector into a sustainable entity for the future. This will generate major financial benefits to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Royal Navy worth a minimum of £350 million over the duration of the contract, with an aim to double this figure over the duration of the contract.

The MOD expects this new commercial agreement, which is being progressed within the strategic framework of the maritime change programme (MCP), to provide a strong foundation for BVT to compete for non-MOD work, both in the UK and throughout the world. It will be for BVT to retain the capacity it deems necessary to meet the demands made of it and to transform the sector.

This new arrangement is also intended to provide MOD with the confidence that BVT can deliver significant improvements in efficiency and performance needed to underpin the future naval shipbuilding programme, while providing the company with the certainty to enable investment and long term planning. Finally, it demonstrates that we continue to make best use of UK taxpayers' money in seeking opportunities for transformation and the delivery of efficiencies.

Defence Advisory Forum

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): In my written statement to the House on 7 July I announced plans for a Defence Green Paper to be published early in 2010, as part of a process that will enable a strategic defence review early in the next Parliament.

I intend to appoint a defence advisory forum of independent experts to support the preparation of the Green Paper. The forum will be established for a limited period, covering the preparation and publication of the Green Paper.

The defence advisory forum will be affiliated to the Prime Minister's national security forum and will work in concert with it.

I will inform the House of the membership of the forum once this has been confirmed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chris Bryant): Copies of the British Council's annual report and accounts for the 2008-2009 financial year have been placed in the Library of the House.

During the period the British Council received £200,963,000 grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

HEALTH

Correction to Written Answers

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I regret that the following written answers contained information which was incorrect:

the written answer given to Ann Coffey on 23 June 2009;

the written answer given to Mr. Stephen O'Brien on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 587W;

the written answer given to Mr. Don Foster on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 521W;

the written answer given to Sir Nicholas Winterton on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 378W;

the written answer given to Mr. Mike Penning in 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 270W;

the written answer given to Sir Peter Soulsby on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 359W;

the written answer given to Mr. Mark Hoban on 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 288 W;

the written answer given to Mr. David Simpson on 25 February 2008, *Official, Report* column 1196W;

the written answer given to Mr. Norman Lamb on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1071W;

the written answer given to Sandra Gidley on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 17MC;

the written answer given to Mr. Mark Simmonds on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1002W;

the written answer given to Sandra Gidley on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 641W;

the written answer given to Mrs. Theresa May on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 23 8W;

the written answer given to Mr. Lansley on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 302W;

the written answer given to Mr. Mike Penning on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 576W;

the written answer given to Mr. Lansley on 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 908W;

the written answer given to Mr. Swire on 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 568W;

the written answer given to Mr. Lansley on 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1871W;

the written answer given to Mr. Hayes on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 507W;

the written answer given to Justine Greening on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 382W;

the written answer given to Mr. David T.C. Davies on 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 947W;

the written answer given to Mr. Weir on 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 947W;

the written answer given to Anne Milton on 20 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 138W;

the written answer given to Mr. Andrew Turner on 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 570W;

the written answer given to Mr. Burstow on 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 576W;

These answers all related to Department of Health advertising spend between 2004-05 and 2008-09. The incorrect information was a result of some non-advertising expenditure being included within the figures. There was also evidence that provisional figures rather than the final discounted totals had been used. In order to prevent this issue from recurring, improvements have been made in record keeping and processes in answering PQs on advertising spend.

The following table shows the correct departmental advertising expenditure over the last five completed financial years. A further breakdown of these figures has been placed in the Library.

Department of Health Advertising Spend in £ millions[1] (2004-05 - 2008-09)

Campaign	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[2]*
Alcohol (from 06/07 DH contribution to campaign run jointly with HO)	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.61	4.77
Antibiotics	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.39	1.15
Change4Life	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.69

Department of Health Advertising Spend in £ millions[1] (2004-05 – 2008-09)

Campaign	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[2]*
Drugs (DH contribution to campaign run jointly with HO)	0.91	0.18	1.34	0.67	1.45
Flu (Immunisation)	1.45	1.83	1.11	0.98	1.42
Hepatitis C	0.00	0.00	0.52	1.34	1.30
HPV Vaccination	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Immunisation	0.00	0.00	1.66	0.00	0.32
National Health Service including nurse recruitment	5.96	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
NHS Injury Benefits Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00
NHS Choices	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.35
Patient Choice	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53
Respiratory & Hand Hygiene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.53
Sexual health/teenage pregnancy	1.40	0.00	2.88	3.11	2.83
Social care/worker recruitment	1.80	2.42	2.31	2.22	2.03
Smoking - Tobacco Control	20.05	20.80	13.17	10.79	23.38
Stroke	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.52
Tobacco Legislation	0.00	0.00	0.32	5.38	0.00
Winter (Get the right treatment/ ask about medicines day	0.54	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00
5 a Day	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00
EIB/EHIC	0.24	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
DH outdoor campaign	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS (£ millions)	32.73	27.47	23.92	26.24	56.43

[1]Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, COI commission and VAT). All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000. These figures do not include DH recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by NHS organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this chart reflects central DH spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.
[2]Provisional figures

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): On 17 March 2009, the Healthcare Commission, the independent health regulator, published a damning report into the failings of emergency care provided by Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. Since then, the Government and the local NHS have had two priorities: first to ensure services at the trust improve as soon as possible to the level that patients and the public have a right to expect; and second to ensure the right lessons are learned both locally and nationally, so the events of Mid Staffordshire cannot be repeated.

The previous Secretary of State commissioned two rapid reviews from Professor Sir George Alberti the National Clinical Director for Emergency Care, on the present state of emergency services at the trust and Dr. David Colin-Thomé on how the broader system was not able to detect the failings sooner. All their recommendations were accepted and the reports were published, alongside the Government's response on 30 April 2009.

The new independent regulator for health and social care, the Care Quality Commission, has today published their three month stock-take report. In short, it concludes there has been some progress, but there is much more to do. Its analysis echoes the concerns that Ministers have heard from members of the local community.

Having listened carefully to these concerns, I have resolved that further action is necessary. Today I am announcing a package of measures to lead to a step change in improving local services and to help heal the wounds of the past, so the trust and their local community can face the future together with renewed confidence and optimism.

I have worked closely with Monitor, the Foundation Trust regulator, to ensure a new leadership team with the skills and experience to transform services at the hospital is appointed as a matter of urgency. I am pleased to welcome Sir Stephen Moss, the new Chair, and Antony Sumara, the new chief executive, to their roles. Monitor and the Care Quality Commission will continue to oversee their progress, with a further review due in October.

Fundamental to the trust's success will be listening to patients, to ensure their voice counts and that they are an integral part of shaping and influencing the future of the hospital. That is why I have asked Dr. David Colin-Thomé to support and advise South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust to play their full part alongside the trust in reaching out and involving people locally.

It is clear from listening to those affected that rebuilding local confidence and restoring trust will take time. The full impact of what happened at Mid Staffordshire is revealed through the personal stories of those affected and it is clear to me that these experiences need to be properly aired if the local NHS is to learn and, in time, move on.

I have therefore decided, following detailed discussions between my Department and the new management of the trust, that it would be appropriate to set up a further independent inquiry. I do not believe it is necessary for this to be a full public inquiry, given the thoroughness of the reports already produced by the Healthcare Commission, Professor Sir George Alberti and David Colin-Thomé, as well as the availability of an independent clinical review to those who have concerns about the care they or a loved one received at the hospital.

This inquiry's focus will be on ensuring that patients or their families have an opportunity to raise their concerns. It is important, given the events of the past, for those who depend upon the care provided by the trust to be confident that they have been listened to and that any further lessons not already identified by the thorough inquiries that have already occurred be learned.

Robert Francis QC has agreed to chair the inquiry. The terms of reference (a full copy has been placed in the Library) will be:

to investigate any individual case relating to the care provided by Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust between 2005 and 2008 that, in its opinion, causes concern and to the extent that it considers appropriate;

in the light of such investigation, to consider whether any additional lessons are to be learned beyond those identified by the inquiries conducted by the Healthcare Commission, Professor Alberti and Dr Colin-Thomé; and, if so,

to consider what additional action is necessary for the new hospital management to ensure the Trust is delivering a sustainably good service to its local population; and

to prepare and deliver to the Secretary of State a report of its findings.

It is important that this is swift so as not to unduly distract the new management and staff at the hospital from improving services for patients today. The inquiry is therefore planned to report to me by the end of 2009. Should the chair of the inquiry consider that it is necessary to have the power to require witnesses to attend, as Secretary of State I have the power to convert the inquiry into an inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005.

There are also national lessons to learn from the investigation at Mid Staffordshire. Dr. David Colin-Thomé's report contained some important recommendations on this.

Many of these are already being addressed, for example through the implementation of Lord Darzi's vision High Quality Care for All and our World Class Commissioning programme. In addition, the new National Quality Board will report to me by the end of the year with recommendations on how best to ensure any early signs that something is going wrong in the NHS are picked up immediately, that the right organisation are alerted, and action is taken quickly.

The Mid Staffordshire case has also illustrated that the current regulatory framework for foundation trusts (FTs) needs updating. The FT model is a key plank of reform in the NHS, successfully rewarding high performance with greater freedom and autonomy. The policy is based on the premise that FT status is a privilege to be earned and valued—an incentive to drive up quality, innovation, productivity and local accountability. However, it is clear that in some exceptional circumstances, where an FT has failed to live up to this standard and public confidence has been damaged, it may be right for the privileges of FT status to be withdrawn.

This is why I intend to consult on legislative proposals to enable Monitor to "de-authorise" a foundation trust, subject to agreement by the Secretary of State, where it is clear an organisation has forfeited its right to the freedoms and flexibilities afforded by FT status. It is also important that where there is public concern, the Secretary of State is able to express his views and request that Monitor considers intervention in a particular way. I will also consult on legislative proposals so that, in these circumstances, if Monitor disagrees with the approach suggested by Ministers, they should be obliged to justify this position publicly. The Government will issue a consultation on both these issues in the next few days.

By focusing on the powers and actions of Monitor to intervene, I believe we achieve the appropriate balance between ensuring fundamental failure is addressed and maintaining the significant benefits of the FT model, which gives FTs greater freedom in return for high quality.

All of us who care passionately about the health service were appalled by the events at Mid Staffordshire, which are in stark contrast to the dedication and professionalism shown by NHS staff every day up and down the country. The measures I have announced today, building on those already taken, demonstrate the collective commitment in all parts of the system, to ensure there will be no repeat.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Olympics (Safety and Security)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): I would like to inform the House that on the 20 July 2009 Ministers agreed that material on our planning for the safety and security of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games should be made available to the public. In doing so we have to ensure that the public are kept fully informed of progress and of practical impacts, but also that sensitive material is not inappropriately placed in the public domain. In my statement to the House on 26 February I announced that the Government had agreed a strategy and developing concept of operations (CONOPS) for Olympic security planning, and promised that appropriate material would be put before Parliament and the public as soon as practical.

This follows a period of hard work by all stakeholders, including the police and emergency services, to ensure that a comprehensive and effective programme can be delivered on time and within appropriate boundaries for additional spending.

The Home Office, in consultation with the main stakeholders in Olympic security planning, is publishing two documents today:

An unclassified version of our safety and security strategy. This sets out our planning work in detail and in the context of our wider counter-terrorism strategy; and

A shorter leaflet setting out the main points of our security planning of wider interest to the public.

Copies of these publications are being placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

Newspapers (Surveillance Methods/Update)

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): In my written statement on 14 July 2009 I gave an undertaking that the House would be updated on any substantive development.

On 16 July 2009, the Director of Public Prosecutions made a statement following the conclusion of the review he announced on 9 July 2009. He had concluded that in the light of the findings, set out in the statement, it would not be appropriate to re-open the cases against Goodman and Mulcaire, or to re-visit the decisions taken in the course of investigating and prosecuting them. A copy of the full statement by the Director of Public Prosecutions will be made available in the Library of the House.

The Metropolitan Police Service has also written in response to detailed questions about the police investigation to both the Home Affairs and Culture, Media and Sport Select Committees.

In my statement on 14 July, I also reported that the Independent Police Complaints Commission had received a complaint from the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) about police action in this case and was considering whether there were any issues raised that might fall within its remit. That complaint has been passed to the Metropolitan Police Service for their consideration with the hon. Member's consent.

The MPS will now make a decision as to whether the complaint is recordable under the Police Reform Act 2002 and whether they should refer any matter to the IPCC. The MPS will update the hon. Member for Eastleigh directly.

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report: 10 Years On

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): On 24 February the Home Office and Ministry of Justice, supported by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), held a conference to mark the 10th anniversary of the publication of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report. The conference, with an opening speech by Doreen Lawrence, OBE, reviewed the progress that has been made over the last 10 years, shared good practice, and helped to set out a focus for future work.

On or around this anniversary three reports were published: "Stephen Lawrence Review" an independent commentary by Dr. Richard Stone; "Police and racism: what has been achieved 10 years after the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report" by the EHRC and "The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry 10 Years On" an analysis of the literature by the Runnymede Trust.

I am today publishing a report of the 10 anniversary conference and a Government response to Dr. Stone's, the EHRC and Runnymede Trust reports.

The conference and the reports acknowledge that the police service and other criminal justice agencies have made progress since the publication of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report, in 1999. There have been many positive changes in relation to race equality and the fact that the overwhelming majority of the recommendations of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report have been addressed is a measure of this. However, we must, as the conference proceedings and the reports also demonstrate, not become complacent. Much has been achieved, but there is still considerably more to do. That is why we have published an action plan with the conference report, setting out areas for particular focus, building on existing work, as we move forward from the anniversary. This work includes: increasing the recruitment, retention and progression of minority ethnic police officers and police staff; reducing unjustified disproportionality in the use of stop and search powers; and continuing to improve the reporting and recording of racist incidents.

Copies of the conference report and the Government response to Dr. Stone's, the EHRC and the Runnymede Trust reports will be placed in the Library of the House later today.

Kingsnorth Report

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): There has been considerable parliamentary and public interest in the policing of the Kingsnorth Climate Camp which took place between 3 and 9 August 2008. The Government have given repeated assurances that the lessons from the policing of Kingsnorth Climate Camp would be identified and shared across the police service and more widely with Parliament.

The National Policing Improvement Agency and the Association of Chief Police Officers have overseen a review that has been commissioned by the Chief Constable of Kent into the policing of the "Climate Camp for Change" at Kingsnorth. Given my previous commitments on Kingsnorth, I am accordingly notifying the House that the report will be published on the Kent Police website on Wednesday 22 July, and that I will place a copy of the report in the House Library on that date.

The Government are committed to working with the police and public to ensure the report's recommendations are acted upon in order to facilitate peaceful protest whilst upholding and protecting the rights of wider communities and other individuals. The findings from the report will be picked up by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in its wider review of policing and protest which is due to report in the autumn.

Alcohol Disorder Zones

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): This statement follows the undertaking by the Government on 13 May 2008 to report back to Parliament one year after the commencement of the Alcohol Disorder Zone (ADZ) legislation.

ADZs came into force on 5 June 2008 and are designed to help local authorities and the police tackle high levels of alcohol related nuisance, crime and disorder that cannot be directly attributable to individual licensed premises. Guidance published by the Home Office both at the time of commencement and in December 2008 emphasised the point that ADZs should be used only in tightly defined areas and as a last resort, when all other tools and measures have failed to solve the problem.

Our discussions with local authorities have confirmed that no local authority has as yet implemented an ADZ. The principal reason highlighted as to why this is was that local authorities and enforcement agencies already have a wide range of powers and tools to tackle many of the problems that they encounter and no local authority felt that it had as yet reached the point of "last resort".

However, the Government remain concerned about the effect that a number of licensed premises acting irresponsibly together may have on an area. For that reason, in addition to this legislation we have introduced new provisions in the Policing and Crime Bill, currently before Parliament, that will allow a licensing authority to take action against two or more premises if they are contributing to alcohol related crime or disorder.

Animal Procedures

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I wish to respond to the publication entitled: "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals—Great Britain—2008", which was laid before Parliament today.

This annual statistical report meets the requirement in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to inform Parliament about the licensed use of animals for experimental or other scientific purposes. It also forms the basis for meeting periodic reporting requirements at EU level. A hard copy is available and supplementary information with additional tables is also available on the Home Office website.

The statistical report shows an overall increase over the previous year of 14 per cent. in the number of procedures undertaken. The total number of procedures was just under 3.7 million, an increase of 454,000 over the previous year. There has now been an increase for the seventh year running and is the highest total since 1992. A number of factors, such as investment in research and development and strategic funding priorities, determine the overall level of scientific procedures.

Non-toxicological procedures accounted for about 87 per cent. of the procedures carried out. These included fundamental research in human and veterinary medicine to improve understanding of disease mechanisms and possible therapeutic options, and development of vaccines.

Most toxicological studies (79 per cent.) were for the safety and efficacy testing of new drugs and medicines and the majority of all toxicological procedures (71 per cent.) were performed in order to carry out legal or statutory requirements.

In line with previous years, those procedures that used mice or rats (or other rodents) were the great majority at 77 per cent. Those using fish amounted to 17 per cent. and those using birds, 3 per cent. The total of all procedures using dogs, cats, horses and non-human primates, that is those species offered special protection by the Act, was less than 1 per cent. of the total.

Genetically normal animals were used in about 1.9 million regulated procedures, (up 160,000 (9 per cent.) on 2007 figures, largely as a result of the use offish and mice in fundamental biological research and applied studies. Genetically modified animals and those with a harmful genetic mutation (nearly all were rodents, fish or amphibians) were used in 1.76 million regulated procedures representing, 48 per cent. of all procedures for 2008 (compared with 46 per cent in 2007 and 16 per cent. in 1995).

Advances in the opportunities to use genetically altered animals for new areas of biomedical research means that the trend of increased production and use of genetically altered animals has continued. It allows a more precise and often less invasive study of physiological studies and disease mechanisms that was previously possible. Most of the animals concerned are mice, which appear and live as normal. Many are only used in breeding programmes. In fact nearly two fifths of all procedures in 2008 were accounted for by breeding procedures (38 per cent.) for the production of harmful mutant and genetically modified animals. Mice (89 per cent.) and fish (9 per cent.) were used in most of these procedures.

I should point out in relation to the statistics, that the Home Office, as regulatory authority under the 1986 Act, does have an effect on the overall amount of animal research and testing that takes place. This is done by ensuring, as part of our licensing function, that the provisions of the Act are rigorously applied in each programme of work and that only work that is scientifically justified, minimises the numbers of animals used and animal suffering that may be caused, is authorised.

The statistical report and supplementary information can be found at:
http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/animal-research/publications-and-reference/statistics/

Animal Procedures (Annual Report 2008)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I am pleased to inform the House that I have today placed in the Library the annual report of the Home Office Animals Scientific Procedures Division and Inspectorate for the year 2008.

Publication of the report honours a commitment given by the Government in response to a recommendation of the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures in July 2002 that more information should be made available about the implementation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Earlier annual reports have focused on the work of the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate. The report for 2008 has been expanded to include the work of the Animals Scientific Procedures Division licensing and policy teams.

As in previous years, the report explains what Home Office Inspectors do and how they do it and the inspectorate's role in assessing and advising on applications for personal and project licences and certificates of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

The report also explains the work we have been doing to deliver our better regulation programme and new IT systems to improve our regulation of animal experimentation and provides background to the publication by the European Commission of a proposal for a new European Directive to replace Directive 86/609/EEC on which the 1986 Act is based.

I commend the report to the House.

Citizenship Consultation

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): Following the successful passage of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill through both Houses of Parliament, Royal Assent is expected to be granted today. The Bill includes changes to the routes used to achieve citizenship. In consideration of this the UK Border Agency will be publishing, during the summer recess, a consultation paper entitled "Earning the right to stay: A new points test for citizenship". This document will seek views on proposals to build on the system of earned citizenship set out in the Bill and fulfils one of the commitments made by the Prime Minister in the document "Building Britain's Future".

Copies will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses, as well as on the UKBA website.

Youth Crime Action Plan - One Year On

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): In conjunction with the Secretary of State for Justice and Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, I will tomorrow publish the "Youth Crime Action Plan - One Year On".

This document sets out progress made since we published the "Youth Crime Action Plan" in 2008, and describes the action we will take over the next year.

Copies of the document will be placed in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

England and Wales Prison Service Pay Review Body Report

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The eighth report of the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) (Cm 7678) has been laid before Parliament today. The report makes recommendations on the pay of governing governors and other operational managers, prison officers and related support grades in public sector prisons in England and Wales in 2009. Copies of the report are available at: http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm76/7678/7678.pdf

I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Review Body for their hard work in producing these recommendations.

The recommendations include:

A 1.8 per cent. consolidated increase to the maximum of the OSG, Prison Officer and Principal Officer pay scales and the Senior Officer single pay point; and

A 1.5 per cent. consolidated increase to the maximum of Manager and Senior Manager pay ranges and compression of pay ranges.

This award is consistent with the Government's policy on public sector pay that awards should

reflect the individual labour market position of work forces, particularly their recruitment and retention position;

be consistent with the Bank of England inflation target;

be affordable for Departments; and

represent value for money for taxpayers.

I am pleased to confirm that the PSPRB's recommendations will be implemented in full, effective from 1 April 2009. The cost of the award will be met from within the delegated budget allocation for the National Offender Management Service.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Reform of the Role of the Attorney-General

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My noble Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

Following a thorough review of the role of the Attorney-General, the Government have reached the settled conclusion that the Attorney should retain the roles of chief legal adviser to the Government, Criminal Justice Minister with responsibility for superintending the main prosecuting authorities (the Crown Prosecution Service, the Serious Fraud Office and the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office), and independent guardian of the public interest.

However, significant reforms to the role have been, and are being, implemented. In particular, measures have been taken to clarify the Attorney-General's role of superintending the prosecuting authorities and the nature of the Attorney's involvement in prosecution decisions. A new protocol published today has been agreed with the three prosecuting departments which sets out how the relationship is to work in practice, to safeguard the independence of the prosecutors while enabling the Attorney to be properly accountable to Parliament and the public. Copies of the protocol have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In addition a strategic board has been set up, chaired by the Attorney and including the prosecuting departments, to provide strategic direction to the Law Officers' Departments and secure greater efficiency and effectiveness. The strategic board agreed at the beginning of April 2009 that the Crown Prosecution Service should be merged with the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office to create a strengthened prosecution service.

It is intended to amend the Attorney-General's oath of office to include a specific reference to respect for the rule of law. Furthermore, the Attorney-General now only attends Cabinet when matters affecting her responsibilities are on the agenda.

These significant reforms, which have not required legislation, give effect to the aims of the review of the role, which were to enhance public confidence and respect for the rule of law and to provide greater clarity and transparency.

Attorney-General's Office Annual Review

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My noble Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

I am today publishing an Annual Review of the Attorney-General's Office, to help improve understanding of the role of the Attorney-General and the collective workings of the Law Officers' Departments, to increase public confidence in the criminal justice system, protect the public interest and uphold the rule of law.

As in past years, the Law Officers' Departments have also each separately produced their individual Annual Reports and Accounts.

Copies of the Annual Review have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committees

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Today I am publishing an updated Cabinet Committee list. This provides details of new Cabinet Committees which have been created since the last publication. I have placed a copy of the new list in the Libraries of both Houses. The details are also available on the Cabinet Office website.

TRANSPORT

UK Domestic Drivers Hours Rules

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am today publishing a consultation document seeking views on the current UK domestic drivers' hours rules. These rules prescribe driving and duty limits along with some break and rest requirements for drivers of goods and passenger vehicles that are not covered by the EU drivers' hours rules. This includes most drivers of vans, and bus drivers on routes no more than 50 kilometre in length.

The domestic rules were introduced to support road safety by ensuring that drivers of commercial vehicles had sufficient breaks and rest.

The Department is now reviewing these rules and as part of this process needs to better understand the views and experiences of those that are affected by them in their working lives. Although the consultation document proposes no legislative changes at this stage, the responses received during the consultation will inform the initial consideration of potential policy options, which will then be the subject of further consultation.

Copies of the consultation will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Optional Protocol)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): The period during which the explanatory memorandum and Command Paper for ratification of the optional protocol to the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities were laid before Parliament has now ended. I am therefore pleased to announce that the Government will now be taking the final steps to formally ratify the optional protocol as soon as we are able.

As my previous statements of 3 and 27 February, and 22 June, indicated, the optional protocol builds on the convention by establishing two additional procedures in respect of implementation and monitoring of the convention itself.

The first is a procedural avenue that, subject to meeting conditions set out in the optional protocol, will enable individuals or groups of individuals to bring petitions to the UN Committee that has been established to monitor implementation of the disability convention if they believe that their rights under that convention have been breached. The second is an inquiry procedure giving the Committee authority to undertake inquiries when reliable information is received into allegations of grave or systematic violations of convention rights.

Having ratified the convention itself on 8 June, and in now moving to the final step in ratifying the optional protocol, the Government have demonstrated the importance that it places on respect for the human rights of disabled people.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 9 September 2009

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): An informal lunch of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 2 September 2009.

The informal focused primarily on preparing a European position ahead of the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors held on 4 and 5 September in London, including on IMF issues, executive remuneration and climate change financing. Ministers agreed to increase European resources available to the IMF, building on commitments made in the European Council conclusions in June. They also agreed that the G20 should move forward on reforms of financial regulation, stabilising the world economy, preparing for future growth and establishing sound compensation practices in the financial sector, building on the commitments made at the London summit.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury represented the UK.

G20 Finance Ministers Meeting

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting was held in London on 4 and 5 September. Discussions at the meeting focused on the global economy, financial regulation and international financial institutional reform. Copies of the Communiqué and supporting annexes have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces' Pay Review Body

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The Prime Minister has been pleased to appoint Professor Alasdair Smith as the next chair of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body, for a three-year term of office commencing on 1 March 2010. This appointment has been conducted in accordance with the guidance of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Typhoon Tranche 3 Contract

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): I am delighted to announce that the contracts for the third tranche of Typhoon multi-role combat aircraft have now been signed by the general manager of the NATO Eurofighter and Tornado Management Agency (NETMA), on behalf of the four partner nations, and by the chief executives of the programme's co-ordinating industrial consortia, Eurofighter GmbH and Eurojet Turbo GmbH. This is excellent news for defence and for United Kingdom industry and represents the achievement of another major milestone for the Typhoon programme.

This order builds upon the success of the in-service tranche 1 fleet and the ongoing introduction into service of tranche 2 Typhoon aircraft, which are demonstrating outstanding performance in operation with the RAF. The tranche 3 contracts will provide an additional 16 aircraft as part of a UK order for 40 aircraft, 24 of which are replacements for aircraft being diverted to satisfy exports to Saudi Arabia. The contracts form part of what is thought to be the largest defence order ever placed in Europe, reflecting the successful and continuing co-operation between the four partner nations and European industry. The contracts have also enabled partner nations to programme significant through-life support savings. For the UK this is of the order of £900 million.

Typhoon is an outstandingly capable, state-of-the-art aircraft which is providing a significant enhancement to our defence capability. The aircraft has the flexibility to contribute across a wide range of operations delivering air superiority and precision ground attack capabilities. Additionally, the aircraft will be built with sufficient capability to allow the embodiment of upgrades to systems now and in the future. The tranche 3 aircraft will be an essential part of our defence capability to be retained until at least the 2030s as they will be delivered with sufficient incremental development capacity to be able to exploit nascent systems and weapons technology to ensure that we can continue to meet emerging defence challenges.

The order will provide major benefits for industry across the United Kingdom and is expected to sustain upwards of 15,000 direct jobs with defence manufacturers, many in high-technology positions, and a significant number in supporting industries across the economy more widely.

Typhoon is a world-class combat aircraft and this investment will provide our defence force with the capability to respond to the challenges and threats we face now and in the future.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): Further to the announcement on 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 59WS, volume 436, regarding the continuing programme of investment at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), I should like to provide an update to the House. This is the first opportunity I have had to announce that, on 30 July 2009, agreement was reached between the Department and AWE Management Ltd (AWEML) to extend the priced period of work, within the existing overarching 25-year contract, with AWEML to 31 March 2013.

This work, providing important investment in skills and facilities at AWE, is valued at an average of around £1 billion per annum and represents the next period of priced work within the nuclear warhead capability sustainment programme. It is fully in accordance with the December 2006 White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Management Organisation

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Fitzpatrick): Part one of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, currently before Parliament, seeks to establish a new executive non-departmental public body called the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The MMO will subsume DEFRA's Marine and Fisheries Agency, take on further functions from the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Transport and deliver a range of new functions, as set out in the Bill.

In order to become a legal entity, the MMO must have a chair and a board of at least five and no more than eight ordinary members. However, if recruitment of the board is delayed until after Royal Assent, it is highly likely that vesting of the MMO would have to be delayed. We have therefore sought HM Treasury approval for a Contingencies Fund advance to begin the recruitment of the board of the MMO prior to Royal Assent. Should Royal Assent not be granted, the recruitment process will be terminated.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £50,000 for this new service will be sought in a supplementary estimate for DEFRA. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure, estimated at £50,000, is being met by a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The latest report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk). The report covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2009. I commend the report to the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

The National DNA Database

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I am pleased to announce the publication of the second annual report of the "National DNA Database Ethics Group" on 9 September 2009. The group was established on 25 July 2007 to provide Ministers with independent ethical advice on the operation and practice of the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

The annual report makes a number of recommendations around the processes involved in taking DNA samples from children and young people, the retention of samples, and public information about the use of DNA. I have asked the National Policing Improvement Agency and the National DNA Strategy Board to let me have their considered comments on the report's recommendations as soon as possible.

The report can be viewed on the website of the independent Forensic Science Regulator and I am arranging for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

National DNA Database Ethics Group

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Christopher Hughes, OBE, as chair of the National DNA Database Ethics Group. Mr. Hughes replaces Professor Peter Hutton, who resigned in March 2009. The ethics group provides Ministers with independent ethical advice on the operation and practice of the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

JUSTICE

Commonhold (Amendment) Regulations 2009

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): On Thursday 4 September I laid before Parliament the "Commonhold (Amendment) Regulations 2009". The regulations make consequential amendments to the Commonhold Regulations 2004, arising from the final implementation of the Companies Act 2006 on 1 October 2009. The principal changes are the removal of the prescribed form of memorandum of association for commonhold associations from the Commonhold Regulations 2004 and the insertion of a revised form of articles of association.

The existing non-statutory guidance on the Commonhold Regulations 2004 will be updated to take account of the changes and copies placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

UK Supreme Court

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

I am pleased to announce today that further significant progress has been made during the summer parliamentary recess towards the establishment of the UK Supreme Court.

The newly renovated Middlesex Guildhall building was formally handed over, from the Ministry of Justice, to Jenny Rowe, chief executive of the Supreme Court, on 1 August 2009.

The "Fees Order" specifying the fees payable to the court was laid in Parliament on 4 August 2009 following a full public consultation. The civil fees payable in the Appellate Committee were last amended in 2000. The vast majority of respondents to consultation agreed that it was equitable to uprate the fees payable in the UK Supreme Court to take account of inflation over that time. In addition the fees order introduces a robust system of fee concessions to ensure that access to justice is ensured.

While respondents to consultation agreed that the fees for devolution cases should be brought into line with civil fees generally, they were concerned that to make this change in one step represented too steep an increase—we have therefore decided to implement this change in stages.

A review of the fees will be undertaken in approximately three years to take account of the actual running costs of the Supreme Court.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Draft Legislative Programme 2009-10

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): On Monday 29 June, the Prime Minister announced the Government's plans for "Building Britain's Future". The consultation on the Government's Draft Legislative Programme for the 2009-10 session is a central element of those plans.

As I said in my written statement of the 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 4WS, this is the third year that the Government have published their legislative programme in draft for consultation in advance of the Queen's Speech. This provides an opportunity for both the public and Parliament to see how the Draft Legislative Programme forms part of the action the Government are taking to build a more prosperous, stronger and fairer Britain and to invite comments on that programme.

I would like to thank those who have already contributed to the consultation, and in doing so helped to shape the programme for the final session of this Parliament.

The consultation closes on 21 September so there is still time to contribute. Further information about the programme is available on the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons website (www.commonsleader.gov.uk). For those who wish to contribute please email: dlp@commonsleader.x.gsi.gov.uk or send responses to:

Freepost RSCA-KKCU-ELTJ

Legislation Committee Secretariat

70 Whitehall

London, SW1A 2AS.

I will publish a summary of consultation comments, and the Government's response, on Wednesday 18 November alongside the Queen's Speech which will set out the final programme.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Thursday 10 September and Monday 14 September 2009

TREASURY

Debt Recovery

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): This statement, which I am also making on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, sets out the plans of our two Departments to work together to recover more of the debt which is owed to the taxpayer.

For some three years our two Departments have been taking forward a programme of joint working covering a range of areas where, together, we can deliver better service to our customers and better value to the taxpayer than we could if we worked separately. One such area relates to the debts that are owed to both HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) - often by the same individuals. Accordingly, we have been examining:

ways in which we can recover debts more cost effectively (for customers and Departments) from customers who owe money to both our Departments;

joint tracing services to locate customers with debts owing to one or both Departments for whom we have no current address; and

a simpler payment method for customers owing a debt to HMRC and who are in receipt of benefit payments from DWP.

As part of this programme of work, from the Spring of 2010 HMRC will start to trial the recovery of working tax credit and self-assessment debts through deductions from DWP benefit payments. Participation in the trial will be voluntary. The new service will be offered to people who cannot afford to settle their debts with HMRC in one go and who would prefer to pay them off through a voluntary deduction from their benefits.

To do this DWP intends to make a regulation under the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1987 to enable DWP to collect HMRC debts. This regulation will be subject to scrutiny by the Social Security Advisory Committee, and both Departments will consult with customer representatives when designing the trial.

The trial will enable our two Departments to assess the effectiveness of collecting HMRC debts via deductions from DWP benefit payments as well as to test our customers' response to this method of payment. The trial will involve customers who are in receipt of benefit and whose tax credit overpayment or self-assessment debt is less than £1,000. It will offer customers whose tax credit award has ended or who have a self-assessment debt the option of paying back the debt via deductions from benefit payments as an alternative to current HMRC payment methods.

Both Departments will evaluate the results of the trial before deciding whether to make this a permanent payment option.

Double Taxation Agreements

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): New Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) were signed with Anguilla on 20 July 2009, Turks and Caicos Islands on 22 July 2009, Liechtenstein on 11 August 2009 and Gibraltar on 27 August 2009. Protocols to Double Taxation Agreements were signed with Singapore on 24 August 2009 and Switzerland on 7 September 2009.

The text of each TIEA and Protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) website. The text of each will be scheduled to separate draft Orders in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

On the same day that the TIEA with Liechtenstein was signed, HMRC also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Government of Liechtenstein on co-operation in tax matters. The text of the MOU is available on the HMRC website.

Monetary Policy Committee

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): A Treasury Minute on the contingent liabilities arising from the extension of the Asset Purchase Facility is being published today. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

Home Detention Curfew (Reoffending Rates)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The purpose of this statement is to announce the publication of the results of an audit of home detention custody (HDC) releases from 1 April 2003 to March 2008 who were then subsequently recalled following further charges and convicted. That information is today published and is attached to this statement.

CONTEXT

Home detention curfew (HDC) came into effect on 28 January 1999. Eligible prisoners primarily serving between three months and less than four years may be released on HDC up to 135 days earlier than they would be otherwise, depending on their sentence length.

Registered sex offenders and foreign national prisoners who are liable to removal are statutorily excluded. Offenders serving sentences for certain serious violent offences, including prisoners serving sentences for terrorism legislation offences and prisoners with any history of sexual offending are presumed unsuitable unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Prisoners subject to the release arrangements of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 who are sentenced to four years or more are not statutorily ineligible for release on HDC but are presumed unsuitable.

Prisoners released on HDC are subject to an electronically monitored curfew to their home, usually for 12 hours a day. Eligible prisoners must pass a risk assessment, which includes an assessment of home circumstances carried out by the probation service, before release can be granted.

Breach of curfew conditions or breach of licence conditions, including alleged further offences or behavioural issues may result in executive recall to prison.

Previous questions in the House have asked how many offenders released on HDC have been recalled following further offences and what offences have been committed by them. We have recently undertaken a very detailed interrogation of the HDC reoffending data used previously. This has shown that we over-reported the number of offences committed by offenders on the scheme. We have taken the opportunity to revise our procedures for calculating HDC reoffending, correcting the previous errors and introducing an improved method for estimating reoffending by these offenders. Offender Management Statistical Analysis Services has assumed responsibility for collating this data in the future.

The revised annual reoffending figures for those on HDC from April 2003 to March 2008 are shown in Table 1. Table 2 shows the types of offences committed whilst on HDC.

Table 1 Rates of reoffending while on HDC 2003/04 - 2007/08, England and Wales

Number of offenders

Year	*Number of offenders on HDC*	*Number of offenders who reoffended while on HDC*	*Reoffending rate (%)*
2003-2004	20,802	1,244	6.0
2004-2005	18,587	839	4.5
2005-2006	15,443	688	4.5
2006-2007	12,636	484	3.8
2007-2008	11,316	486	4.3

Table 2 Reoffences committed while on HDC by offence category, 2003-04 – 2007-08 England and Wales[1]

Number of offences

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Offence Category					
Violence against the person	74	47	59	46	60
Sexual Offences	3	2	6	0	1
Burglary	120	82	81	60	54
Robbery	19	19	14	19	7
Theft and handling stolen goods	519	331	282	264	206
Criminal damage	15	21	5	9	6
Drug offences	219	142	108	77	66
Fraud and forgery	103	38	35	30	12
Indictable motoring offences	18	21	9	7	6
Other indictable offences	172	96	62	35	35
Summary motoring offences	650	398	294	172	128
Summary offences excluding motoring	306	336	236	160	199
All offences	2,307	1,535	1,176	822	820

Future Release of Data

The Ministry of Justice will consult on the publication of data in respect of offenders who breach their licence conditions (including those on home detention curfew) and who are recalled. The statistical publication arising from this consultation will include data on reoffending by offenders subject to this scheme.

Methodological Note

Details of offenders starting on HDC are taken from data recorded by the Prison Service. Data on their reoffending is taken from an extract of the police national computer (PNC) held by the Ministry of Justice. Offenders recorded in the prison data who cannot be found on the PNC are excluded from the figures. Like any large-scale recording system the PNC is subject to errors with data entry and recording. The PNC is regularly updated so that further analysis at a later date will generate revised figures.

The figures relate to offenders starting on home detention curfew in each quarter. An offender is considered to have reoffended if, during their period on HDC, he or she committed an offence that was recorded on the PNC as resulting in a caution or conviction; for the offence to count the caution or conviction has to be given within nine months of the end of the quarter in which the offender started on HDC. Offences resulting in a not guilty verdict or no further action or for which no final outcome is recorded on the PNC are not counted. Breach offences and offences from outside England and Wales are excluded.

Data on HDC start and end dates are taken from data recorded by the Prison Service. Where no end date has been recorded or where the end date gives an HDC period longer than the maximum of 135 days an estimate of the length of the HDC period has been derived as follows: for offenders recorded as receiving a custodial sentence of 18 months or longer the HDC period has been set to 135 days; for sentences of less than 18 months the HDC period has been calculated as 1/4 of the sentence length.

Michael Shields

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): As the House will be aware, Her Majesty graciously accepted my recommendation that Michael Shields should be granted a free pardon under the Royal Prerogative of Mercy. He was released from custody on 9 September. I have placed in the Library the statement I made to the press on that day.

In July 2005 Mr Shields was convicted in Bulgaria of the attempted murder of a Bulgarian national called Martin Georgiev. Mr Georgiev suffered a brutal and unprovoked attack in the Bulgarian resort of Varna where violence flared in the early hours of 30 May 2005. Mr Shields was sentenced to 15 years, reduced to 10 on appeal. In 2006 he was returned to England to complete his sentence here. He applied for a free pardon under the Royal Prerogative of Mercy. However, it had been the long-standing practice, on an equally long-standing legal interpretation of the 1983 Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, that the "receiving state" had to respect the decision of the sentencing state, so I did not initially entertain the application.

This approach was challenged in a judicial review and on 17 December last year the Administrative Court declared that I should consider the application and said,

"the grant of a free pardon would appear to require a conclusion that, taking the Bulgarian courts' judgment for what it is and without calling in question its correctness on the material which those courts considered, fresh evidence which the Bulgarian court did not consider, taken with the material which they did consider and their judgment upon it, justifies a conclusion that Michael Shields is morally and technically innocent".

I accepted the judgment of the Court and sought straight away to ensure from Mr Shields' legal team that I had available all the evidence in this case. I appointed senior counsel to assist me and, with the agreement of the chief constable, Merseyside Police conducted further inquiries on my behalf.

On 2 July, after the most careful consideration of the evidence, I made a provisional decision to refuse Michael Shields' application for a free pardon. I did so because I was not satisfied that Mr Shields passed the test of "moral and technical innocence" that the Administrative Court expected me to apply. I made clear at the time that I would consider any further representations before I made a final decision. I also offered Mr Shields' parents the opportunity of a meeting so they could make representations to me in person.

Written representations I received over the course of the summer did not persuade me that my provisional decision of 2 July had been wrong. However, on 28 August I had a meeting with Mr Shields' parents. The meeting was also attended by their daughter, by Louise Ellman MP and by Councillor Joe Anderson of Liverpool City Council. At that meeting I was presented with significant new information that had not been presented to me before. Following further inquiries after the meeting, I determined the new information to be both truthful and credible. Once again Merseyside police assisted me. The new evidence profoundly changed my consideration of this matter and showed other, existing, evidence in a new light. What had not previously appeared credible now appeared to be so.

Taking all the evidence together I concluded that Michael Shields was in fact telling the truth when he said he was innocent of the attempted murder of Martin Georgiev. The test of moral and technical innocence had therefore been met so Mr Shields was granted the free pardon he sought and released from custody.

One issue that has emerged from this case is the appropriateness or otherwise of the Justice Secretary exercising a power that involves him in making findings of fact in cases where miscarriage of justice is alleged in cases from abroad. I am clear that it is not a suitable function for the Executive. Indeed, any role for a Secretary of State in referring alleged miscarriages of justice occurring within the jurisdiction to the appeal courts was removed by the 1995 Criminal Appeal Act, which established the Criminal Cases Review Commission. I intend looking at options, though I have yet to form any view as to how future such applications should be handled. I shall, of course, consult and in doing so I will want to hear the views of the Criminal Cases Review Commission and others with an interest.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Pensions

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): On 25 June the House endorsed a package of changes to the Parliamentary pension scheme, backdated to 1 April 2009, consisting of:

(1) an increase in member contribution rates

(a) from 10 to 11.9 per cent. for a pension building up at an accrual rate of 1/40th of final salary for each year of service,

(b) from 6 to 7.9 per cent. for a pension building up at an accrual rate of 1/50th, and

(c) from 5.5 to 5.9 per cent. for a pension building up at an accrual rate of 1/60th.

(2) the application of the scheme's maximum pension limit of two thirds of final salary to all scheme members for future service.

The rise in member contribution rates will mean an increase in the net (after tax relief) monthly contribution made by most MPs of approximately £62. Because the increase will be backdated to 1 April, arrears will be payable when the changes are implemented by the Trustees.

This package is judged by the Government Actuary to produce savings of 2.9 per cent. of payroll. The House also called on me to bring forward further proposals which will make additional savings of 1.9 per cent. of payroll, so that the Exchequer contribution to the scheme for 2009-10 will be capped at its 2008-09 level. I plan to put proposals before the House in October. These could include a further increase in member contribution rates, an increase in pension age, changes to the benefits payable on death, or a combination of all these measures.

TRANSPORT

Correction to Written Answer

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): I regret to inform the House that some of the figures in the answer I gave to Parliamentary Question 285779 on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, col. 210W, about the number and length (in miles) of those schemes on motorways in August 2009 for each Region in England were incorrect as different regional divisions within the Highways Agency had reported the figures based on different definitions. The Highways Agency has checked the figures and the corrected answer is as follows.

Region	*Total number of miles of motorway that will be subject to roadworks in August 2009*	*Approximate estimate of roadworks schemes taking place on the motorway in August 2009*
East	36	14
East Midlands	30	1
North West	276	174
South East	306	169
South West	35	15
West Midlands	218	47
Yorkshire and North East	136	65

The stated numbers of miles subject to roadworks are based on a carriageway length of motorway. Motorways generally comprise two carriageways (one in each direction) so each stated distance is the length of motorway measured in a single direction only. The figures do not include works involving only the closure of the motorway hard shoulder.

The figures above include works involving a narrowing of the existing lanes to reduce the total width of carriageway open to live traffic, thereby allowing access to adjacent sections of carriageway. This type of restriction can allow works to be carried out while maintaining the existing number of traffic lanes open to traffic, thereby helping to minimise congestion caused by the roadworks. They also include closure of a lane completely to allow works access to the carriageway.

WORK AND PENSIONS

ICL Inquiry (HSE Progress Report)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): On 16 August I announced the publication of Lord Gill's report into the causes of the tragic factory explosion at ICL Plastics Ltd in Glasgow on 11 May 2004. At the same time I asked the Chair of the HSE and its board to consider the report's findings and to report back to me on progress by the end of September, addressing both Lord Gill's criticisms of its actions since the explosion and how the report's recommendations could be taken forward. I said that I would report back to Parliament on progress in the autumn.

The HSE has now responded to me. I have placed a copy of its response in the Libraries of both Houses and it is also available on the HSE website at http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/lpg.htm .

In the response the HSE chair acknowledges that, while primary responsibility for the tragic accident rested with the site user, there were failings within HSE which need to be addressed. The chair also reiterates the apologies that both she and the chief executive of HSE made for these failings both during and after Lord Gill's inquiry, and explains the steps that have already been taken since the accident.

HSE has worked closely with members of UKLPG, the trade association of the liquefied petroleum gas industry, to develop plans for the replacement of buried metal pipework with polyethylene pipes, which do not carry the risk of corrosion. It has been agreed that the replacement programme will include domestic sites, which goes beyond Lord Gill's recommendations. The programme, which is scheduled to be completed by 2015, will be prioritised using an established risk model to ensure that sites identified as high risk are dealt with first. In parallel with this, HSE is also preparing an inspection campaign with local authorities focusing on sites identified as high risk, and is working with the industry to review and update user guidance materials and codes of practice for suppliers and installers.

The HSE also launched a two-stage consultation to address those recommendations of the Gill report where action is not already underway. The initial stage of the consultation seeks views from interested stakeholders in the LPG industry, the wider business community, and those with an interest in health and safety, and will run until 19 November. I hope hon. Members will take the opportunity to feed their views into this.

Following completion of this initial stage, the Government will in the new year publish the full response to Lord Gill's report. This will include firm proposals for action which will form the basis of the second stage of the consultation, supported by a formal impact assessment.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Tuesday 15 September and Wednesday 16 September 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Strategy for Sustainable Construction

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): This Government remain committed to the principles of sustainable development. The Strategy for Sustainable Construction is a joint industry and Government initiative designed to promote real action on sustainable construction, and focuses upon the principles of sustainable development to which the Government as a whole have signed up.

In response to a BERR Select Committee commitment made by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms), to publish reports on progress and hold conferences in 2009 and 2011, yesterday, the Government, jointly with industry, published the Progress Report on the Strategy for Sustainable Construction.

This Progress Report is a result of the actions of those organisations responsible as delivery bodies for the targets in the strategy a year on from its launch in June 2008.

Overall, progress has been good and encouraging at this early stage of the process. However, with some deliverables progress has been slower than envisaged in the original strategy and work is ongoing to address these. As delivery of the strategy continues, further work to build on the successes already achieved will be necessary to reach the overarching goals of the strategy.

Copies of the Progress Report will be placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan (Battle Casualty Replacement)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Since deploying in April this year, 19 (Light) Brigade have been engaged in a number of high intensity operations and this has resulted in a significant number of casualties, both due to enemy action and the harsh terrain in which they operate. As a result, commanders on the ground have requested battle casualty replacements to enable them to sustain the required operational effectiveness for the remainder of their tour, and in particular throughout the election period.

Further to our announcements to Parliament on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 105WS and 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 46WS, around 150 personnel have deployed to Afghanistan as battle casualty replacements since 27 July 2009, the majority of whom were from 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's).

Type 45 (Support Contract)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): The in-service support we provide to the ships and submarines of the Royal Navy is vital in ensuring that the Fleet remains one of the world's most powerful maritime forces, able to operate with sovereign independence and protect the UK's interests around the world.

This is the first opportunity I have had to announce that on 10 September 2009 we awarded a contract, worth £309 million, to BVT Surface Fleet Ltd to provide in-service support for the Royal Navy's new Type 45 Destroyers. The class of six Type 45s is one of a number of new capabilities being developed for the Royal Navy and will provide the UK's future anti-air warfare capability, as well as being capable of contributing to a wide range of other military tasks.

The contract will provide support for a period of up to seven years commencing from 1 January 2010, in preparation of HMS Daring's planned in-service date in February 2010.

This support contract uses an "availability based contracting" approach where industry are contracted to manage equipment availability to agreed targets, incentivising them to minimise the cost of support by improving equipment reliability. Type 45 is the first major warship to adopt this approach.

Separate negotiations are under way to provide an in-service support solution for the Sea Viper missile system fitted to Type 45. These are expected to conclude early in 2010.

World War One Generation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): With the death of Harry Patch on 25 July 2009, the nation lost the last known British veteran of world war one (WW1) living in the UK. This was a hugely significant milestone and one which the Government have planned for some time to mark. This service will take place at 10.45 on Wednesday 11 November 2009 in Westminster Abbey in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh .

The service is to commemorate the passing of all who served. It will recognise not only the military contribution in the great war but also that of the civilian population who supported them at home. Attendance at the service will be by invitation only but we hope that a broad cross-section of the population of the United Kingdom, with links to the war, will attend. This is being organised through the Lord Lieutenants in each county. In addition,

attendees will include members of the armed forces, Government, ambassadors, high commissioners and other VIPs.

World war one had an impact upon this country which endures today, over 90 years after it ended, and I hope that this service will be a fitting occasion when the nation can stand as one as it recognises the debt that we owe and reconfirms that "we will remember" the generation that we have now lost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Local Community Flood Protection

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): The 2007 Pitt review highlighted the risks of surface water flooding and made a number of recommendations relating to surface water issues which included giving local authorities new roles and responsibilities for local flood risk management.

On 18 August, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs announced that local communities across England will benefit from £16 million funding to help them tackle surface water flooding.

£9.7 million has been awarded to 77 local authorities for areas where evidence shows that the risk and potential impact of surface water flooding could be highest. Local authorities for all other areas will also be able to bid for a share of £5 million to help them deal with known local flooding problems.

DEFRA will publish details of how local authorities can bid for the £5 million funding and the criteria on which bids will be assessed. This will be available on the DEFRA website. Innovative proposals for tackling surface water flooding, especially in rural areas, will be particularly welcomed.

An additional £1 million will be spent on making training, data and other tools available to help all local authorities manage flood risk

Further details of this announcement can be found on the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/policy/surfacewaterdrainage.htm.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

"Global Security: Afghanistan and Pakistan" (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I can announce that Command Paper Cm 7702, which sets out the Government's response to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee report "Global Security: Afghanistan and Pakistan" will be published on 2 October 2009.

The Government welcome the Committee's report. Afghanistan and Pakistan remain the Government's top foreign policy priorities. These issues deserve the widest possible engagement and the Committee's report adds much to the debate. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office looks forward to further discussions with Parliament and all interested parties.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Order Powers

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires me to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The control order regime

I would first like to report to Parliament on the future direction of the control order regime in the light of the House of Lords judgment in the case of *AF & Others*. That judgment ruled that individuals subject to control orders must be given sufficient disclosure about the case against them to enable them to give effective instructions to their legal representatives.

As the Government have made clear on numerous occasions, when dealing with suspected terrorists prosecution is—and will continue to be—our preferred approach. Where we cannot prosecute, and the individual concerned is a foreign national, we look to detain and then deport them. For those we cannot either prosecute or deport, our assessment has been that control orders are the best available disruptive tool for managing the risk they pose.

We have reviewed that assessment in the light of the House of Lords' judgment in *AF & Others*. This has included a review of the impact of the judgment on the very small number of current control order cases. This has been in addition to the regular reviews that take place of the ongoing necessity and proportionality of each control order.

So far only one control order has been revoked and not replaced by a new one as a result of the judgment. That is the order against *AF*.

As I have made clear where the disclosure required by the court cannot be made for the protection of the public interest, including our national security, we may be forced to revoke control orders even where we consider those orders to be necessary to protect the public from a risk of terrorism. In such circumstances we will take all steps necessary to protect the public. The police and security service seek to investigate and monitor the activities of those believed to pose a threat to national security.

In some cases, as in that of *AF*, I will face difficult choices as to how best to protect the public interest. I have to balance the importance of protecting the public from the risk of terrorism posed by the individual against the risk of disclosing sensitive material. Disclosing this material would reduce the Government's ability to protect the public from a risk of terrorism and in some cases could put lives at risk. In the case of *AF*, I decided that the risks posed by disclosure were too great. However these decisions can only be made on a case by case basis.

In the case of *AM*, for example, I decided that the further disclosure that was ordered by the court could be made.

My current assessment is therefore that the control order regime remains viable following the House of Lords judgment and that the national security reasons for maintaining the regime have not changed. However as further control order cases are considered by the courts during the autumn I will be keeping this assessment under review.

In addition to this ongoing review within my Department, I have asked the independent reviewer of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, to review the impact of the House of Lords judgment and to advise me as to whether the assessment that the regime remains viable is right. I have asked him to advise on this question in his next annual report which will be published early next year. His report will very helpfully be informed by the High Court's consideration of further control order cases over the coming months.

The operation of the control order powers in the last quarter

I would also like to report to Parliament on the operation of the control order powers over the last quarter. As stated in previous quarterly statements on control orders, the level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice. Control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold control order review groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, four CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 June 2009 to 10 September 2009, five control orders have been renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act. Five control orders have been revoked. Only one of these five revocations, the case of *AF*, was as a direct result of the House of Lords judgment in *AF & Others*. In this case, I considered that the disclosure required by the court could not be made for the protection of the public interest. I therefore had no alternative but to take the difficult decision to revoke the control order, even though the assessment remained that the control order was necessary to protect the public. I have made clear that we take all steps necessary to protect the public.

In three of the other four cases I revoked the orders because I considered that they were no longer necessary because the orders had successfully disrupted the individual's terrorism-related activities. In the remaining case the order was revoked because the individual is now subject to deportation proceedings.

One further control order against an individual was revoked following a court order. However in this case a new order was made and served in its place.

In total, 15 control orders are currently in force, nine of which are in respect of British citizens. Seven individuals subject to a control order live in the metropolitan police service area; the remaining individuals live in other police force areas. All of these control orders are non-derogating. No prosecutions for breaching a control order were completed during this reporting period.

During this reporting period, 125 modifications of control order obligations were made, 49 requests to modify control order obligations were refused.

A right of appeal is provided for by section 10(1) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. One such appeal has been lodged with the High Court during this reporting period. A right of appeal is also provided for by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order and/or to modify any obligation under the order. Two appeals have been lodged with the High Court by controlled persons relating to refusal to modify a control order during this reporting period.

Two judgments were handed down by the High Court during this reporting period in relation to the full judicial review of a control order under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act. An interlocutory judgment was handed down in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AM* in closed only on 9 July 2009. The Secretary of State was ordered to make further disclosure in order to ensure compliance with article 6 (right to a fair trial) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) despite the court's acknowledgment that the disclosure ordered is contrary to the public interest. The Secretary of State decided to make the disclosure ordered in order to maintain the control order in force. A substantive judgment in the case is expected in the next reporting period.

In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AN*, the court ordered the Secretary of State to revoke the control order in a judgment handed down on 31 July 2009. This followed the decision of the Secretary of State to withdraw reliance on a part of the case against *AN* due to the damage that would be done to the public interest if such disclosure was made. (The court ordered disclosure of this part of the case in a closed judgment of 29 February 2008 but the effect of the court order was stayed until the hand down of the June 2009 House of Lords judgment.) The Secretary of State argued that the control order against *AN* could be maintained on the basis of the remainder of the case. However, the judge considered that the material withdrawn represented the essence of the case as it was put to the Secretary of State when the control order was originally made and that as the decision to make an order had been based on grounds the core of which could not now be relied upon, the decision must be flawed. However, the court found that the order was properly made and renewed and therefore the appropriate remedy was to order the Secretary of State to revoke the order rather than to quash it. The court indicated that the Secretary of State was free to decide whether or not to apply for permission to make a new control order on the basis of the remaining material. The Government have subsequently made such an order with the court's permission. *AN* has lodged an application for permission to appeal against the court's judgment of 31 July 2009.

Two judgments were handed down by the High Court in relation to modification appeals under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act during this reporting period. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. BM*, judgment was

handed down on 3 July 2009. *BM* appealed against the decision of the Secretary of State to relocate him to a different town as part of a package of obligations designed to protect the public from a risk of terrorism. The court concluded that although it would have upheld the modification on the basis of the closed material, further disclosure of the closed reasons for the relocation was necessary to comply with article 6 of the ECHR. The Secretary of State decided not to make any further disclosure owing to the damage to the public interest that this would cause. The judge therefore directed the Secretary of State to revoke the modification. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. BF* a closed oral judgment was handed down at the hearing on 17 June 2009. The court directed the Secretary of State to modify *BF's* control order to require him to live at the residence in which he lived before his control order was modified to require him to live in a different town on the basis that the modification was not necessary.

Two judgments were handed down by the High Court during this reporting period in relation to modification appeals under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AR*, handed down on 15 July 2009, the court dismissed the appeal and upheld all the obligations subject to appeal as necessary and proportionate. *AR* has lodged an application for permission to appeal against the court's judgment. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AN*, an oral judgment was handed down at the hearing on 10 September 2009. On the basis of the open material the court found that the requirement on him to live outside London was not necessary and proportionate, but left it open to the Secretary of State to apply to rely on closed material in the case. The Secretary of State subsequently confirmed that he did not wish to apply for permission to rely on closed material in these proceedings.

During this reporting period two judgments were handed down by the Court of Appeal in relation to control orders. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AP*, the Court of Appeal handed down judgment on 15 July 2009. It found by a majority of 2:1 that the High Court judge had erred in his decision in *AP's* case that the combination of a 16-hour curfew with an obligation requiring him to relocate to a different city breached article 5 (right to liberty) of the ECHR. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. GG*, the Court of Appeal handed down a unanimous judgment on 23 July 2009. It dismissed the Secretary of State's appeal against a High Court ruling that the inclusion of an obligation in *GG's* control order requiring him to submit to a search of his person within his residence was unlawful. The Court of Appeal found that section 1 (3) of the PTA cannot be read as allowing the inclusion of such an obligation.

Full judgments are available at: http://www.bailii.org/.

JUSTICE

Defamation and the Internet

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): On 16 September we are publishing a consultation paper on an issue concerning the civil law on defamation in relation to the internet.

This relates to the "multiple publication rule", under which each publication of defamatory material can form the basis of a new defamation claim, and its effects in relation to online archives. The paper considers the arguments for and against the rule and the alternatives of a single publication rule (which would allow only one claim to be brought in this jurisdiction against particular defamatory material), or the possible extension of qualified privilege to material on online archives in certain circumstances. It also considers in that context what limitation period for defamation claims would be appropriate.

Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be obtained free on the Department's website at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations.htm. The closing date for consultation is 16 December 2009.

Youth Justice Board

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): In the "Modernising Government" White Paper, the Government made a commitment to bring all public services up to the standard of the best and to make the best even better. In line with this commitment my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Schools and Learners and I today announce a review of the Youth Justice Board's governance and operating arrangements.

The Youth Justice Board is an executive non-departmental public body established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to take oversight of the youth justice system in England and Wales, including the secure estate for under 18-year-olds.

Since the Youth Justice Board's inception, the ways in which a wide range of services for young people are planned and delivered at a local level have changed significantly. In that context, the Government want to ensure that the Youth Justice Board can continue to support the delivery of the best outcomes for young people and their families and communities, as well as the wider public. The Government also want to ensure that these outcomes are delivered in ways that give the public value for money.

We have asked Dame Susan Street, former permanent secretary for the Department for Culture Media and Sport, to fulfil the role of independent chair of the review. She will chair the review jointly with Frances Done, chair of the Youth Justice Board. The review's full terms of reference are available at: www.yjb.gov.uk. We have asked the chairs to produce a report and recommendations by the end of February 2010. We expect to publish the report and the Government's response shortly thereafter.

The chairs will be supported by a steering group comprising senior officials from the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Home Office, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Youth Justice Board. The chairs have today issued an invitation to interested parties to submit evidence that they consider relevant within the review's terms of reference.

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I wish to update the House on progress on the implementation of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) as provided for in the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009.

On Thursday 10 September Mr. Speaker announced he had appointed an interim chief executive for the IPSA, and that the recruitment process for the IPSA chair and members was to begin. I warmly welcome the appointment of Andrew McDonald as IPSA's interim chief executive, and the progress being made in implementing the IPSA.

My Department has been working with the House of Commons and other interested parties to ensure that the early establishment of the IPSA remains on track. Any expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Justice on behalf of the IPSA that is properly due to the IPSA will be recovered, subject to Parliament's approval of the necessary new estimate for the IPSA, ensuring IPSA's independence. A new estimate for IPSA will be presented shortly as part of the winter supplementary estimates for 2009-10.

Local Land Charges Register (Search Fees)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I am today announcing the outcome of the joint Ministry of Justice and Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on Local Authority Property Search Services—Charges for Property Search Services as it relates to the fee for a personal search of the local land charges register in England. The paper sought views on how and by whom the fee should be set and whether the present fee should be changed. Eight hundred and fifty-eight responses were received. They have been carefully considered and the following decisions reached.

First, there should be no change in the present arrangements for the setting of the fee for the time being. Secondly, the present fee will be increased from £11 to £22 for personal searches of the local land charges register conducted on or after 1 January 2010. I have, with the concurrence of HM Treasury, made and laid the Local Land Charges (Amendment) Rules 2009 to give effect to the change.

The Ministry of Justice will today publish a post-consultation report in relation to the consultation and its outcome. Copies of the report Local Authority Property Search Services—Charges for Property Search Services—The Fee for a Personal Search of the Local Land Charges Register have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Motor Insurance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I have issued today a report in response to public consultation for a scheme of continuous enforcement of motor insurance. The scheme proposes the enforcement of statutory motor insurance by comparing information already held on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) vehicle register and the motor insurance database maintained by the Motor Insurers' Bureau. The scheme enables identification of a greater number of potentially uninsured motorists than does relying on the police spotting them on the road. In the future registered keepers who do not have appropriate insurance will be committing an offence and may, if they fail to take action following the receipt of a reminder letter, be subject to enforcement action by the DVLA.

I have placed copies of the report in the Libraries of both Houses.

Heavy Goods Vehicles (Retro-reflective Markings)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): In answer to parliamentary question 136910, 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 465 asking when retro-reflective markings would become mandatory for newly registered heavy goods vehicles, the then Minister of State for Transport, the hon. Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman), stated this would be 10 October 2009.

In view of the current economic situation I am announcing that, to reduce regulatory costs on vehicle manufacturers and the haulage industry, this measure will not now become mandatory for new vehicle registrations until 10 July 2011.

Other regulatory simplification measures on vehicle lighting due to be implemented at the same time will continue to be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Petitions

Tuesday 14 July 2009

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Taxis (Liverpool)

The humble petition of Mr Alan Watterson, of 81 Elm Vale Liverpool, the residents and taxi drivers of Wavertree Constituency and surrounding area.

Sheweth, that the livelihoods of the legitimate taxi and private hire trade in Liverpool are severely affected by the cross-border hiring of vehicles licensed in neighbouring boroughs; also sheweth that the safety and well-being of the taxi-using public is put at risk by the use of such un-licensed vehicles as their insurance is nullified.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to consider amending the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to require taxis and private hire vehicles to return to the licensing area when they have completed a hiring that terminates outside of that area,

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc—*[Presented by Jane Kennedy .]*

[P000395]

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Greenbelt Development (Essex)

The Petition of Ashleigh Sharp and others,

Declares that building on Canvey's flood plain, school fields and green land is totally unacceptable and that what Canvey really needs is an additional access road from the Northwick area; welcomes the recent referendum which was professionally organised and conducted by Graham Bracci and others, taken over the last few weeks on Canvey Island, in which 6,534 people voted of whom 99.13 per cent. supported the motion that there should be no further development on Canvey Island greenbelt land; also welcomes the Constituency wide 'Save Castle Point Greenbelt' campaign which was launched by Bob Spink MP in March 2007 and the subsequent localised save the greenbelt campaigns such as that to stop development on Daws Heath; and notes the overwhelming view of Castle Point residents that their greenbelt should be protected and totally rejects the suggestion by Castle Point Councillors that residents implicitly agree with their Core Strategy plan to build on greenbelt.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Essex County and Castle Point Borough Councillors to respect the flood plain, rescind plans to sell off part of Castle View School playing field, protect Castle Point greenbelt in its core strategy and make the Canvey additional access road their priority.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 1 June 2009; Vol. 493, c. 136 .]

[P000375]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Government understands the residents concern's about the future of playing field space, but it is the Government's general approach not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted them with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas as they are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

I understand from Castle Point Borough Council that no planning application has yet been made to them in respect of this proposal. When an application has been made, the Council will be required to publicise it in order that the public and other interested parties may make known their views. They should also be guided by the policies and advice set out in the Department's Planning Policy Guidance Notes, Statements (PPGs and PPS's) and planning circulars.

The Government's statements of national planning policy, such as Planning Policy Guidance 2 "Green Belts", are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions, but it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), Development and Flood Risk, provides the policy framework for local planning authorities to avoid, manage and reduce flood risk to new development without exposure to unnecessary flood risk. This is supported by the Practice Guide published in June 2008 to assist local planners in implementing PPS25 policy.

It should be noted that the 'Core Strategy Proposed Publication Document' as the strategic plan forming part of the Local Development Framework' (LDF), does not allocate any sites as such but indicates the broad locations where the development will occur.

I understand through discussions with the Council that the site referred to is identified within their Core Spatial Strategy for housing purposes. The consultation concluded on 20 March 2009.

While there is an urgent need for more housing development in this country, the location of new housing is very important, to ensure new development is in sustainable locations. It is also important amongst many other issues, that the character of settlements are protected as appropriate, and that the countryside is protected for its own sake if appropriate to do so.

Any proposed access road to Canvey Island is the responsibility for Essex County Council, as local highway authority.

Should the Council, in liaison with Castle Point Borough Council, decide to promote such a scheme, it would need to obtain the East of England region's agreement to prioritise the scheme for funding within its Regional Funding Allocation for major transport schemes. The Council would then need to submit a detailed Major Scheme Business Case for the scheme, in line with Departmental guidance, for consideration and assessment by my Department.

Alternatively, the Council could seek funding from its own or through third party sources.

Planning and Development (Somerset)

The Petition of residents of the Taunton constituency and others,

Declares that the Petitioners are extremely concerned that the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West requires the creation of 21,800 new homes in Taunton Deane within the next 20 years; and notes that the residents of Taunton Deane have had no recourse to decide on the suitability of the plan locally despite the significant impact such large scale development will have on living standards in the local area.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reassess its commitment to the over development of Taunton Deane and bring forward a revised option which strikes a more appropriate balance between the need for greater affordable housing and the quality of life in Taunton Deane.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Jeremy Browne, Official Report,* 10 June 2009; Vol. 493, c. 907 .]

[P000381]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

Proposed changes to the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy were the subject of public consultation between July and October 2008. I regret that therefore no new representations can be taken into account now, as to do so would be unfair to other respondents.

I planned to publish the RSS at the end of June 2009. However, on 20 May, the High Court issued a judgment that the previously issued Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England had failed to meet certain requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, in respect of three towns.

The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Government Office for the South West are considering the implications for the South West Regional Spatial Strategy, but cannot reach a clear view until the written judgment is issued by the Court. Setting a new timetable for the final publication of the SW RSS is not possible, until the implications of the judgment have been clarified, and what action is required, if any.

Petitions

Wednesday 15 July 2009

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Post Office Closure (Kent)

The Petition of those concerned about the closure of Queensway Post Office.

Declares that Sheerness main Post Office is providing an inadequate service.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to instruct Post Office Limited to re-open Queensway Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain etc,

[P000397]

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES
Schools (Manchester)

The Petition of persons concerned at Manchester City Council's proposal to close Ewing School in Didsbury, Manchester

Declares that Manchester City Council is currently considering proposals to close Ewing School in Didsbury, Manchester; notes that Ewing School is a specialist school that teaches children with speech, language and social communication disorders, from the ages of 5 to 16 years; further notes that Ewing's pupils are among the 1 per cent. of children with more severe and complex speech, language and social communication needs; further notes that many of the pupils have specific problems with understanding and the use of the spoken word and have further difficulties with social interaction; recognises that Ewing School has a high teacher to pupil ratio, which enables the school to provide an intensive Teach and Learn environment.

Believes that Manchester City Council's proposals to close Ewing School and relocate the pupils to mainstream schools are misguided; further notes that many of Ewing's pupils have previously been excluded from mainstream schools; further believes that Ewing School offers a safe and secure learning environment that is more conducive to their pupils' complex needs, which gives them the chance to achieve a high standard of education.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to do all in its power to persuade Manchester City Council to rethink its plans to close Ewing School and to permit the school to remain open and free from the threat of closure.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Leech, Official Report,* 15 June 2009; Vol. 494, c. 137 .]

[P000382]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

The Government recognises that a decision on provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and any school re-organisation is never an easy one. Local Authorities are responsible for keeping under review their SEN provision and have a duty to ensure that there is sufficient provision for children with SEN in their area and that it is provided in a cost effective way.

The Government would expect the local authority, in this case Manchester City Council, to think strategically about its provision and reorganisation, having analysed future requirements such as demographic changes to ensure a better match between the need for places, parental preference and the supply of places, and to consider what provision would best deliver improved outcomes for children. We would expect it to consult widely on its proposals.

The local authority should also comply with the guidance on "Planning and Developing Special Educational Needs Provision". This requires that when considering any reorganisation of SEN provision local authorities will need to demonstrate to parents and the local community how the proposed alternative arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with SEN.

It is for Manchester City Council to determine the precise nature of the communications and consultation with its partners. They must consult and inform all interested partners and allow adequate time and provide sufficient information for this process. Our advice to all local authorities is to start consulting early. All the normal processes associated with major changes to schools still apply, including the requirement to produce statutory proposals where required.

Manchester City Council has concluded the statutory consultation stage on the future development of Ewing School. When the City Council's Executive has considered the comments made during statutory consultation it will decide on how to proceed. If the chosen way forward requires publication of statutory notices the local authority has provided assurances this will be done.

Ewing School is a community special school and pupils placed at the school, other than those placed for assessment purposes, will have a statement of SEN. Should Manchester LA take the decision to close the school then the LA responsible for maintaining each child's statement will be required to amend the statement to change the name of the school named. The local authority will be required to consult parents about an amended statement and to ensure that any school named can meet the needs of the child and put in place the provision specified in the child's statement. If parents disagree with the school named in their child's statement they will have a right of appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
HIV and the G8

The Petition of members of City Gate Church, Brighton,

Declares that almost every minute of every day a baby is born with HIV, and that almost all of these babies are born in the world's poorest countries; further declares that nine out of ten of all new HIV infections in children are as a direct result of mother to child transmission; further declares that the impact of HIV on infants is appalling and that without specialised treatment half will not live to see their second birthday; notes that in a number of countries, HIV and AIDs is the number one cause of death in under-five year olds.

Further declares that in rich countries the transmission of HIV from mothers to their babies has been virtually eliminated due to the availability of health care and the right drugs; notes, however, that in many low-income countries pregnant women and their babies are not receiving the same degree of care and protection; further notes that despite efforts to increase coverage of services to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV, figures from 2006 show that in low-income countries only one in five pregnant women with HIV had access to the necessary antiretroviral drugs to protect their babies.

Further notes that this shortfall is now attracting global attention and that in 2007 leaders at the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm recognised the importance of preventing mother to child transmission of HIV and promised 1.5 billion dollars to provide access to services for all pregnant women; and believes that the UK has a key role to play in turning this G8 commitment into reality.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to outline how it intends to contribute to G8 commitments on preventing mother to child transmission of HIV, and to encourage other G8 countries to take similar action.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by David Lepper, Official Report,* 18 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 1315.]

[P000368]

Observations from the Secretary of State for International Development:

I wholeheartedly agree with your statement that we must continue to address the devastating impact that HIV is having on children in developing countries. The latest Universal Access report[1] shows encouraging trends in the expansion of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services for women and children. However, the world is still far from providing anti-retro viral treatment (ARV) to 80 per cent. of HIV positive pregnant women by 2010[2]. By 2007 only 34 per cent. of HIV positive pregnant women in low and middle income countries received treatment so much remains to be done. Working with others at national and international level, the UK is strongly committed to strengthening efforts to scale up PMTCT services.

The petition rightly acknowledges that mother to child transmission of HIV has been virtually eliminated in developed countries. This is because in these countries, women of reproductive age have access to high quality family planning and maternity care services into which HIV prevention, treatment and care has been integrated. DFID will continue to work to ensure that women in poor countries have the same choices and opportunities.

Scaling up PMTCT services requires effective health systems. This is why DFID helps to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV through our support to health systems' strengthening. In June 2008 the UK published a new AIDS Strategy which commits us to spending £6 billion up to 2015 to support the strengthening of health systems for improved health and HIV outcomes. The updated Strategy also commits the UK to work with others to reduce the unmet need for family planning by 50 per cent. by 2010 and eliminate unmet need by 2015.

In Zambia DFID is providing £5.5 million to support a multi-sectoral response to tackling HIV which includes support for PMTCT. And in Zimbabwe DFID is providing £25 million to support a programme which addresses maternal and newborn health, including HIV. This and similar work supported by DFID in our focus Public Service Agreement (PSA) countries is achieving significant results. The estimated percentage of HIV positive pregnant women who received ARVs for prevention of mother to child transmission increased in many African countries between 2004 and 2007, for example in Ghana from 1 per cent to 21 per cent., in Malawi from 4 per cent. to 32 per cent. and in Uganda from 9 per cent. to 34 per cent.

We are working with bilateral and multilateral partners to ensure that the Gleneagles G8 Summit commitment to provide universal access to treatment, prevention and care is implemented. This was reaffirmed by the G8 at Heiligendamm in 2007 where commitments that will significantly assist in funding and developing national AIDS plans were made. This included the provision of long-term predictable funding to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. The UK has since committed £1 billion to the Fund in support of countries' comprehensive national plans to address the AIDS epidemic. We have been working to ensure that the G8 Summit at L'Aquila delivers a much stronger framework for G8 countries to be held accountable for their commitments on global health, including HIV. Through the High Level Task Force for Innovative International Financing for Health Systems, which the Prime Minister co-chairs, we are also leading efforts to secure additional resources to help countries build the stronger health systems required to make durable progress on maternal and newborn mortality, including through enhanced access to PMTCT services.

We provide core funding to UNICEF and other UN agencies (WHO, UNAIDS) working to end mother to child transmission of HIV. In addition to core funding, DFID has provided more than US$1.5 million to an "Accelerating Action for Children Affected by HIV and AIDS" programme. This gives focus to the "4 Ps - Protection, Prevention, PMTCT and Paediatric AIDS". We are also participating in a US-led HIV and AIDS paediatric public-private partnership which seeks to develop formulations of HIV drugs suitable for children in developing countries, together with the pharmaceutical industry.

More recently, DFID has become a member of the Inter-agency Task Team on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (co-convened by UNICEF and WHO).

And on 21 May we held a consultation with UK stakeholders in collaboration with the AIDS Consortium to discuss ways to accelerate the scale-up of PMTCT services.

Through our prominent position on the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV in developing countries and engagement in international fora, we will continue to show leadership and to advocate for joint action in this vital area.

[1]Progress towards Universal Access report, UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, 2008.

[2]This is the international target set by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on AIDS in 2001.

TREASURY

Taxation (Bingo Clubs)

The Petition of residents of Llanelli,

Declares that the imposition of Gross Profits Tax of 22 per cent. on bingo clubs, compared with a gaming industry average of 15 per cent., is unreasonable and will be damaging to the continued viability of small bingo clubs, which play an important part as centres of the community as well as places of entertainment.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons approves a Gross Profits Tax maximum rate of 15 per cent. for bingo clubs.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Nia Griffith, Official Report,* 30 June 2009; Vol. 495, c. 273.]

[P000386]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

The Government notes the petition, and makes the following observations:

The Government continues to recognise the important social role played by bingo clubs in many communities, especially for pensioners and women.

Budget 2009 introduced a package of reforms intended to simplify the bingo tax regime, continuing a process of reform that began in 2003. Bingo participation fees became VAT exempt, and bingo duty was increased to 22 per cent. The Bingo industry had been campaigning for some time for VAT exemption on bingo participation fees, and the bingo duty increase should not be seen in isolation.

The Treasury's estimate of bingo's effective tax rate before the Budget was 24-25 per cent., an estimate agreed with the industry. It is not the case that the "gaming industry average" effective tax rate is 15 per cent.

The effective tax rate on bingo, now at 22 per cent., is comparable to the average effective tax rates on gaming machines, casinos and the national lottery, all of which are taxed within a 20-25 per cent. range. Before the Budget the effective tax rate on bingo was estimated at 24-25 per cent., which in turn was down from 35 per cent. as recently as 2003.

The bingo industry will benefit from the increased allocation of category B3 gaming machines (machines typically found in bingo halls that can offer up to a £500 prize) that a club may offer. The maximum allocation was increased from 4 to 8 in February 2009. The industry will also benefit from social regulation changes recently implemented by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The changes double the stake and prize limits for category C gaming machines, to £1/£70. Estimates from BACTA, the amusement machine trade association, suggest that gaming machine revenue could be boosted by as much as 20 per cent. following these changes. At Budget 2009 the Government amended the amusement machine licence duty categories to realign with the new regulations.

The Government recognises the challenges faced by the bingo industry, including changing tastes and greater competition in the wider leisure sector. The Government will continue to engage with the bingo industry about the state of the sector and the impact of taxation.

Petitions

Thursday 16 July 2009

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Sea Defences (Essex)

The Petition of Councillor Dave Blackwell, Canvey Island residents, and others,

Declares that the Environment Agency proposal to abandon, to the sea, 800 acres of land on the west of Canvey Island is wrong; further declares that sacrificing such a large, ecologically and environmentally important area could increase Canvey's problems; believes that Canvey issues like flooding, building a thousand more houses, an additional Canvey access road, hazardous industrial plants and protecting Canvey's very special environment are interlinked, and believes these should be considered together as they affect island people's future safety and quality of life.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to abandon its plans to flood such a large area of Canvey Island and to meet with the Hon Member for Castle Point, Councillor Dave Blackwell and Canvey councillors to discuss their plans.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 30 March 2009; Vol. 490, c. 761.]

[P000341]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) project has developed a long-term tidal flood risk management for the estuary. This plan sets out what is required to manage increasing flood risk through to the end of the century and also identifies seven potential locations where the alignment of defences could be changed in order to create new inter-tidal habitat which is being lost locally through sea level rise. West Canvey Marshes, as a former saline marsh, is one of those potential locations. Although West Canvey has been identified as one of seven potential sites, with demonstrable benefits and advantages, no decision has been made and the proposal is open to full and transparent consultation.

The creation of new inter-tidal habitat is required under the European Birds and Habitats Directive to compensate for habitat lost due to sea level rise. The Environment Agency in consultation with Natural England have assessed that around 1,200 hectares of this designated habitat will be lost in the estuary as sea levels rise over the century. Inter-tidal habitat is vitally important for the continued health of the estuary ecology providing both a feeding ground for birds and a source of food for the estuary fishery. West Canvey Marshes, which are owned by the RSPB, would be a sustainable site for inter-tidal habitat creation because it retains the topography of the original salt marsh that occurred in that area before it was reclaimed and drained in the 17th century.

The required inter-tidal habitat creation could be achieved by the managed realignment of the existing flood defences. This would not increase flood risk on Canvey Island and it would help provide justification for constructing an improved defence that would lower the risk of failure of the current local barriers. This new defence could also provide the opportunity for a new road link for the island; the Environment Agency's public engagement shows that the limited access/egress to/from Canvey is an issue of major concern to many Canvey Island residents.

HEALTH

Hospital Parking Charges (Cheshire)

The Petition of residents of Northwich, and others,

Declares that the car parking charges of the Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust at Victoria Infirmary, Northwich are excessive and represent a charge on people accessing National Health Services.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take whatever action possible to require the Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to remove the unfair car parking charges at Victoria Infirmary, Northwich.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Mike Hall, Official Report,* 1 July 2009; Vol. 495, c. 439 .]

[P000387]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The provision of car parking is the responsibility of local NHS organisations, which take into account differing local circumstances. In England, hospital car parking charges are decided locally by individual NHS organisations to cover the cost of running and maintaining a ear park.

I have been informed that the Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is already aware of the petition, and has issued a press release to clarify its position on this important matter.

Stroke Services (London)

The Humble Petition of the people of Croydon,

Sheweth, that there is just cause and need to maintain Mayday University Hospital's Hyper-Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) as not only is it critical to receive treatment after a stroke within thirty minutes, but also because Mayday is ranked in the top ten per cent of HASUs in the country.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House will urge the Government to preserve Mayday University Hospital's funding at a level that will allow it to maintain and expand its HASU provision following Healthcare for London's review of stroke services; and will further urge the Government to prevail upon Healthcare for London to recognise the need for Mayday's HASU to remain open and to operate twenty-four hours a day.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 26 June 2009; Vol. 494, c. 1112 .]

[P000385]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

Although the Department of Health provides strategic leadership to the NHS and social care, power is devolved and it is for local NHS organisations to plan, develop

and improve services for local people. Therefore, any proposals for improvements to services are matters to be decided locally.

Healthcare for London has told us that it has consulted on the best way to improve and specialise stroke and trauma care in the capital. The consultation proposals suggested the establishment of eight Hyper Acute Stroke Units (HASUs) supported by a network of stroke units.

HASUs represent a completely new service for Londoners, offering an immediate brain scan and if appropriate, clot-busting drugs within 30 minutes of arriving at hospital. All Londoners will be within 30 minutes ambulance journey time of a HASU.

The location of the HASUs will be determined not only by the potential quality of services, but also by the location of the hospital. HASUs must be evenly spaced around the capital to ensure everyone can reach the care they need within 30 minutes. Therefore some high performing hospitals will not be designated as HASUs. Mayday hospital was not a preferred option for a HASU, however it was recommended that the Hospital should retain its stroke unit.

Acute Trusts, such as Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust, receive funding through PCTs, which commission services from them. If Mayday hospital retains its stroke unit, it will receive sufficient funding through these channels to enable it to provide excellent 21st century stroke care.

The consultation responses were published on 29 June 2009. All Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are being asked to submit responses for consideration by the Joint Committee of PCTs (JCPCT).

Following receipt of these comments, and an assessment of the responses provided by the Clinical Advisory Group, the JCPCT will consider all the information and make decisions and recommendations. This meeting is timetabled to be held on 20 July 2009.

In such circumstances it would therefore be wrong for the Secretary of State or Ministers to intervene.

Petition

Tuesday 21 July 2009

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flooding (Cotswolds)

The Petition of Moreton in Marsh Resilience Group, and others,

Declares that Moreton in Marsh is at risk from further serious flooding; further declares that following severe flooding in July 2007 when 260 homes and premises were flooded, minimal action has been taken to repair flood relief channels and also gullies, drains and culverts remain blocked after almost two years; considers that another flood in December 2008, although not so severe, illustrated the threat of more floods into the homes of people in the town; and believes that urgent action must be taken, and quickly, to prevent the town becoming flooded again.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to do all in his power to persuade Cotswold District Council, Gloucester County Council, the Environment Agency, and Thames Water to fulfil their responsibilities to the town and people of Moreton in Marsh and to act swiftly to avoid further flooding.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Official Report,* 9 June 2009; Vol. 493, c. 764 .]

[P000379]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Government takes flooding in residential areas very seriously and regrets the flooding incidents to the town and people of Moreton in Marsh in summer 2007. The Environment Agency advise that these events were caused by a combination of high levels of surface water run-off, overflowing drains and the River Evenlode overtopping its banks. Since the floods the Agency have been working closely with Gloucestershire County Council, Cotswold District Council and Thames Water to reduce flood risk for the town. This has included for example work on new trash screens at the upstream end of the River Evenlode, culvert clearance and maintenance, and improvements to the flood warning service.

The Government accepts that it has not always been clear who had responsibility for responding to flood events in urban areas. That is why we announced, in our response to Sir Michael Pitt's report into the major flooding events in summer 2007, that the Environment Agency will have a new national strategic overview role for all forms of flood risk. Local authorities (identified as County Councils or Unitary authorities) will be taking responsibility for local groundwater and surface water management for which nobody has previously been clearly responsible. The Agency will work closely with local authorities on their on-the ground management of surface water flooding so that comprehensive assessments of local flood risk will be possible for the first time.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 13 July 2009

SCOTLAND

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285029]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system, including the provision of hardware and software.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent on salaries and pensions for Ministers in his Department since 2005. [284857]

Ann McKechin: Ministers' salaries and pensions are set out in the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975. Information on salaries and pension contributions of Scotland Office Ministers can also be found in the resource accounts of the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much it cost to produce each of his Department's publications in each of the last three years. [280771]

Ann McKechin: The cost of producing each Scotland Office publication in the last three years is as follows:

Publication	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Cost (£) 2008-09£*
2006 Scotland Office Annual Report	2,637.00	—	—
Act of the Union booklet[1]	—	6,978.00	—
2007 Scotland Office Annual Report	—	2,820.00	—
Sorting the Ballot paper—improving the election to the Scottish Parliament, a consultation paper	—	1,727.60	—
Returning Officer Election Accounts 2005-06	—	3,100.72	—
2008 Scotland Office Annual Report	—	—	3,510.69
Returning Officer Election Accounts 2006-07	—	—	3,115.68
Government Evidence to the Commission of Scottish Devolution	—	—	£3,309.06
Returning Officer Election Accounts 2007-08	—	—	3,127.53

[1] The souvenir booklet was produced as part of the 300 year anniversary of the Union of the Parliament. In addition a reception was held in Dover House to mark the tercentenary and the launch of the Mint's commemorative coin.

Note:
Figures provided exclude VAT.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284887]

Ann McKechin: All posts in the Scotland Office are filled by civil servants on secondment from either the Ministry of Justice or the Scottish Executive. Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code.

Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of the Civil Service MP Attachment Scheme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust. There are no staff in the Scotland Office participating in this scheme.

QinetiQ: Location

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 308W, on Hebrides range, what the outcomes were of the meeting he hosted for the Under- Secretary of State for Defence, the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) and the Western Isles Council established task group on 1 July 2009 at Dover House. [285587]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for the Western Isles Council established task group including Highland and Islands Enterprise and community representatives to give their initial response to the Ministry of Defence consultative document 'Cost Saving Investment Proposals affecting the MOD Hebrides and Aberporth Ranges'. I undertook to remain in close contact with the task group. The hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Mr. MacNeil) attended the meeting.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the future viability of farming in Lancashire. [283620]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Farms in Lancashire are in a relatively strong economic position. The predominant farms in Lancashire are Dairy, Less Favoured Areas (LFA) grazing livestock and non LFA grazing livestock and incomes on these farms are expected to have increased in 2008-09. In each of years 2003-04 to 2007-08 inclusive, incomes at the all farm types level were slightly higher in Lancashire than for the North West Government Office region as a whole. The balance sheet position of Lancashire farms is also favourable.

In each year, total liabilities were equivalent to less than 20 per cent. of total assets, and the average net worth (total assets less total liabilities) in 2006-07 and 2007-08 was also stronger in Lancashire than the North West region.

Air Pollution

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in levels of air pollution on meeting the Government's targets for reductions in levels of carbon dioxide by 2020. [285516]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The effect of reductions in air pollution on meeting carbon dioxide reduction targets was considered by the Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) in their 2007 report on air quality and climate change. The main recommendations of the AQEG report are included in the UK's Air Quality Strategy, which is available via the following link:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/strategy/index.htm

The AQEG report recognised both the trade-offs and synergies between air quality and climate policies and encouraged the promotion of improvement measures that reduce both air pollution and carbon dioxide levels. Examples of such 'win:win' measures include energy conservation in the home and efficiency improvements at industrial installations.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding is available to local authorities to assist them in reducing air pollution. [285517]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* Local authorities are required to work towards meeting the air quality objectives in the air quality regulations 2000 by designating air quality management areas where concentrations of any of the seven pollutants in the regulations exceed, or are likely to exceed, the stated objectives. To help local authorities do this, DEFRA operates an Air Quality Grant scheme, a capital grant for which local authorities bid. All local authorities are invited each year to bid for a grant. Applications are considered and, where successful, awards made towards the cost of air quality projects. Our letter, inviting bids under the 2009-10 grant programme, together with application form is available on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/local/aqgrant/index.htm

Barn Hall

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had discussions with their counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the contract of sale for Barn Hall, Wickford, Essex. [285383]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* There has been no ministerial contact in respect of either the disposal of the former Horticultural Research Institute at Barn Hall or the planning application or subsequent planning determination. Likewise there has been no contact between officials.

The only known contacts between departmental officials in connection with this matter were:

December 2008: DEFRA was approached by Department for Communities and Local Government to alert DEFRA to pleadings made by Basildon district council in their request for judicial review of the decision to grant planning permission. Department for Communities and Local Government indicated that officials could not enter into any discussions regarding the determination or application for judicial review and none were undertaken.

April 2009: Department for Communities and Local Government transferred a Freedom of Information request made by the hon. Gentleman on behalf of his constituent seeking a copy of the disposal contract to DEFRA, which has been made available.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions with Government Departments other than the Department for Communities and Local Government his Department has had on Barn Hall, with particular reference to the contract of sale. [286287]

Dan Norris: The Department has had no communications with other Government Departments in respect of the contract for sale for Barn Hall Wickford.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England were under bovine tuberculosis restrictions on the latest date for which figures are available. [284686]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA cannot provide the information in the format that the hon. Member has requested. DEFRA collects data on the number of herds under restriction because TB measures apply to a herd and not a farm.

The latest data (from the Vetnet system on 1 June) show that the number of herds under bovine TB restrictions on 31 March 2009 was *(a)* 31 in Lancashire, *(b)* 171 in the North West and *(c)* 5,493 in England.

Note:

Data downloaded from Vetnet are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will arrange immediately to hold a conference for all interested parties to discuss the state of dairy farming. [285137]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Representatives from throughout the production and retail chain already attend the twice-yearly Dairy Supply Chain Forum. The most recent of these forums was held on 17 June 2009. Both industry and the Government felt that the key message was a need to boost market confidence.

DEFRA will be chairing a new Horizon Scanning subgroup to identify key challenges and opportunities to help the UK dairy sector meet demand competitively.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the application of state aid rules to compensation for dairy farmers affected by the collapse of Dairy Farmers of Britain; [286184]

(2) what advice he has received on the compatibility with state aid rules of compensation arrangements for farmers affected by the entry into receivership of Dairy Farmers of Britain. [285717]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Any national financial support for farmers needs to meet EU agricultural state aid rules.

The rules require that state aid must make a real contribution to the development of specific regions or viable businesses and not purely improve the financial situation of its recipients.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280513]

Dan Norris: The annual energy consumption of buildings on the DEFRA and Executive Agency estate is shown in the following table. Data cannot be provided for 2008-09 at this time as it is still being verified.

kWh

	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*CHP Heat*	*CHP Electricity*	*Solar*	*Total*
2007-08								
DEFRA	11,909,719	8,560,772	406,936	242,000	132,110	88,630	0	21,340,167
AH (formerly SVS)	2,257,144	2,657,816	235,347	0	0	0	0	5,150,307
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	172,057	164,176	28,173	0	0	0	0	364,406
RPA	8,044,716	5,495,993	367,759	0	0	0	0	13,908,468
CEFAS	5,592,769	4,341,667	0	0	0	0	0	9,934,436
CSL	19,366,330	25,820,972	9,630	0	0	0	0	45,196,932
VLA	17,767,232	17,760,110	3,558,555	0	660,000	2,223,000	0	41,968,897
Total	65,109,967	64,801,506	4,606,400	242,000	792,110	2,311,630	0	137,863,613
2006-07								
DEFRA	12,876,317	10,140,841	1,148,301	0	0	0	0	24,165,459
AH (formerly SVS)	2,233,637	2,131,606	236,273	0	0	0	0	4,601,516
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	145,643	153,681	49,400	0	0	0	0	348,724
RPA	8,299,745	4,589,502	210,108	0	0	0	0	13,099,355
CEFAS	5,398,601	3,884,647	0	0	0	0	0	9,283,248
CSL	21,310,786	23,771,253	17,880	0	0	0	0	45,099,918
VLA	15,576,608	24,039,096	2,290,760	0	7,497,000	8,004,000	0	57,407,464
Total	65,841,337	68,710,626	3,952,721	0	7,497,000	8,004,000	0	154,005,683
2005-06								
DEFRA	15,647,140	13,485,901	1,453,514	314,466	0	0	0	30,901,021
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	164,083	126,609	0	0	0	0	0	290,692
SVS (formed 1 April 2005)	3,358,863	4,174,618	374,353	0	0	0	11,066	7,918,899
RPA	8,556,851	5,885,659	310,182	0	0	0	0	14,732,692
CEFAS	5,148,877	4,610,481	0	0	0	0	0	9,759,358
CSL	13,701,553	20,049,704	28,927	0	0	0	0	33,780,184
VLA	12,786,601	52,079,013	450,804	0	0	8,117,584	0	73,434,002
Total	59,363,968	100,391,986	2,617,779	314,466	0	8,117,584	11,066	170,816,849
2004-05								
DEFRA	17,273,446	15,291,837	1,210,893	1,088,370	0	0	44,188	34,908,734
RPA	7,637,183	5,551,080	86,217	0	0	0	0	13,274,480
CEFAS	5,152,393	4,339,638	0	0	0	0	0	9,492,031
CSL	13,210,227	15,941,104	18,672	0	0	0	0	29,170,003
VLA	10,162,812	25,276,043	750,009	0	3,780,804	7,770,416	0	47,740,084

kWh

	Electricity	Gas	Oil	WDHS	CHP Heat	CHP Electricity	Solar	Total
Total	53,436,061	66,399,702	2,065,791	1,088,370	3,780,804	7,770,416	44,188	134,585,332

Key:
WDHS: Whitehall District Heating System CHP: Combined Heat and Power
Notes:
1. Whitehall District Heating System was out of operation for refurbishment works during 2005-06.
2. CHP Heat data for 2005-06 is missing.
3. Solar technology installed in 2003-04; system taken out of operation in 2006-07.
4. MFA data in 2005-06 is for the whole year; we are unable to split the data before and after the agency was formed.:

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281092]

Dan Norris: The following figures show the reported number of thefts/losses of laptops from 2005. The recent increases should be seen against the background of a significant increase in the numbers of laptops in use; for example, the numbers of IBM laptops issued across the DEFRA network under the enabling contract has increased more than six fold from some 1,200 in 2005 to over 7,500 in 2009, as we have gradually replaced desktops with encrypted laptops to reduce environmental impacts and make it easier for staff to work remotely.

	Core DEFRA	Animal Health	Natural England	Veterinary Laboratories Agency	Laptops
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13
2008-09	20	17	15	2	54
2008-09[1] (to date)	6	0	0	0	6

Prior to 2008-09 figures were only recorded as a total covering DEFRA and the agencies together.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which *(a)* magazines, *(b)* journals and *(c)* newspapers his Department subscribes; and what the cost of such subscriptions has been in each of the last three years. [280764]

Dan Norris: For the last three years DEFRA's expenditure on magazines, journals and newspapers subscriptions through its library service is tabled as follows:

	£
2006-07	72,000
2007-08	64,747
2008-09	55,862

To list all the publication subscriptions through the library service would incur disproportionate cost.

DEFRA press office separately subscribes to the following magazines, journals and newspapers:

Daily Express
Daily Mail
Daily Star
Daily Telegraph
Evening Standard
Financial
Guardian
Independent
Mail on Sunday
Mirror
News of the World
Observer
Radio Times
Sun
Sunday Business Magazine
Sunday Express
Sunday Mirror
Sunday People
Sunday Telegraph
Sunday Times
Times
TV Times
Agbiotech Reporter
Angler's Mail
Angling Times
Cage and Aviary Birds
Countryman
Dog World—Ashford
Ecologist
Ends Report
Environmental Standards Certification Kit and Environmental News
European Venture Capital Journal
Farmers Weekly—Haywards Heath
Field—Haywards Heath
Fishing News
Grocer
Grower and Special Supplement Editions
Horse and Hound

Horticulture Week
Job—London
Lawyer—London
Local Government Chronicle and LGC Finance
Local Government News
Marketing Week—London
National Geographic
Nature: UK Edition
New Civil Engineer
New Scientist—UK Edition
Press Gazette—The Weekly for All Journalists
PRWeek—UK Edition
Regeneration and Renewal
Research Fortnight
Science: International Edition—AAAS
Shooting Sports
Trends in Biotechnology
Waste Management
Western Morning News

DEFRA's expenditure on these newspapers, magazines and periodicals is set out in the following table:

	£
2007-08	26,871
2008-09	26,871

DEFRA does not hold figures for 2006 press office expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

There are no central records of subscriptions held by business units or individuals who have subscribed directly rather than via the library service or by the press office. These figures could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

All figures exclude spend on newspapers, magazines and periodicals by DEFRA local offices and the Department's Executive agencies. These figures could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what companies provided *(a)* goods and *(b)* services to his Department in 2008-09. [278989]

Dan Norris: I will place in the Library of the House the names of each organisation that supplied goods, services and works to the core-Department in 2008-09 based on the purchase order data held in the core-Department's financial database.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284972]

Dan Norris: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code.

Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust. Details on numbers of civil servants from this Department that have had such an attachment cannot be obtained within disproportionate cost limits.

Domestic Waste: Research

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has commissioned on household waste prevention in the last 12 months. [285349]

Dan Norris: DEFRA is completing a major review study to help distil the evidence emerging from research work completed by the Department and other organisations on waste prevention. The work has been undertaken by the contractors Brook Lyndhurst, in association with the Social Marketing Practice and the Resource Recovery Forum. The project team has been working with DEFRA staff to consolidate findings from the Waste and Resources Evidence Programme, the Environmental Behaviours Unit and other parts of DEFRA, together with work undertaken by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the Environment Agency and other relevant published work.

Specific waste prevention research work commissioned by WRAP over the past 12 months includes:

Home composting diversion modelling at household and district levels;

Reuse: studies of drivers, activities, arisings and potential in the UK;

Evaluation of waste reduction advisers;

Review of life cycle assessments of reusable packaging;

Development of guidance on food waste reduction champions model.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued on the use of wheelie bins for the collection of household waste. [284289]

Dan Norris: Neither DEFRA nor WRAP has issued any specific guidance on the use of wheelie bins for collection of household waste.

Each local authority decides the size, type and number of bins needed to handle the average amount of waste generated between collections in households in their area.

Among the many conclusions and recommendations made by the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Select Committee report on Waste Collection in July 2007, was the endorsement of the Government's policy of leaving local authorities to make arrangements for waste collection, based on local resources and needs.

Environment Protection: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency has allocated to the (i) Capital Standards project and

(ii) London Environment Directors' Network in the last five years; and for what projects such funding was allocated. [284136]

Dan Norris: In October 2005 the Environment Agency made a payment of £3,000 to the Capital Standards project. The membership has enabled the Environment Agency to be more engaged with local authorities on fly-tipping and antisocial behaviour.

The Environment Agency have found no record of having made a payment to the London Environment Directors' Network.

Environmental Protection Act 1990

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many requests for communications data were made by the Environment Agency to communication service providers (CSPs) under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003, *(e)* 2004, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2006, *(h)* 2007 and *(i)* 2008; and how many of these requests resulted in the requested communications data being disclosed by the relevant CSP. [284865]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Environment Agency was granted powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) for Communications Data in 2004 and therefore no prior data to this exists.

Under RIPA legislation, only authorised requests are sent to the CSP and, once authorised, the CSP has a legal responsibility to comply with the request, if the data exists. Environment Agency records show that in all cases the CSP has responded to the request.

The Environment Agency made the following number of requests to CSPs between 2004 and 2008:

	Number of applications to CSPs:
2004	34
2005	98
2006	96
2007	55
2008	53

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the food retail sector on support for ethical procurement initiatives. [285569]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In developing our future strategy for a sustainable food system, our officials have held ongoing discussions with stakeholders, including food retailers, on the issue of consumer demand for food produced to a range of ethical and environmental standards.

Food: Transport

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to provide incentives to reduce food miles travelled in England. [284752]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Distance food has travelled, on its own, is not a good measure of sustainability (AEA Technology (2005) The Validity of Food Miles as an Indicator for Sustainable Development), but Government do want to address the environmental costs associated with the transport (as well as the production and consumption) of food—such as carbon emissions and congestion. Government have been working with the food industry to identify ways of reducing the sector's environmental impacts overall, and in doing so, improving efficiency across the supply chain. In response to recommendations made in the Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (DEFRA, May 2006), the British Retail Consortium developed a set of commitments to reduce their members' environmental impacts and the Food and Drink Federation developed their Five-Fold Ambition. Both these initiatives set targets to reduce the environmental impacts of food transport in the UK. The Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD) is also spearheading a voluntary initiative on 'sustainable distribution' for the food and grocery industry.

Food: Waste

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an estimate of the volume and proportion of food from *(a)* supermarkets, *(b)* households, *(c)* restaurants and other eating establishments and *(d)* other sources which became food waste in the last year for which figures are available. [286435]

Dan Norris: The DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) undertook research in 2007 to quantify the amounts and types of household food waste produced in the UK. According to its report "The Food We Waste", UK households waste 6.7 million tonnes of food every year: around one third of what is bought.

WRAP is currently undertaking research on the amounts of food waste produced by the retail sector and its supply chain and by the hospitality industry. This research will be published later in 2009.

Based on a range of data sources, WRAP has estimated that, in total, the UK produces between 18 and 20 million tonnes of food waste per year from all sources.

Greyhounds: Animal Welfare

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from *(a)* animal welfare groups and *(b)* the general public on his proposed regulations on the welfare of racing greyhounds. [284851]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA is currently consulting on proposals for new regulations for the welfare of racing greyhounds. The consultation closes on 22 July 2009 and a full summary of the responses to the consultation will be published shortly thereafter. Prior to the public consultation, DEFRA set up a number of working groups to provide input into the proposals. The working groups contained representatives of the industry, the veterinary profession, local authorities, the devolved administrations and animal welfare groups.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter dated 8 June 2009 from the hon. Member for Chichester on Dairy Farmers of Britain. [285998]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I wrote to the hon. Member for Chichester on 9 July 2009 and apologise for the delay in responding.

Ozone

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to reduce levels of ozone in urban areas to within the limits prescribed by EU legislation by 2010. [286030]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Council Directive (2002/3/EC) sets target values for ozone for the protection of human health and ecosystems, to be attained by 2010. Ground level ozone is formed when sunlight acts on nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOC) and other atmospheric substances close to the ground. The pollutants that cause ground level ozone come from a range of sources including industry and combustion sources such as road transport and power generation. Ozone formation can take place over several hours or days and may arise from emissions thousands of kilometres away.

Emissions of ozone precursors across the EU are controlled by the National Emissions Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC) which sets limits on the amounts of NO_x and VOCs that each member state can emit annually, with ceilings to be met by 2010. The 1999 Gothenburg Protocol does the same for a larger group of countries under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The UK is currently below its 2010 VOC ceiling and is committed to meeting its NO_x ceiling as soon as possible.

Recycling

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking together with local authorities to *(a)* promote and *(b)* facilitate commercial waste recycling. [284742]

Dan Norris: DEFRA funds the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) centre for local authorities which has a network of over 800 local authority officers involved with business resource efficiency activities. It has funded over 60 local authority projects that provide resource efficiency services or support to their local business communities. The centre disseminates examples of successful recycling schemes to other councils to encourage them to consider whether they may be able to offer recycling services and support on resource efficiency and waste reduction.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for future levels of compulsory recycling for households; and what guidance *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme and *(c)* the Waste Improvement Network has issued to local authorities on the matter. [285420]

Dan Norris: Decisions on local waste collection services, including recycling are taken by local authorities in line with local circumstances and priorities.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has issued no guidance to local authorities on the subject of compulsory recycling for households.

The Waste Improvement Network (WIN) has not issued advice or guidance on compulsory recycling. WIN exists to share information between councils, and publish guidance from all available sources in one place on waste management issues, and so does not issue advice. It has, however, published some documents on the subject of existing compulsory recycling schemes in councils in England. These documents are usually written either by or for local authorities.

Recycling: Conferences

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each *(a)* speech and *(b)* presentation made by the representatives of the Waste and Resources Action Programme at the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee's conference held in November 2008. [285251]

Dan Norris: A copy of the presentations requested made at the 2008 Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee conference on food waste has been placed in the Library of the House.

Recycling: Public Consultation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many consultation responses his Department received on *(a)* application and designation guidance, *(b)* technical issues guidance, *(c)* finance guidance, *(d)* coverage and disadvantaged groups guidance and *(e)* unauthorised deposit or disposal guidance in its June 2008 consultation on incentives for recycling by households. [285348]

Dan Norris: The Department received 29 responses in total to its informal June 2008 consultation on incentives for recycling by households, which also included the recycling service guidance. The number of respondents who commented specifically on each piece of guidance are listed as follows:

	Number of respondents who commented specifically on each piece of guidance
Application and designation guidance	1
Technical issues guidance	3
Finance guidance	1
Coverage and disadvantaged groups guidance	3
Unauthorised deposit or disposal guidance	3

11 responses were also received which commented on all five of the documents. Three responses made general comments. Nine responses were received on the recycling service guidance.

Recycling: South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* London provide a commercial waste recycling service. [284743]

Dan Norris: As at February 2009, 17 (out of 75) local authorities in the South East and 23 (out of 37) in London were providing trade waste recycling services.

Source:

Local Authority Trade Waste Recycling Survey, BREW Centre

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure the Waste and Resources Action Programme has incurred on overseas travel in the last 24 months. [284929]

Dan Norris: The total expenditure incurred by the Waste and Resources Action Programme on overseas travel amounted to £15,728 over the two years 2007-08 and 2008-09 (i.e. between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2009).

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 401W, on the Waste and Resources Action Programme, whether the liaison activity funded by the Waste and Resources Action Programme included liaison with *(a)* official representatives of *(b)* hon. Members from and *(c)* noble Lords from (i) the Conservative Party, (ii) the Labour Party and (iii) the Liberal Democrats. [285453]

Dan Norris: Yes. Meetings were scheduled with interested representatives from all three main parties, including both hon. Members and noble Lords.

Waste and Resources Action Programme: Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's staff work on matters relating to alternate weekly collections. [285346]

Dan Norris: WRAP has a team of 14 advisers who are available to support and advise local authorities on their waste and recycling services. Advice covers improvements to existing services and the introduction of new services—which can include the introduction of alternate weekly collection of household waste. All support provided by WRAP is at the request of individual local authorities.

Waste Disposal: Eco-Towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Environment Agency and *(c)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to potential eco-town developers on policies on household waste for adoption in eco-towns. [285250]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency has had discussions on the practical application of the waste worksheet with a number of potential eco-town developers.

DEFRA and the Environment Agency have also worked closely with the Town and Country Planning Association on a series of worksheets, including one on waste management, which set out principles, information and flexible models for best practice on a range of themes relevant to eco-towns. These worksheets are being made available as a resource for planning and designing eco-towns.

Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme have provided any separate or additional guidance to potential eco-town developers on household waste management policies.

The environmental standards that eco-towns will be expected to meet, including on waste management, will be set out in the Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement.

Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's Waste Prevention Toolkit. [285252]

Dan Norris: WRAP's waste prevention toolkit is an online tool, rather than a document. It is not therefore possible to deposit a copy in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the analysis undertaken by the Waste and Resources Action Programme into the efficiency and effectiveness of waste management models used by local authorities. [285253]

Dan Norris: WRAP published a study entitled "Kerbside recycling: indicative costs and performance" in 2008. A copy of this study has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 904W, on waste management, and with reference to the minutes of his Department's Waste Stakeholders Group meeting of 30 November 2007, whether his Department has a communications strategy on residual waste. [285254]

Dan Norris: DEFRA is currently reviewing its communications strategy on waste, including on residual waste, and will be updating the waste stakeholder group on progress in the autumn.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the paper on waste prevention, reference: WSG05NOV07, circulated at the meeting of his Department's Waste Stakeholders Group of 30 November 2007; [285255]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the paper on medium term risks to the waste strategy, reference: WSG04FEB00, circulated at the meeting of his Department's Waste Stakeholders Group on 25 February 2008; [285256]

(3) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 904W, on waste management, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the papers circulated in respect of each of the meetings of the Waste Stakeholder Group. [285457]

Dan Norris: I am arranging for copies of the documents requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Armoured Personnel Carriers: Iraq

13. **Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of safety measures on armourrd personnel carriers deployed in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [285433]

Bill Rammell: We continue to keep under review the measures in place to ensure the protection of the remaining British forces in Iraq. A small number of protected personnel carriers currently remain in the country, giving commanders the ability to choose the most appropriate vehicle for the limited missions and tasks which remain.

Navistar Defence Husky

14. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Navistar Defence Husky tactical support vehicle in each theatre of operation in the last two years. [285434]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Husky Tactical Support Vehicle is specifically designed for Afghanistan. As it will enter service later this year, there has not yet been an assessment of its performance in theatre. The vehicle has, however, successfully passed stringent mine blast protection tests. I cannot comment on the levels of protection afforded by the vehicle, as disclosure could prejudice the security of the armed forces.

Afghanistan

17. **Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the projected costs of military operations in Afghanistan in each of the next three years. [285637]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge).

20. **Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Afghanistan. [285640]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire).

Nuclear Deterrent

18. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made towards procurement of the next generation of the nuclear deterrent; and if he will make a statement. [285638]

22. **Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made towards procurement of the next generation of the nuclear deterrent; and if he will make a statement. [285642]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Members to the answer given earlier today to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands).

Budget Headings

19. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's budget headings are planned to have reductions in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [285639]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Plan 2008-12, available in the Library of the House, sets out in Section IV the planned Defence budget up to 2010-11, reflecting the outcome of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

This includes a high level breakdown of the planned budgets for top level budget holders in the Department. The detailed allocation of these are reviewed during regular planning rounds to reflect current Defence priorities and commitments. It is not our practice to announce these detailed allocations—although major changes to the Defence programme, when made and appropriate, are announced in the usual way.

Departmental expenditure limits have not yet been set for the years beyond 2010-11.

Infantry Regiments

21. **Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for future numbers of infantry regiments; and if he will make a statement. [285641]

Bill Rammell: There are currently 36 infantry battalions. While we constantly review the structure of the infantry, we currently have no plans for this to change.

Operation Herrick

23. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what upper limit has been placed on the number of troops participating in Operation Herrick. [285643]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The endorsed force level for Operation Herrick is 8,300.

On 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 869, the Prime Minister announced the deployment of additional troops to Afghanistan to provide extra security during the Afghan election period. This has for the present increased troop numbers in Afghanistan to 9,000.

Kyle of Lochalsh

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the contribution towards UK defence requirements of his Department's facilities at Kyle of Lochalsh and the surrounding area; and if he will make a statement. [285635]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The maritime ranges in the area around Kyle of Lochalsh make a valuable contribution to UK defence capabilities. However, work by QinetiQ, which operates the ranges on our behalf, shows that the service could be delivered more efficiently by centralising range control at a single base at Kyle of Lochalsh. We are investigating separately whether this change could be combined with an enhancement to range capability.

Trident

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department of replacing Trident. [285636]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The estimated procurement costs for replacing the Trident nuclear deterrent are £15-20 billion, at 2006-07 prices for a four-boat fleet. Once the new fleet of submarines comes into service annual in-service capital and running costs of the deterrent, which includes the costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, are expected to be similar to today. This cost is currently around 5 to 6 per cent. of the annual defence budget.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the defects at the service family accommodation at Jubilee Buildings, Queens Terrace, St. John's Wood; what his Department's remedial plan for this accommodation is; and what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* budget is for its repair. [274748]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As might be expected after decades of underinvestment there are many issues arising from these properties and the accommodation is not of the high standard to which we aspire.

Although essential maintenance and repairs continue to be carried out and issues raised by occupants are addressed, these properties are not required beyond 2011 and accordingly no major modernisation or improvement works are planned.

I have also asked for an update on these buildings and will write following this.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Andrew Murrison

In my answer of 14 May 2009 *Official Report*, column 937W I promised to write to you with an update regarding the Service Family Accommodation (SFA) at Jubilee Buildings, Queens Terrace, St John's Wood.

As stated in my earlier answer, due to decades of underinvestment there are issues arising from the SFA at Jubilee Buildings, which is leased by the Department to house the families of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery (KTRHA) based at St John's Wood Barracks. The SFA is no longer required after the KTRHA's planned relocation to Woolwich in 2011, so it would not be an appropriate use of defence funds to carry out any major maintenance, modernisation or upgrade work.

However, we remain committed to carrying out essential maintenance and repairs and address any issues raised by occupants. In addition to the frequent visits made by Modern Housing Solutions, the contractor responsible for the maintenance of the SFA, the Department's Area Housing Manager visited the SFA on 29 May 2009 to better understand current issues, discuss concerns with occupants, identify immediate solutions to some and hasten outstanding essential maintenance work.

I have asked officials to keep me updated on progress and I will ensure you are also kept informed.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the new spend on *(a)* each married quarters estate and *(b)* married quarters in total (i) was in 2008-09 and (ii) is projected to be in each of the next five years. [276803]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2008-09 the Ministry of Defence spent some £48 million on new projects and upgrades relating to its worldwide holdings of Service Family Accommodation (SFA). Of this expenditure around £40 million was in respect of SFA in the UK, £7 million in Cyprus and £1 million in Germany.

A breakdown of the major elements of expenditure on the UK SFA, by location is shown in the following table.

Location	*£ million*
Abingdon	0.8
Aldershot	1.1
Brize Norton	1.0
Blandford	5.9
Bulford	0.4
Catterick	0.2
Chester	6.0
Chicksands	2.0
Colchester	0.7
Coningsby	0.7
Cranwell	0.2
Craigiehall	0.5
Elgin	0.4
Giffnock/Hampden	0.2
High Wycombe	1.5
Leeming	1.6
Leuchars	0.4
Lisburn, Northern Ireland	4.1
Innsworth	2.0
Invicta Park	3.5
Peninsular Towers, London	0.4
Warminster	0.8
Williams Gardens, Putney	3.0
Total	37.4

The Department was planning to spend £48 million in each year of the next five years on the upgrade of SFA to its highest standard for condition. However as the hon. Member will know from the Budget statement on 22 April 2009, this Department is bringing forward £50 million to be spent on accommodation.

The details of this expenditure have yet to be determined. I will write to the hon. Member when a decision has been taken.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Andrew Murrison:

In my answer of 1 June 2009 (Official Report: Column 36W) I undertook to write to you with details of how the £50 million of advanced funding will be spent on improving Service accommodation.

Both single Service personnel and Service families will benefit from this expenditure which will be spread across 19 locations in Great Britain. As well as the provision of new accommodation, the £50 million will be spent on upgrading existing accommodation and other improvements such as new fixtures and fittings. Projects benefited by the £50 million advance will include, SFA at South Cerney, Cirencester, and Peninsula Towers, Knightsbridge, London. Single Living Accommodation (SLA) at Lille Barracks, Aldershot; Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth; and at Woolwich; Marchwood; Minley; Chivenor, Stonehouse; Culdrose; Condor; Plymouth; Lympstone; Yeovilton; Halton; Waddington; Wittering; Marham; and Lossiemouth, will also benefit.

This forms part of the more than £3 billion which the Government plans to spend on improving Service accommodation over the next 10 years.

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of current and former armed forces personnel likely to experience mental illness during the next 10 years as a result of their military service. [285644]

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of current and former armed forces personnel likely to experience mental illness during the next 10 years as a result of their military service. [285645]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Mid-Bedfordshire (Nadine Dorries).

Armed Forces: Swine Flu

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed services have been diagnosed with swine flu. [284034]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will answer shortly.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Mike Penning:

As at 6 July 2009, the MOD was aware of 47 military personnel having been confirmed or clinically diagnosed as having the H1N1 (swine flu) virus.

This number only includes cases that have been formally reported to the Department. There may be other cases, for example where military personnel have been assessed by a civilian GP or hospital, but have not then reported it through the military medical chain or chain of command.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* instructors and *(b)* recruits there are in each training establishment listed in the Ofsted report on the duty of care for recruits and trainees in the armed forces. [284529]

Bill Rammell: The instructor and recruit numbers for the training establishment listed in the Ofsted Report on the duty of care for recruits and trainees in the armed forces for financial year 2008-09 are shown in the table (rounded to the nearest 10):

Training establishment	*Instructors*	*Recruits/ trainees*
25 Training Regiment—Deepcut	200	2,010
Defence Medical Services Training Centre	50	350
HMS Raleigh	80	570
Army Training Centre, Pirbright	310	4,260
RAF Halton, Recruit Training Squadron	130	890
Defence School of Transport	690	[1]7,870
RAF Regiment, Regimental Training Squadron (Basics), RAF Honington	60	300
Army School of Ammunition, Kineton	50	70
Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines	350	890
Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn	200	1,790
Army Training Regiment, Winchester	150	1,220
Infantry Training Centre, Catterick	640	3,650

[1] Some individuals may attend more than one course at the Defence School of Transport during the year and therefore may be shown more than once in the figures.

Note:

These figures show a combination of phase 1 recruits and phase 2 trainees, depending on the establishment. Some combined phase 1 and phase 2 courses are run at Infantry Training Centre, Catterick and RAF Regiment, Regimental Training Squadron (Basics), RAF Honington.

BVT Shipyards

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in his Department's negotiations with BVT Shipyards on a terms of business agreement. [284822]

Mr. Quentin Davies: MOD and BVT Surface Fleet Ltd. are working to establish a new long-term incentive based terms of business agreement (TOBA), which is intended to provide MOD with the confidence that industry can deliver significant improvements in efficiency and performance needed to underpin the future programme, while providing industry with the confidence to enable investment and long-term planning. Commercial negotiations with BVT are at an advanced stage.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department is giving to BVT Shipyards to promote its shipbuilding facilities and services in export markets. [284824]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Government support to the export efforts of the UK defence industry, including BVT Surface Fleet Ltd., is led by UKTI. The MOD works closely with UKTI's defence and security organisation on these matters.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when representatives of his Department last met representatives of BVT Shipyards; and what was discussed. [284828]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD is BVT Surface Fleet Ltd.'s (BVT) principal customer and has had meetings and discussions with BVT since the inception of the joint venture.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285018]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently implementing the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) (DII(F)). DII(F) will, once delivered in full, incorporate around 140,000 terminals supporting some 300,000 users at over 2,000 defence sites worldwide, including on ships and deployed operations. DII currently uses Internet Explorer 6 and at the current time does not have a requirement to move to an updated version.

At the current time, the MOD has various other IT systems, which include closed, isolated and restricted use networks—some of these will necessarily fall outside the scope of DII due to their purpose. The information requested for each of these systems could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285309]

Mr. Quentin Davies: None, although we continue to keep our office equipment and stationery purchasing policies under review.

Detainees

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 26 February 2009, who the authors of each of the papers sent to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for the Home Department in April 2006 were; and what the subject matter of each paper was. [260500]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* These papers were written in the Cabinet Office and provided an update to Ministers, which informed HMG's evidence collection for the ISC's July 2007 Report into Rendition.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on his Department's future policy on the Gurkha pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [285678]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department has received representations from Members of both Houses of Parliament in the form of correspondence and parliamentary questions. An early-day motion has also been tabled on the subject. These representations are linked to the British Gurkha Welfare Society's campaign to pay Gurkhas pensions at Armed Forces Pension Scheme rates.

Hercules Aircraft: RAF Brize Norton

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the capital cost will be of relocating the Hercules fleet to RAF Brize Norton; and what his latest estimate is of the number of years of revenue savings that cost will equate to. [285419]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The capital cost of relocating the RAF C130 Hercules fleet from RAF Lyneham to RAF Brize Norton is currently estimated to be approximately £60 million. This figure excludes service accommodation costs which cannot be accurately attributed to the C130 Hercules fleet as distinct from other units at RAF Brize Norton. This figure should be fully offset by savings in running costs within the first four years.

Intelligence Corps

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for duty strength of each rank in the Intelligence Corps has been in each year since 1997. [284539]

Bill Rammell: The Intelligence Corps (Int Corps) consists of a Military Intelligence Brigade that includes three Regular Battalions—1, 2 and 4 Military Intelligence Battalions.

The figures requested are provided in the tables. Due to implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, data from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

Required strength

Rank	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
							January						
Officers													
Lieutenant Colonel	21	18	18	23	23	23	21	21	21	23	32	32	35
Major	66	64	63	73	73	73	90	90	86	108	110	108	101
Captain	115	96	96	110	110	110	104	104	90	112	124	126	131
Subaltern (Lieutenant and Second Lieutenant)	21	22	18	21	21	21	20	20	18	24	26	29	37
Other ranks													
Warrant Officer 1	35	25	23	26	26	26	29	29	27	23	30	29	28
Warrant Officer 2	157	145	138	154	154	154	139	159	137	165	178	177	180

Required strength

Rank	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
							January						
Staff Sergeant	141	132	132	134	134	134	144	144	143	136	161	164	157
Sergeant	294	271	267	295	295	295	301	301	272	294	326	308	305
Corporal	224	217	228	222	222	222	327	327	340	343	398	396	432
Lance Corporal	182	180	166	167	167	167	185	185	185	212	210	175	173
Private	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Actual strength

Rank	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
					April						*March*	*April*	
Officers													
Lieutenant Colonel	25	25	25	30	35	35	35	35	35	35	40	45	40
Major	105	100	100	100	95	90	100	110	115	105	105	110	95
Captain	100	100	100	110	100	100	105	95	85	95	100	115	120
Subaltern (Lieutenant and Second Lieutenant)	30	25	25	25	25	20	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
Other ranks													
Warrant Officer 1	35	35	35	35	35	35	40	45	45	45	40	35	35
Warrant Officer 2	150	145	135	145	145	140	145	155	165	165	185	170	165
Staff Sergeant	150	160	165	165	165	170	160	160	160	160	160	165	160
Sergeant	200	190	185	175	165	205	215	210	220	230	225	210	210
Corporal	205	165	165	145	140	180	230	255	320	290	295	295	270
Lance Corporal	180	160	145	185	200	265	245	235	230	245	275	300	320
Private	10	25	20	10	5	20	15	15	[1]—	35	5	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Fewer than five.

Fit for duty has been interpreted as fit for primary role, including personnel listed as having limited deployability, and personnel unfit for duty in their primary role but who can perform a role in an alternative capacity. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports have been recorded in respect of each helicopter type in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Fleet Air Arm and *(c)* Royal Air Force in 2009 to date. [284540]

Mr. Quentin Davies: MOD Form 760 (MF760) is the mandated process for the users to report aircraft faults which include accidental damage, maintenance related failures, breakdowns, and the failure of items fitted to the aircraft. Information on the numbers of such reports raised on each helicopter type for the period 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009 is provided in the following table.

Helicopter type[1]	Service	Helicopter, number of 760s	Engine type	Engine[2] number of 760s
Agusta A109A/AM (includes engines)	Army	1	—	—
Apache	Army	211	RTM322 Mk120	2
Chinook Mk2/2A	RAF	7	T55	0
Gazelle	Army	6	Astazou 3N2	0
Lynx Mk3/8	RN	[3]8	Gem	0
Lynx Mk7/9	Army	[3]5	Gem	2
Merlin Mk1	RN	119	RTM322 Mk100	3
Merlin Mk3	RAF	5	RTM322 Mk 200	1
Merlin Mk3a	RAF	3	RTM322 Mk250	0
Puma	RAF	19	Turmo	1
Sea King—All Mks	RN and RAF	63	Gnome	1

[1] Commodity items have been excluded. As many items are common to more than one platform the information on these items is not held in a format that would be useful for this answer.
[2] Helicopter engines are administered by a single project team; and are identified separately, except in the case of Agusta A109A/AM.
[3] In addition there were 41 MF760s applicable to both Army and RN Lynx.

The data do not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and do not, therefore, differentiate between what might later prove to have been operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor do the data indicate the severity of the failure which might have had no discernible impact on operational capability or safety. These figures do not include any instances of equipment defects that have not been formally reported by the user.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports have been recorded for each aircraft type in the armed forces in 2009 to date. [284541]

Mr. Quentin Davies: MOD Form 760 is the mandated process for users to report aircraft faults which include accidental damage, maintenance related failures and breakdowns, and the failure of items fitted to the aircraft. Information on the numbers of such reports raised on the fixed-wing aircraft fleets for the period 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009 is provided in the following table.

Aircraft	*Number of MOD Form 760s*
Typhoon	40
Tornado GR4/F3	90
Harrier GR7/GR9/T12	69
Nimrod MR2/R1	41
Tristar	2
VC10	10
Sentry	6
Sentinel	36
Hercules C-130K	8
Hercules C-130J	7
C-17	0
BAE 125	1
BAE 146	0
Dominie	0
Hawk T1/T2	14
Tucano	2
Jetstream	1
Vigilant Glider	0
Viking Glider	0

The table excludes MOD Form 760s raised for items or equipments that are common to more than one platform.

These data do not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and do not, therefore, differentiate between what might later prove to have been operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor do the data indicate the severity of the failure, which might have had no discernible impact on operational capability or safety. These figures do not include any instances of equipment defects that have not been formally reported by the user.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost per flying hour of a *(a)* Tornado and *(b)* Typhoon jet. [284989]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I will write to the hon. Member.

RAF Lyneham

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department of the closure of RAF Lyneham. [285548]

Bill Rammell: The closure of RAF Lyneham is currently estimated to have no net cost, since the costs of closing the station are anticipated to be more than offset by savings in future running costs.

Somalia: Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the unclassified version of the Combined Maritime Forces Headquarters daily counterpiracy campaign update slide for each Monday of each month since February 2009. [270942]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bill Rammell to Liam Fox:

My predecessor undertook to write to you with the information promised in the reply given to you on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1024W requesting copies of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Headquarters daily counterpiracy campaign update slides. A CD containing these slides at weekly intervals from 17 February to 29 June 2009 will be placed in the Library of the House.

The CMF is a coalition of 23 nations whose mission is to establish and maintain security in the international waters surrounding the Arabian Peninsula by defeating terrorism, preventing piracy, and reducing the illegal traffic of people and drugs. It is also tasked with responding to environmental and humanitarian crises within its area of operations.

The counterpiracy update slides are presented daily to CMF personnel from member navies and coastguards.

Tornado Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tornado aircraft are *(a)* in operation and *(b)* undergoing or awaiting repair or service. [284988]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is set out in the following table.

	In service fleet	*Aircraft awaiting or undergoing maintenance or upgrade*
Tornado GR4	138	49
Tornado F3	39	3

The Tornado fleet is managed to ensure that sufficient aircraft are available to meet operational commitments. To sustain this, at any one time a number of aircraft will be undergoing or awaiting maintenance or upgrade. The figures above are typical for the Tornado GR4 Fleet. For the Tornado F3 Fleet, the figures reflect the reduced maintenance commitment during the fleet drawdown.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance costs of the Tornado fleet per aircraft were in the last year for which figures are available. [284990]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Based on the logistic support costs of defence equipment and support that can be directly attributed to the Tornado fleet, the average cost of providing logistic support to the Tornado aircraft in financial year 2008-09 was £1.6 million per aircraft. This figure does not include funding for capability upgrades or DE&S staff costs.

Warships: Construction

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the UK's naval shipyard capacity. [284823]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department set out its assessment of the adequacy of the UK's naval shipyard capacity in the 2005 Defence Industrial Strategy (Cmnd 6697). The Department is committed to work with its industrial partners to manage rationalisation of, and performance improvements in, the UK maritime industrial base to create a sustainable, world-class UK maritime sector.

Weapons: Lost Property

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* weapons and *(b)* rounds of ammunition for which (i) his Department has and (ii) the armed forces have responsibility have gone missing in Scotland in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value was of such weapons and ammunition. [285564]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what representations she has received on the potential effects of proposals in the Equality Bill on specialist domestic violence services for women. [284692]

Maria Eagle: We have received written representations from End Violence Against Women, Women Against Fundamentalism, Southall Black Sisters, Engender, Justice for Women, the Muslim Women's Network and a summary of responses from Women's National Commission partner organisations.

In June 2009 officials from the Government Equalities Office met with representatives from End Violence Against Women, Southall Black Sisters, Women Against Fundamentalism, and the Poppy project to discuss their concerns that the extension of the equality duty to religion and belief might have a negative impact on how local authorities fund specialist domestic violence services for women. The Government firmly believe these concerns are misplaced, and that the duty will encourage public bodies to consider the impact of their decisions on tackling inequality and disadvantage for all groups, including women.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will make an assessment of the responsibilities of *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* police authorities and *(c)* primary care trusts for (i) the protection of and (ii) provision of advice to female victims of domestic violence by male asylum-seeking partners or former partners; and if she will make a statement. [283989]

Maria Eagle: The authorities referred to are all subject to the gender equality duty and must have due regard for this when developing their services. The duty requires all public authorities when carrying out their functions to have due regard for the need to:

eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment, and

promote equality of opportunity between men and women.

In regard to the (i) protection of and (ii) provision of advice to female victims of domestic violence by male asylum-seeking partners or former partners, the authorities have the following responsibilities:

Local Authorities:

The homelessness legislation in England provides one of the strongest safety nets in the world for families with children and vulnerable people who become homeless through no fault of their own.

A range of support for victims of domestic violence is available. Some victims will be accommodated in refuges, but sanctuary schemes and mainstream local authority accommodation may be an option for others. Some victims will pursue independent solutions with help and advice from support schemes as necessary.

In 2007-08 local authorities spent £64.5 million of their funding allocated through the supporting people programme on housing related support services for women at risk of domestic violence.

Police Authorities:

Police authorities have two main functions: (i) to secure an efficient and effective police force and (ii) to hold the police to account on behalf of the public.

Police authorities have three further functions: (i) to monitor the force's compliance with human rights; (ii) to co-operate with other forces and authorities; and (iii) to promote equality and diversity within the force.

Primary Care Trusts:

The updated domestic abuse handbook and cd-rom "Responding to Domestic Abuse: a handbook for health professionals", which was published in December 2005, provides advice and guidance on how the health service can respond to all women who are victims of domestic abuse.

The advice and protection available to victims of domestic violence is dependent on their individual circumstances and needs. It is not contingent on the immigration status of their partner or former partner.

Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recruitment equality data her Office holds on each government department for each of the last three years. [284633]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

Recruitment equality data are not held centrally. Individual employing departments are responsible for collecting equality recruitment data.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: International Assistance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's most recent White Paper, page 34, what the structure of the new proposed multidonor facility across Africa will be; where will it be hosted; and how much funding over what period his Department plans to provide the facility. [286406]

Mr. Michael Foster: The aim of the new multi-donor facility is to build the capacity of micro-finance institutions to deliver sustainable microfinance services across Africa. We are currently running consultations on the project and once these are complete we will be able to give further details.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284890]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No member of the Department for International Development's staff has been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years.

Overseas Aid: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account his Department takes of animal welfare issues in its determination of aid funding. [284795]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) only examines animal welfare issues when aid funding is related to research involving animals or livestock production. In these cases DFID works with partners that have high animal welfare standards.

DFID keeps abreast of animal welfare issues through links with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). DFID supports the UK and European Union's backing of a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) as an important means of raising awareness of animal welfare.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations the Government has made to the Sri Lankan government on allowing *(a)* the UN and *(b)* other relief organisations full access to camps for internally displaced peoples in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [285059]

Mr. Michael Foster: At ministerial and official levels, the Department for International Development (DFID) continues to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to allow United Nations and other humanitarian agencies to have full and unrestricted access to internally displaced people.

The Prime Minister raised humanitarian access with President Rajapakse on the 18 May. The Foreign Secretary also discussed the issue with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister when they met on 5 June, as did Lord Malloch-Brown with the Sri Lankan Minister for Trade and External Development when they met on 19 June. Our high commissioner to Sri Lanka regularly raises our concerns with senior members of the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what reports he has received on conditions in the internal displacement camps in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement; [285060]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [285057]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are almost 284,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) held in camps in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Trincomalee and Mannar. The humanitarian situation is now moving from an emergency response to a stabilisation phase. Conditions in the camps remain basic but are improving as the priority needs of shelter, food, water, medicine and immediate access to surgical treatment are gradually met. The remaining areas of concern include high levels of malnutrition, overcrowding, inadequate water and sanitation facilities and lack of freedom of movement. Restrictions put on protection activities such as reuniting unaccompanied children with their families and the registration of the population as a whole are particularly concerning.

The UK Government urge the Government of Sri Lanka to facilitate the return of the IDPs as soon as possible and to allow humanitarian agencies to operate effectively on the ground.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members' Interests

Tony Baldry: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to page 28 of the Government's Draft Legislative Programme, what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the cost of registering the full details of any second jobs held by hon. Members including pay and hours. [285987]

Nick Harvey: The requirement to register details of the outside employment of hon. Members came into effect on 1 July 2009 at the same time as the requirement to register additional information about donations. The additional staff costs associated with recording the information about outside employment is provisionally estimated at one-third of a band C officer, costing about £10,000 in the current financial year. It is too soon to quantify the other costs involved.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 463W, on carbon emissions: standards, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the responses to his Department's consultation on the term carbon neutral. [282001]

Joan Ruddock: Yes, I will place consultation responses in the Library, excluding the one received in confidence.

Carbon Trust: Energy Saving Trust

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the performance against objectives of *(a)* the Carbon Trust and *(b)* the Energy Saving Trust. [285081]

Joan Ruddock: DECC provides grant funding to the Energy Saving Trust to promote carbon abatement in the household sector, and to the Carbon Trust to support its work in accelerating the move to a low carbon economy by working with businesses and public sector organisations.

DECC has a range of measures in place to ensure the effective assessment of the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust against these objectives. Both Trusts provide annual estimates of the carbon savings implemented by their customers as a result of their DECC-funded activities, and have processes in place to ensure a high level of assurance of the carbon savings they have delivered. In addition, the Trusts provide reports to the Department against the performance metrics set out in their business plans for each financial quarter.

The Carbon Trust was also the subject of a National Audit Office value for money review in 2007-08.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will initiate a review of the salary structure of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary against relevant public sector comparators; and if he will make a statement. [283462]

Mr. Kidney: I am assuming your question relates to the salary structure for the civil nuclear constabulary (CNC) police officers, not staff.

CNC police officers pay and terms and conditions are linked to relevant Home Office police terms and conditions, and remuneration determined by the established link with the outcome of negotiations for the police negotiating body structure for Home Office Forces. The original principles determining the basic pay of members of CNC (up to and including superintendent ranks) is that it is linked to the pay of corresponding members of the MOD police (MDP), which in turn is linked to that of Home Office police taking account of the 95 per cent. weighting (i.e. MDP and CNC pay is set at 95 per cent. of Home Office police force pay). Any decision to review these arrangements would fall within the responsibilities of the civil nuclear police authority.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280563]

Joan Ruddock: The Permanent Secretary's responsibilities at the Department include the energy efficiency of the estate.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285310]

Joan Ruddock: No changes have been made.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consultations his Department has carried out since its establishment. [279413]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has carried out the following consultations since its establishment:

Consultations still open:

Consultation on Transposition of EU directive (2009/29/EC) revising EU directive (2003/87/EC) and relating to Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data and National Implementation Measures;

A framework for the development of clean coal;

Proposals for A Future Exemptions Regime under The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 and The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010;

Consultation on draft guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions;

Consultation on the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP);

Consultation on Smart Metering for Electricity and Gas;

Environmental Permitting Programme—Consultation on Government Guidance;

Guidance on Carbon Capture Readiness and Applications under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989: a consultation;

Consultations that have been closed:

Consultation on the Form and Content of New Climate Change Agreements;

Consultation on the Draft Order to Implement the Carbon Reduction Commitment;

Consultation on the term 'carbon neutral': its definition and recommendations for good practice;

Consultation on Transposition of EU directive (EC/2008/101) to include Aviation in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS);

Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HES) Consultation, Heat and Energy Saving Consultation Roadshows, Big Energy Shift;

Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP);

Government response to Offshore Electricity Transmission: a further joint Ofgem/DECC Regulatory Policy Update—final consultation document;

Consultation on the Proposed Offshore Gas Storage and Gas Unloading Licensing Scheme;

Consultation on The Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study;

Consultation on UK Offshore Energy SEA Environmental Report;

Consultation on proposed amendments to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target 2008 to 2011;

Consultation on the Nuclear Industry Association's Application to Justify New Nuclear power stations;

Carbon units, the net carbon account and carbon accounting;

Consultation on offshore electricity transmission: a further joint Ofgem/DECC regulatory policy update;

Towards Carbon Capture and Storage;

The UK Renewable Energy Strategy.

Energy Saving Trust: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department and the bodies for which it is responsible has allocated to the Energy Saving Trust for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13. [285083]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has allocated £38.5 million to the Energy Saving Trust for 2009-10, for the valuable work it undertakes to encourage and promote the sustainable and efficient use of energy.

DECC has also allocated £1 million to fund the Energy Saving Trust's three technological field trials.

The funding allocation for future years has not yet been confirmed.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding was provided by his Department to the Energy Saving Trust in each of the last five years. [285117]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 923W.

Energy: Conservation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* loft insulations, *(b)* cavity wall insulations, *(c)* solid wall insulations and *(d)* other energy saving insulation measures have been funded directly by the Energy Saving Trust in each of the last five years. [285082]

Joan Ruddock: It has not been the Energy Saving Trust's role to fund such measures directly and the Trust has therefore not directly funded any insulation measures in the last five years.

The Trust has concentrated on raising consumers' awareness of the effectiveness of such measures and then converting that awareness into action, by sign-posting and guiding consumers to appropriate grant and offer schemes via the Government funded Act on CO_2 helpline.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to require energy companies to equalise their prepayment tariffs with those charged to quarterly customers; and if he will make a statement. [281173]

Joan Ruddock: The Government believe that differences in charges relating to the method of payment should reflect the costs of servicing that method, and should not discriminate unfairly against any group of customers. Therefore, we strongly support the regulator Ofgem's work putting in place rules to prevent unfair price discrimination related to payment method, such as PPMs.

We are keenly aware of the impact of energy costs on all groups of consumers. We do not consider that energy suppliers should be obliged to compel standard credit customers to share the higher costs of servicing pre-payment meters, which would be the consequence of equalisation.

Fuel Poverty

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Ashford, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* the UK which were in fuel poverty in the last year for which figures are available. [283004]

Mr. Kidney: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2003, and shows that there were around 2,500 fuel poor households in the Ashford constituency and around 39,200 fuel poor households in Kent.

More recent figures are available for the UK. These show that in 2006, there were around 3.5 million fuel poor households in the United Kingdom.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount of UK greenhouse gas emission reductions against a 1990 baseline attributable to *(a)* the transition of electricity generation from coal to gas, *(b)* the sourcing of services and goods as between domestic and overseas production, *(c)* the use of carbon credits sourced outwith the UK, *(d)* the direct result of Government climate change policies and *(e)* other identified causes. [282817]

Joan Ruddock: Our present estimate is that, in round terms, of the emissions reductions in 2006 below the increase that would otherwise have occurred since 1990, structural changes in the economy linked to changing patterns of imports and exports were responsible for about 30 per cent. Improvements in energy efficiency accounted for about 20 per cent., lower carbon fuels about 25 per cent. (made up of 15 per cent. from the so-called dash for gas and about 10 per cent. from renewables and other lower carbon fuels). Lower emissions of greenhouse gases other than CO_2 were responsible for some 25 per cent. The direct effect of Government policies overlaps with the estimates given above and is likely to have accounted for about 15 per cent. The effect of emissions trading in 2006 is not included in these estimates but if included would in 2006 have increased the emissions reduction by about 10 per cent.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grants have been awarded through the Low Carbon Buildings programme in respect of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) the East of England and (ii) Castle Point constituency in each year since the programme's inception. [282142]

Mr. Kidney: The following number of grants have been offered through the Low Carbon Buildings programme in respect of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) the East of England and (ii) Castle Point constituency in each year since the programme's inception.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1

Grants offered

Month grant offer letter sent

Type of organisation	*Data*	*November 2006*	*January 2007*	*February 2007*	*March 2007*	*October 2007*	*January 2008*	*Total*
Schools	Number of grants	1	1	—	2	—	—	4
	Sum of grant offered (£)	747.5	5,276.5	—	23,859.65	—	—	29,883.65
Other	Number of grants	1	2	4	2	1	2	12
	Sum of grant offered (£)	14,662.40	120,056.79	49,309.39	26,579.45	270,803	18,060.60	499,471.63

No applications received for Castle Point, therefore no grants offered.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2

East of England

	Schools		*Hospitals*		*Other public buildings*		*Total*	
	Grant value (£)	*Number of projects*	*Grant value (£)*	*Number of projects*	*Grant value (£)*	*Number of projects*	*Grant value (£)*	*Number of projects*
2007-08	218,800	16			112,697	6	331,497	22
2008-09	539,853	36	141,809	1	260,032	5	941,694	42
2009-10	173,644	8	12,160	1	67,762	1	253,565	10
Total	932,296	60	153,969	2	440,490	12	1,526,755	74

No grants were paid for Castlepoint.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 12 February 2009, on energy companies. [277103]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding. A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 8 July 2009.

Sizewell A Power Station

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what review of *(a)* inspection, *(b)* maintenance and *(c)* security procedures at UK nuclear installations there has been following the discovery of a coolant leak at Sizewell A on 7 June 2007. [280807]

Joan Ruddock: I assume that the hon. Member is referring to the coolant leak at Sizewell A on 7 January 2007 as we are not aware of a coolant leak there on 7 June 2007.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigated the event and took appropriate enforcement action to ensure compliance with stringent safety standards. The enforcement action required the licensee to carry out a review of safety to identify and implement safety improvements arising from the event. This was done and NII is content that appropriate safety measures are now in place.

As a result of the event at Sizewell A, licensees with comparable plant have carried out a review of their arrangements. Where the reviews identified areas for improvement the licensees have implemented modifications to address these.

The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) is the security regulator for the UK's civil nuclear industry. It is responsible for approving security arrangements within the industry and enforcing compliance; specifying the standards that have to be met. Security at licensed civil nuclear sites is kept under regular review.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations in Northern Ireland asking in favour of a review of the legislation on abortion as it affects Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [286452]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has received a number of representations from interested parties on all sides of the debate on the abortion law in Northern Ireland. The Government's position remains that the best forum for discussion of these matters is the Northern Ireland Assembly when it assumes responsibility for the criminal law. While the precise timing of the devolution of policing and justice is a matter for the Assembly, an agreed process is underway that will lead to the transfer of policing and justice powers, including responsibility for the criminal law relating to abortion.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he last had discussions with representatives of the political parties in Northern Ireland on the abortion law in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [286433]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has had no recent discussions with representatives from the political parties in Northern Ireland on this issue. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the leaders of the four main parties in May 2008, confirming that Government had no plans to change the law relating to abortion, and restating the Government's view that the best forum for the discussion of these matters is the Northern Ireland Assembly when it assumes responsibility for the criminal law.

Billy Wright Inquiry

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Billy Wright inquiry has cost to date. [285186]

Paul Goggins: The cost of the Billy Wright inquiry to the end of May 2009 is £25.7 million.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much in *(a)* rent, *(b)* service charges and *(c)* business rates has been paid in respect of each of the premises occupied by his Department in each year since 2005. [284863]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, and excluding its agencies and NDPBs has spent in rent, service charges and business rates in each financial year since 2005.

£

Expenditure area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Rent including ground rent	4,227,592	4,387,489	4,722,820	5,650,704
Service charge	316,924	340,664	236,408	234,172
Rates	1,548,430	1,735,904	1,396,296	1,816,003

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285030]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office uses Internet Explorer 7. However, in a number of areas some large corporate applications are at this stage still only supported for delivery using Internet Explorer 6, so there are no plans for a complete update before 2010.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on salaries and pensions for Ministers in his Department since 2005. [284858]

Paul Goggins: Ministers' salaries and pensions are set out in the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975. Details of salary and pension contributions for Ministers in the Northern Ireland Office for the years 2005 to 2008 may be found in Northern Ireland Office Resource Accounts and can be accessed by using the following link:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/niopublication/niopubsearch results.htm?category=&keyword=resource+accounts&order=date

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the staffing costs of his Department were in *(a)* April 2008 and *(b)* April 2009. [285412]

Paul Goggins: The staffing costs for the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, and excluding its agencies and NDPBs in *(a)* April 2008 and *(b)* April 2009 were:

April	£
2008	4,166,022
2009	4,309,005

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284888]

Paul Goggins: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code.

Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust. In the last five years seven civil servants in the Northern Ireland Office have taken part in the programme, two in 2004-05, one in 2005-06, three in 2006-07, one in 2007-08 and one in 2008-09.

Fines: Defaulters

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of all prison receptions in Northern Ireland have been of fine defaulters in each of the last three years. [286312]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number and percentage of prison receptions in Northern Ireland for fine default as compared with all prison receptions. Data cover the calendar years 2006 to 2008.

Percentage of all prison receptions for fine default in Northern Ireland 2006-08

	Fine defaulter receptions	*Total receptions*	*Percentage of fine defaulter*
2006	1,951	6,472	30.1
2007	1,724	6,061	28.4
2008	1,742	6,185	28.2

Offensive Weapons

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for crimes involving an offensive weapon in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [285965]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested as it is not possible to separately identify the number of prosecutions and convictions for certain offences, for example murder, in which an offensive weapon was involved. It is only possible to provide prosecution and conviction statistics, documented in the following table, for those offences which, in their definition, relate to offensive weapons. These include: possession of offensive weapons; possession of articles with blades, points or other instruments with intent on committing an offence; and firearm offences.

Data cover the calendar years 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of prosecutions and convictions for offensive weapon offences 2002-06

	Prosecutions	Convictions
2002	268	217
2003	322	250
2004	288	236
2005	332	260
2006	395	298

Prisoner Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases the Prisoner Ombudsman in Northern Ireland has investigated in each of the last three years. [285507]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Prisoner Ombudsman's Office, which operates independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write directly to the Prisoner Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, Mrs. Pauline McCabe.

Robert Hamill Inquiry

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Robert Hamill inquiry has cost to date. [285188]

Paul Goggins: The cost of the Robert Hamill inquiry to the end of May 2009 is £26.8 million.

Rosemary Nelson Inquiry

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Rosemary Nelson inquiry has cost to date. [285187]

Paul Goggins: The cost of the Rosemary Nelson inquiry to the end of May 2009 is £41.1 million.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many licence applications to the Security Industry Authority have been made in Northern Ireland to date. [286313]

Paul Goggins: To the end of June 2009, 1,864 licence applications had been received by the Security Industry Authority.

Special Purchase Evacuated Dwellings Scheme

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* serving and *(b)* former security officers have been moved under the Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings in each of the last three years. [285991]

Paul Goggins: The issue of certificates under the Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Young Offenders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people aged between 10 and 17 years and resident in Northern Ireland were convicted of an offence in each of the last five years. [286314]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number of 10 to 17-year-olds resident in Northern Ireland who were convicted of an offence.

Data cover the calendar years 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

10 to 17-year-olds resident in Northern Ireland who were convicted of an offence 2002-06

	Number
2002	1,647
2003	1,557
2004	1,576
2005	1,436
2006	1,263

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Asbestos: Documents

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 553W, on asbestos: documents, (1) how many asbestos health-related files have been retained since 1984; [285246]

(2) how many and what percentage of electronic files have been retained since 1984 after the seven year review held in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive's document retention policy; [285247]

(3) how many and what percentage of paper files have been retained since 1984 after the nine year review held in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive's document retention policy. [285248]

Mr. Casker: Under the Asbestos (Licensing) Regulations 1983 only HSE are required to collect documents. Therefore my Department does not do so.

The Department retains a number of files and other documents relating to asbestos in schools. Our asbestos related paper files are classified as long-term storage and are reviewed after 10 years.

DCSF electronic files related to asbestos are reviewed every five years. Other less important documents are held in temporary storage and will need to be reviewed if they are to be retained.

Children: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of nursery settings which are charging top-up fees *(a)* on the free entitlement hours and *(b)* outside the free entitlement hours in order to subsidise the provision of the free entitlement. [286021]

Dawn Primarolo: The code of practice on delivery of the free early education entitlement is clear that the free entitlement should be free at the point of delivery and that charging of top-up fees for free entitlement hours is unacceptable. Where there is evidence that providers are charging top-up fees, we expect local authorities to ensure that parents are able to access a completely free place.

Providers are free to agree with parents charges for additional services outside the free entitlement hours—that is a private matter between the parent and the provider.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nurseries have closed in each year from 2006. [286022]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest available information on the number of nurseries opening and closing is shown in the table.

Number of full day care settings that have opened and closed, as at 31 March each year, England 2006-08

	Opened	*Closed*
2006	2,300	1,300
2007	2,200	1,500
2008	2,100	1,700

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Ofsted.

Ofsted data on closures include registered places in settings which are transferring ownership, and in settings which move from one Ofsted category to another, not just in those which are ceasing trading. For example, if a full daycare provider moved to offering sessional provision, this would be recorded as a 'closed' full daycare setting and an 'opened' sessional daycare setting. The Ofsted data therefore exaggerate the true extent of turnover.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make interim arrangements to assist nurseries experiencing short-term financial difficulties before the implementation of the single local funding formula in April 2010. [286333]

Dawn Primarolo: Local authorities have a range of tools they can use to support nurseries and other early years providers to ensure their sustainability. For the funding period 2008-11, the Department has allocated £378 million of revenue funding and £642 million of capital funding to local authorities to support the sufficiency of and access to child care, part of the Sure Start early years and child care grant.

All local authorities will implement a single local funding formula from April 2010 to address any inconsistencies in funding that may exist and to ensure that the funding for all providers is based on the same principles.

Extra-curricular Activities: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was allocated for the provision of extra-curricular activities in schools in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [285327]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to every school providing access to a core offer of extended services, including a varied menu of extra curricular activities from 8 am to 6 pm, by 2010. To support this, the DCSF has provided significant funding to support the delivery of extended services, including committing over £1 billion in the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. The table sets out the extended services funding allocated from 2003-04, the start of the Full Service Extended School pilot, to 2010-11 for every local authority in the Government office North East region, including local authorities in the Tees Valley and Middlesbrough local authority.

This funding is passed to local authorities to support the development of the core extended services offer in every school. The exact amount of funding spent on extra curricular activities as part of supporting delivery of the broader extended services core offer is a matter for local decision making by local authorities and schools.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Darlington	—	162,000	93,000	524,659	620,343	915,129	2,060,131	2,975,260
Durham	—	162,000	417,000	1,674,463	2,239,225	2,599,819	6,473,507	9,033,326
Gateshead	162,000	93,000	93,000	702,247	888,295	1,346,925	2,937,467	4,294,392
Hartlepool	162,000	93,000	93,000	462,891	569,451	622,961	1,655,303	2,278,264
Middlesbrough	162,000	93,000	93,000	590,771	756,402	854,348	2,201,521	3,055,870

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Newcastle upon Tyne	162,000	93,000	93,000	868,780	1,173,788	1,313,969	3,356,537	4,670,506
North Tyneside	162,000	93,000	93,000	693,010	847,350	918,908	2,459,268	[illegible]8,175
Northumberland	0	162,000	255,000	1,084,773	1,456,415	1,857,295	4,398,483	6,255,778
Redcar and Cleveland	162,000	93,000	93,000	601,252	773,435	1,230,137	2,604,824	3,834,960
South Tyneside	162,000	93,000	93,000	603,531	775,162	862,224	2,240,917	3,103,141
Sunderland	162,000	93,000	93,000	993,968	1,290,885	1,390,028	3,634,881	5,024,910

Note:
Funding in 2003-04 to 2005-06 was for the Full Service Extended Schools Pilot. Funding in 2010-11 does not include the LA allocations for the extended services subsidy funding, which have not been announced.

Foster Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were registered as being privately-fostered in the latest year for which figures are available. [286377]

Dawn Primarolo: As at 31 March 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, 1,330 children were reported as being cared for and accommodated in private fostering arrangements in England.

This number was published in "Private Fostering Arrangements in England: Year Ending 31 March 2008" on 31 July 2008 and can be found on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000803/index.shtml

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools which received an Ofsted rating of *(a)* satisfactory and *(b)* inadequate for behaviour had less than 30 per cent. of pupils gain five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C in each year since 2005. [282727]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 3 July 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Table A below shows the number of secondary schools with satisfactory or inadequate behaviour at the most recent Ofsted inspection (as at 3 April 2009), which had less than 30 per cent of pupils gain five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C in each year since 2005, where GCSE attainment data are available.

Table A: Number of secondary schools (including middle deemed secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies) with satisfactory and inadequate behaviour as at 3 April 2009, which had less than 30 per cent. of pupils gain five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A to C in each year since 2005*

Behaviour at last inspection	2005	2006	2007	2008
Satisfactory				
Number of schools (for which GCSE attainment data are available)	716	721	733	725
Number of schools with less than 30 per cent. of pupils gaining five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C	373	342	316	246
Inadequate				
Number of schools (for which GCSE attainment data are available)	29	29	31	30
Number of schools with less than 30 per cent. of pupils gaining five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C	16	17	16	16

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Pre School Education: Bullying

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the levels of *(a)* bullying and *(b)* intimidation by other children of Jewish children attending nursery schools since December 2008; what steps he is taking to protect Jewish children from such actions; and if he will make a statement. [285552]

Mr. Coaker: Schools, including mainstream nursery schools, have a duty in law to promote race equality and it is compulsory for them to have measures in place to prevent and tackle bullying, whatever the motivation. In March 2006 we published specialist guidance on bullying around race, religion and culture which focused on preventing and tackling racist bullying in schools and included material on bullying related to anti-Semitism.

We intend also next year to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record all incidents of bullying between pupils. We will consult on this in the autumn and also on whether schools should be obliged to report these incidents to their local authority.

Schools Grant

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on excess balances maintained by local authorities out of money received

via the dedicated schools grant; what information his Department collects on such balances; and if he will make a statement. [285596]

Mr. Coaker: The Department believes that it is sound financial management for schools to retain a small surplus from year to year—but the total of balances for 2007-08, which came to £1.9 billion, was too high.

The Department collects figures of the balances and deficits held by schools via the Section 52 Outturn statements, which are completed by all local authorities in England. In February 2009, we published the figures for balances and deficits held by schools for the financial year 2007-08. The information for 2008-09 is due to be submitted to the Department by 25 August 2009.

The Department expects schools and local authorities to work to reduce the total and we encourage local authorities to make full use of their power to claw back excessive balances and redistribute it to where it is needed in their area. If balances do not reduce substantially, the Department will consult on further action from 2011-12 to bring the total down.

Schools: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what timetable he has set for meeting hon. Members representing constituencies in Essex to discuss school closures. [285745]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: As discussed during Prime Minister's Questions on 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 793W and following on from the Whitsun Recess Questions, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, has given a commitment to meet hon. Members representing constituencies in Essex to discuss school closures. Correspondence has recently been received from the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) requesting this meeting. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is in the process of responding to this with view to arranging a meeting after the summer recess.

Young People: Housing

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on liaison between housing officers and social services following a request from a 17-year-old girl for accommodation; and what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the provision of mediation and counselling services to the families of such girls when that family includes a 15-year-old sister prior to the arrangement of independent accommodation. [286345]

Dawn Primarolo: In order to ensure that children and young people who are at risk of homelessness receive the support they need it is important that the various statutory services in place to protect them are joined up. In the circumstances described we would expect children's and Housing services to follow the joint DCLG and DCSF guidance Joint working between Housing and Children's Services - Preventing homelessness and tackling its effects on children and young people.

This says that Children's Services and Housing Services should establish arrangements in their areas for ensuring that a Common Assessment Framework assessment is considered for all children and young people who come to the attention of authorities as homeless or at risk of homelessness. Such an assessment would include looking at a range of issues, including their family and home circumstances.

If the young person was not at risk of harm at home, services should look at what can be done to support the young person and their family to enable the young person to continue living at home. This could include the provision of mediation and counselling services where it was felt this would meet a specific need.

Young People: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Draft Legislative Programme 2009, Cm 7654, page 20, who in Oxfordshire will be responsible for delivering the commitment that every young person should give at least 50 hours of service to their community in their teenage years. [284933]

Mr. Iain Wright: We intend to build on existing good practice by implementing the £146 million package of measures announced by the Prime Minister on April 24 this year when he set out our ambition that, in time, all young people should contribute at least 50 hours to their local community by the age of 19.

The package includes £7 million to run a set of intensive pilots to test ways of delivering significant increases in the proportions of young people within a given area participating in community service. These pilots will involve over 14,000 14 to 16-year-olds in the next two years and will provide valuable lessons to help schools provide more service opportunities for their pupils through partnerships that will increase the supply of high quality community service opportunities, and also the interest of young people in serving their communities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284395]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department outsources management of all Databases. The databases it uses which do not contain personal information are:

Argus (Government Art Collection Database)
Asset Tracking
Cabinet Committee Correspondence
Calendar of Events
Calendar of IT Works Database
Central Information and Briefing Wiki
Directors blog
Livelink (Electronic Records management Repository)
Nakisa (Internal Telephone Directory)
Parliamentary Questions
Sharepoint Portal Sites
TABS Room Booking
User Account Report Form

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286548]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by my Department in each of the last five years. The information on the total number of unsuccessful attempts could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285019]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department will have completed the move to Internet Explorer 7 by the end of August. We are also looking at our longer term web browser strategy.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285307]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's policies regarding the purchase of office equipment and stationery have not changed in the last six months. Our policy is to buy sustainable and environmentally friendly products using collaborative agreements which have been established though organisations such as OGC Buying Solutions.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284975]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport have had no employees posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in the last five years.

Digital Broadcasting: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of homes which have access to digital television in *(a)* the Vale of York and *(b)* North Yorkshire. [286161]

Mr. Simon: Presently, 83 per cent. of households in Yorkshire can receive digital television via an aerial. After switchover, 99 per cent. will be able to watch around 17 TV channels and 97 per cent. will be able to watch additional channels, all via an aerial. We do not have individual figures for the Vale of York and North Yorkshire.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of appliances to be made redundant by *(a)* digital television switchover, *(b)* the roll-out of universal broadband access and *(c)* digital radio switchover. [282618]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The answers to the question are as follows:

(a) Digital switchover itself does not require any equipment to be thrown away. Virtually any analogue TV can be converted to digital with the addition of a set-top box. We recognise that some consumers may use digital switchover as an opportunity to upgrade their TV and/or to dispose of analogue TV equipment (TVs and recorders). Research undertaken for DEFRA and DTI in 2006 indicated that switchover was not expected to cause any significant overall increase in TV or recorder disposals. For example, it predicted a 1 per cent. increase in recorder disposals. There is no current evidence to show additional disposal of equipment that can be attributed to digital switchover.

(b) No estimate has been made on equipment that may be redundant on the roll-out of Universal Broadband Access. Whether or not equipment would be made obsolete will depend on the technologies used to provide the universal service. This will be determined by the procurement process, and the subsequent bids from providers.

(c) Ofcom's research in September 2008 showed that about 45.9 million analogue-only radio devices were in use in the UK at least once a week. In addition their research showed that there were about 22.5 million cars with an analogue-only radio. There are no plans to close all services which these radios can receive. However to enable these radios to continue to receive a full range of services, in Digital Britain: Final Report we urge manufacturers to look closely at the market opportunities for DAB to 'FM re-broadcasters', a set-top box solution for analogue radio, as a means of allowing existing analogue radios to receive DAB in the future.

The Digital Britain Report may be found at:

http://www.dcms.gov.uk/what_we_do/broadcasting/5631.aspx

English Heritage: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what remuneration the Chair of English Heritage will receive in 2010-11; what employer pension contributions will be paid on the chair's behalf; and what the maximum potential bonus payment is. [285778]

Mr. Bradshaw: Baroness Andrews will commence her duties as Chair of English Heritage on 27 July 2009 for a period of four years. Her salary is £45,000 per annum for a commitment of 90 days per annum and it is non-pensionable. In addition, she may claim for travel and subsistence. Bonuses are not paid.

National Football Centre

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what reports he has received on the proposed date of completion of the National Football Centre; and if he will make a statement. [284814]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Football Centre, including timescale for completion, is a matter for the Football Association. I have asked the Football Association to write to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent, North (Joan Walley) directly.

Radio Frequencies

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which representatives of the programme making and special events industry were consulted by the independent Spectrum Broker during his review of the sale of the radio spectrum; by what methodology such representatives were selected; and if he will make a statement. [278305]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Government appointed the Independent Spectrum Broker in February 2009 to take forward the spectrum modernisation plans that had been set out in the Interim Digital Britain Report. The Independent Spectrum Broker was asked by the Government to address how the existing challenges to future auctions and liberalisation might be resolved, whether historic spectrum allocations might be placed on a more even footing, how better incentives for investment and development of services might be encouraged and a fair return for the tax payer from any new arrangements achieved. His report was published on 13 May 2009.

To my knowledge the Independent Spectrum Broker has not had any specific meetings with any representatives from the programme making and special events (PMSE) sector, but he is now in the next phase of his work and would be happy to meet with the PMSE community.

Radio: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of analogue radios in use in the North West. [285800]

Mr. Simon: My Department has made no estimation of the number of analogue radios in the north-west. However, research conducted by Ofcom in 2008, showed that about 45.9 million analogue radio devices were in use in the UK at least once a week. In addition their research showed that there were about 22.5 million cars with an analogue radio.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Child Support Agency spent on consultants in each year since 2006-07. [279626]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions, how much the Child Support Agency spent on consultants in each year since 2006-07. [279626]

The Child Support Agency spend on consultants was £5.2 million in 2006/07, £3.2 million in 2007/08 and £2.8 million in 2008/09.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the proportion of parents with care with a child maintenance entitlement who are *(a)* not receiving maintenance payments and *(b)* receiving less that their full maintenance entitlement. [274721]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of parents with care with a child maintenance entitlement who are (a) not receiving maintenance payments and (b) receiving less that their full maintenance entitlement. [274721]

In the twelve months to the end of March 2009, the Commission estimates that 78% of cases due maintenance received payment. The table below sets out the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's estimate of the proportion of cases who received all the maintenance due (fully compliant cases) and those cases who did not receive any of the maintenance due (non-compliant cases) in the twelve months to the end of March 2009.

	Percentage
Cases fully compliant	44
Cases receiving 70-99 per cent.	16
Cases receiving less than 70 per cent.	18
Cases not compliant	22

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median amount of arrears owed by non-resident parents to the Child Support Agency and Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission was in each month since 1993. [278841]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the (a) mean and (b) median amount of arrears owed by non-resident parents to the Child Support Agency and Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission was in each month since 1993. [278841]

The information requested is provided in the attached tables. Outstanding maintenance arrears are not owed to the Child Support Agency or to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission but are owed by non-resident parents either to the parent with care or to the Secretary of State.

Table 1 shows the level of outstanding maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents to parents with care. Table 2 shows the total amount of arrears owed to both the parent with care and to the Secretary of State.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Cases with maintenance arrears owed to the parent with care (PWC)

	Cases	*Total arrears (£ billion)*	*Mean amount owed to PWC (£)*	*Median amount owed to PWC (£)*
March 2007	636,500	1.721	2,700	600
April 2007	643,400	1.731	2,700	600
May 2007	650,900	1.744	2,700	600
June 2007	656,600	1.751	2,700	600
July 2007	659,600	1.760	2,700	600
August 2007	666,900	1.767	2,700	600
September 2007	670,600	1.778	2,700	600
October 2007	676,200	1.786	2,600	600
November 2007	682,300	1.792	2,600	600
December 2007	686,800	1.805	2,600	600
January 2008	688,400	1.810	2,600	600
February 2008	687,600	1.804	2,600	600
March 2008	697,100	1.822	2,600	600
April 2008	702,500	1.827	2,600	600
May 2008	706,900	1.835	2,600	500
June 2008	711,800	1.842	2,600	500
July 2008	717,700	1.848	2,600	500
August 2008	718,700	1.854	2,600	500
September 2008	718,800	1.863	2,600	500
October 2008	827,400	1.868	2,300	400
November 2008	852,100	1.885	2,200	300
December 2008	863,000	1.906	2,200	400
January 2009	858,600	1.918	2,200	400
February 2009	858,700	1.926	2,200	400
March 2009	861,400	1.932	2,200	400

Notes:
1. Data are only available from March 2007 onwards.
2. Information provided only includes cases where arrears are owed to the parent with care. This excludes arrears owed to the Secretary of State as well as some cases where the parent with care owes money.
3. Case figures are rounded to nearest 100, total arrears are rounded to the nearest million, and the mean and median amounts owed are rounded to the nearest 100.

Table 2: Cases with maintenance arrears owed to the parent with care and Secretary of State

	Cases	*Total arrears (£ billion)*	*Mean amount owed (£)*	*Median amount owed (£)*
March 2007	979,100	3.687	3,800	800
April 2007	989,300	3.698	3,700	800
May 2007	999,900	3.711	3,700	800
June 2007	1,011,300	3.728	3,700	800
July 2007	1,019,800	3.737	3,700	800
August 2007	1,026,600	3.748	3,700	800
September 2007	1,036,300	3.757	3,600	700
October 2007	1,042,600	3.771	3,600	700
November 2007	1,049,400	3.781	3,600	700
December 2007	1,056,500	3.787	3,600	700
January 2008	1,063,100	3.804	3,600	700
February 2008	1,065,900	3.809	3,600	700
March 2008	1,060,300	3.779	3,600	700
April 2008	1,078,000	3.823	3,500	700
May 2008	1,084,400	3.828	3,500	700
June 2008	1,089,700	3.839	3,500	700
July 2008	1,096,100	3.845	3,500	700
August 2008	1,102,100	3.851	3,500	700

Table 2: Cases with maintenance arrears owed to the parent with care and Secretary of State

	Cases	Total arrears (£ billion)	Mean amount owed (£)	Median amount owed (£)
September 2008	1,099,000	3.852	3,500	700
October 2008	1,092,100	3.865	3,500	700
November 2008	1,092,600	3.840	3,500	700
December 2008	1,093,000	3.870	3,500	700
January 2009	1,098,400	3.882	3,500	700
February 2009	1,092,700	3.882	3,600	700
March 2009	1,091,100	3.878	3,600	700

Notes:
1. Data are only available from March 2007 onwards.
2. Case figures are rounded to nearest 100, total arrears are rounded to the nearest million, and the mean and median amounts owed are rounded to the nearest 100.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* compliant non-resident parents and *(b)* non-compliant non-resident parents who were registered with the Child Support Agency on the latest date for which figures are available were paying maintenance at the (i) basic, (ii) reduced, (iii) flat and (iv) nil rate; [279120]

(2) what steps are taken to monitor the income and maintenance liability of non-resident parents in respect of whom the Child Support Agency has made nil maintenance calculations. [281754]

Helen Goodman: *[holding answers 12 and 22 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many (a) compliant non-resident parents and (b) non-compliant non-resident parents who were registered with the Child Support Agency on the latest date for which figures are available were paying maintenance at the (i) basic rate, (ii) reduced rate, (iii) flat rate and (iv) nil rate. [279120] and;

What steps are taken to monitor the income and maintenance liability of non-resident parents in respect of whom the Child Support Agency has made nil maintenance calculations. [281754]

The terms, basic, reduced, and flat rate maintenance apply to current scheme cases only. The information you have requested for compliant non-resident parents in these categories is shown in the attached table. Compliance is defined as those non-resident parents in each quarter who have paid maintenance. Non-compliant non-resident parents are those from whom maintenance has been requested but who have not paid maintenance in the previous quarter. Therefore I have also included information on non-compliant cases assessed at the basic, reduced, flat rate maintenance for current scheme cases only in the attached table.

It should be noted that the compliance measure has been replaced by the more useful maintenance outcomes measure, which includes both those cases where the non-resident parent pays maintenance direct to the parent with care and those cases with a maintenance assessment but which have yet to be asked for maintenance. This is a more accurate measure of the impact the Commission is having on improving the proportion of parents paying maintenance. I have therefore also set out the number of cases with a positive maintenance outcome under the categories you have requested in the attached Table 2.

In addition to the information on basic, reduced and flat rate current scheme cases set out in the attached table, in the quarter to March 2009 there were 106,300 current scheme cases with a nil maintenance assessment.

The Child Support Agency is required to recalculate the maintenance liability when either parent provides information indicating that relevant circumstances have changed. It does not contact clients who have not reported any change to review their current maintenance liability.

Under the future statutory child maintenance scheme, the Commission will calculate maintenance liability based on a non-resident parent's gross income. This information will be provided by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and will be for the latest available tax year. Maintenance liability will also be reviewed annually with updated information received from HMRC, ensuring that in cases where neither parent has reported a change of circumstances any change in gross income will be notified to the Commission.

As with the current scheme, either parent will be able to notify the Commission of a change of circumstances which affects gross income and therefore maintenance liability. Cases with a change of circumstances which would trigger a review of a nil maintenance calculation can be reassessed without waiting for confirmation of the gross income from HMRC. It is intended that this new statutory maintenance scheme will be introduced from 2011, with existing cases moving to the new scheme over a period of 3 years.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Compliance

	Flat rate	Basic rate	Reduced rate
Compliant	93,800	111,900	26,700
Non-compliant	46,600	29,000	11,300

Table 2: Maintenance outcomes

	Flat rate	Basic rate	Reduced rate
Cases receiving maintenance	111,700	192,500	46,200
Cases not receiving maintenance	69,100	50,300	18,700

Notes:
1. The compliance measure includes those cases where a payment has been requested in the quarter to March 2009.
2. Compliant cases have been classed as those cases which have paid maintenance in the quarter to March 2009, excluding maintenance direct cases.
3. Non-compliant cases have been classed as those cases which have a payment schedule in place and have not paid maintenance in the quarter to March 2009, excluding maintenance direct cases.
4. Under Maintenance Outcomes, cases receiving maintenance includes those cases with a positive maintenance assessment receiving maintenance, including maintenance direct cases.
5. Cases not receiving maintenance include cases with a maintenance assessment where the agency has not yet asked for payment.
6. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
7. All figures include current scheme cases only.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 977-8W, on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: ICT, what the budget for the gross income statutory maintenance scheme is. [279988]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Answer of 24 November 2008 Official Report columns 977-8W on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: ICT what the budget for the gross income statutory maintenance scheme is. [279988]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has agreed funding and budgets only until March 2011, when the current spending review period ends. In the current spending review period the Commission has set aside £215m as investment in new services. These costs cover implementing the new legislation; developing, building and launching the future statutory maintenance scheme; recruiting and training the additional people needed during the transition period; setting up and managing the first residual arrears cases; and redesigning and restructuring the organisation and its processes. During this period of great change, long term costs and funding will be continually reviewed to ensure the greatest efficiency and effectiveness is achieved when providing the statutory maintenance scheme.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission takes of the circumstances of *(a)* resident parents and their families and *(b)* non-resident parents and their families in determining child maintenance. [281841]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what account the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission takes of the circumstances of (a) resident parents and their families and (b) non-resident parents and their families in determining child maintenance. [281841]

Different rules apply to the calculation of child maintenance liabilities, dependant on whether the application for maintenance was effective before the 3rd of March 2003 (such cases are referred to as the "old scheme") or received on or after this date (and referred to as the "current scheme").

In the old scheme, the income of both the parent with care and the non-resident parent is taken into account where the Child Support Agency calculates the amount of child maintenance that the non-resident parent should pay. The personal circumstances of both parents are recognised in the assessment process insofar that the Agency must take into account the amount each parent pays in housing costs, for example, and also in the inclusion of certain allowances where parents have to support dependant children.

The process for the current scheme is more straightforward. The amount of maintenance that should be paid is based solely on the net weekly income of the non-resident parent, and the circumstances of the parent with care are not taken into account. However, if there are any children residing in the non-resident parent's household then the net weekly income on which the maintenance assessment is based will be reduced by a set percentage, prior to a maintenance calculation being completed. A further reduction may also apply if the non-resident parent is on a low income.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many formal complaints were received by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and its predecessor in each of the last five years; and how many such complaints were upheld. [281845]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many formal complaints were received by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and its predecessor agencies in each of the last five years; and how many such complaints were upheld. [281845]

The number of complaints received is shown in the attached table. The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency on the 1st November 2008. Therefore, for 2008/2009, complaints received prior to 1st November will be directed to the Child Support Agency and complaints received post 1st November will be directed to the Commission.

It is not possible to provide information on the number of complaints that were upheld, as this information is not captured within the management information.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Complaints per financial year

Financial year	*Complaints*
2004-05	63,800
2005-06	62,100
2006-07	47,900
2007-08	37,600
2008-09	27,800

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures for 2008-09 include complaints received by the Child Support Agency prior to 1 November 2008, and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission from the 1 November 2008.
3. These figures are published in the Child Support Agency's Annual Report and Accounts.
4. From April 2007, the Agency introduced a new complaints resolution process, which among others simplified the process from three stages to two stages.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications in respect of child maintenance the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and its predecessor has made to the courts in each of the last five years. [281847]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many applications in respect of child maintenance the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and its predecessor has made to the courts in each of the last five years. [281847]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission are currently required to apply to the courts for a liability order to obtain legal recognition of the child maintenance arrears owed. Once a liability order has been granted the Commission can then refer the case for bailiff action, or prepare a further application to the court to secure; County Court Judgments, Third Party Debt Orders and Charging Orders. In addition, where there is a wilful refusal to pay child maintenance the Commission can apply to the court to consider the suspension of a driving licence or committal to prison.

The total number of enforcement processes undertaken, including those applications listed above which were granted are regularly published in Table 21 of the March 2009 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest copy of which is available online at:

www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html and in the House of Commons Library.

In addition to the information provided in Table 21, an extract of which is attached below, the number of committal applications for 2008-09 was 2,940. Information is not available on the number of committal applications prior to 2008-09.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency—Total enforcement applications granted

	April 2004-March 2005	*April 2005-March 2006*	*April 2006-March 2007*	*April 2007-March 2008*	*February 2007-January 2008*	*February 2008-January 2009*
Total applications granted	11,665	17,640	20,725	24,240	23,960	32,980
Liability orders granted	7,760	11,245	13,510	17,755	17,235	25,090
County Court Judgement orders	1,315	2,330	1,920	1,390	1,620	630
3rd Party Debt orders	1,235	1,710	2,090	1,790	1,855	2,435
Charging orders	845	1,335	1,850	1,735	1,780	2,490
Suspended committal sentences	225	390	420	480	525	510
Committal Sentences	5	15	40	25	[redacted]	30
Suspended driving licence disqualification sentences	25	35	30	15		30
Driving licence disqualification sentences	5	5	5	5	5	5

Notes:
The information contained in the table relates to applications granted—not applications made. Information on applications made is not available.
2. A liability order is a document obtained from the court showing that they legally recognise that the debt is owing. This is the same in both England and Wales and Scotland. This is required before the Agency can use litigation powers (Diligence in Scotland).
3. County Court Judgement orders apply only to England and Wales. Registers the person with a County Court Judgement Order, which remains on their credit record for six years.
4. Third Party Debt orders in England and Wales instruct a third party to pay any funds owed to, or held on behalf of, the non-resident parent to the Agency instead. In practice this is typically used for banks and building societies.
5. Charging orders in England and Wales are where a County Court Order for the legally recognised debt is attached to the equity in the non-resident parent's property. They are then unable to re-mortgage or sell the property without satisfying the debt. If they satisfy the debt by other means the charge is removed.
6. Note that the figures for the most recent months are provisional, and may be subject to retrospective revisions.
7. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when her Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285023]

Jim Knight: The Department is planning to upgrade its web browser from Internet Explorer 6 to a more recent version by the end of 2009. The final timetable for implementation will be decided once the newer browser has been tested and the Department is satisfied that it will support the Department's core systems.

Domestic Waste: Regulation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has issued to local authorities in relation to the collection of household waste; and whether it has plans to issue *(a)* revised and *(b)* further guidance. [284088]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) produces the following guidance documents relating to the collection of household waste, including recyclables.

Good practice guidance documents produced jointly by HSE and the Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum (except for Waste 15 which was produced solely by HSE):

Waste 02: Green waste collection: Health issues;

Waste 04: Waste and recycling vehicles in street collections;

Waste 05: The safe use of refuse collection vehicle hoists and bins;

Waste 15: Health Hazards in the waste and recycling industry;

Waste 16: Glass kerbside collection: Noise reduction techniques;

Waste 17: Managing 'task and finish' to reduce safety risks;

Waste 19: Handling needles in the waste and recycling industry;

Waste 21: Health and safety training: guidelines for the waste management and recycling sector;

Waste 22: Handling offensive hygiene waste; and

Waste 23: Safe waste and recycling collection services.

Research reports made available by the HSE as part of a series of reports of work which has been supported by funds provided by the HSE:

RR701: Update to mapping health and safety standards in the UK waste industry;

RR651: Glass recycling; noise exposure from simulated roadside collection of recyclable glass—follow-up measurements;

RR609: Collecting, transfer, treatment and processing household waste and recyclables—a tool to help organisations select the most appropriate system (in terms of health and safety risk);

RR240: Mapping health and safety standards in the UK waste industry; and

RR130: Occupational and environmental exposure to bio-aerosols from composts and potential health effects—a critical review of published data.

Health and Safety Laboratory Reports funded by the HSE:

HSL/2007/21: Glass recycling: noise exposure from simulated roadside collection of recyclable glass;

HSL/2006/25: Manual handling in kerbside collection and sorting of recyclables; and

HSL/2002/21: Manual handling in refuse collection.

Guidance can also be accessed free of charge from the waste management and recycling pages on the HSE website.

HSE has no immediate plans to revise its existing guidance.

HSE is currently preparing new guidance for local authorities on the management of health and safety in waste collection service contracts and delivery. This will apply irrespective of whether the work is carried out by contractors or a local authority direct labour force. The planned publication date is spring 2010.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how far in advance of expecting to become eligible for employment support allowance an individual may submit an application for it. [283165]

Jim Knight: An advance claim for employment and support allowance can be made if a claimant does not satisfy the conditions of entitlement on the date on which a claim is made but will satisfy them for a future period. The future period must begin on a day which is no more than three months after the date of claim. These provisions do not apply to income related employment and support allowance claimants from abroad (including claimants who are not habitually resident in the UK). If an advance award is made it is subject to the claimant satisfying the conditions for entitlement when the date from which benefit is to be awarded is reached.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many employment subsidy vouchers have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* cashed by employers; [283567]

(2) how many employers have *(a)* cashed an employment subsidy voucher as part of the six month offer to jobseeker's allowance claimants and *(b)* used the six month offer employment subsidy in bulk as part of their work with Jobcentre Plus in local employment partnerships; [283568]

(3) how many people have taken up *(a)* the golden hello including (i) the £1,000 recruitment subsidy and (ii) £1,500 worth of training, *(b)* support for self-employment, *(c)* one of the 40,000 additional volunteering opportunities and *(d)* one of the 75,000 new training places under the six month offer. [283569]

Jim Knight: The recruitment subsidy and the six month offer were introduced on 6 April 2009. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid out under the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) to members of qualifying pension schemes; and how many and what proportion of such members have received payments from the FAS. [283544]

Angela Eagle: As of 19 June 2009 the FAS Operational Unit (FASOU) has assessed 666 schemes for payment and from these 12,126 people are now receiving payments. We have paid out more than £60,000,000.

All members who have notified the FASOU and are eligible for the FAS are receiving payments. We have assessed a further 692 members who will be paid when they return their personal details and a further 3581 members who will be paid when they reach their normal retirement age.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints her Department has received about the Financial Assistance Scheme since December 2007. [283580]

Angela Eagle: Since December 2007, the financial assistance scheme operational unit has received eight customer complaints.

Health and Safety Executive: Communication Service Providers

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests for communications data were made by the Health and Safety Executive to communication service providers (CSPs) under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003, *(e)* 2004, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2006, *(h)* 2007 and *(i)* 2008; and how many of these requests resulted in the requested communications data being disclosed by the relevant CSP. [284869]

Jim Knight: Before 2004, HSE sought information from communication service providers (CSPs) through use of powers under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA). These were not recorded centrally.

Since 2004, HSE has sought information through the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). HSE has made no requests for communications data from CSPs under HSWA, since 2004.

The number of requests under RIPA are as follows:

	Number of requests	
	Made by HSE to CSPs	Resulting in communications data being provided
2004	47	34
2005	36	31
2006	29	12
2007	14	8
2008	14	12

Housing Benefit

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department provides to local authorities on the publication of housing benefit localities; and if she will make a statement. [285215]

Helen Goodman: Broad Rental Market Areas (BRMAs) are determined by rent officers according to legislation set out in the Rent Officers Order. Once a determination of new boundaries has been made following a review of a BRMA, rent officers must inform the local authority of the new boundaries not more than one month in advance of the BRMA taking effect. Local housing allowance rates for each BRMA will be published by the Valuation Office Agency on the LHA Direct website.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which jobcentres have *(a)* acquired new office space, *(b)* extended existing office space and *(c)* converted existing office space to meet the work demands of higher benefit caseloads in the last 12 months. [283590]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking which jobcentres have (a) acquired new office space, (b) extended existing office space and (c) converted existing office space to meet the work demands of higher benefit caseloads in the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Directors were asked to review their existing service delivery arrangements in meeting the challenge of the current economic climate and taking into account the planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years. This review took into account the latest known information on the expected increase in business and customer volumes.

This exercise has identified that around 50 per cent. of Jobcentre Plus offices currently face capacity pressures. These pressures will be met through a range of solutions and we are unable to provide the data to fully respond to your questions (a, b and c) until all of these solutions have been implemented.

In the light of the increased customer demand we have embarked on a programme to convert or extend our existing buildings where necessary. In addition we aim to make our services more accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises. We are supplementing these measures by operating extended opening hours in some locations where the need for this is identified locally. This includes some offices opening to the public on Saturday. We will only acquire new space where all other measures are insufficient.

To date estates work has been undertaken on 18 of our buildings to increase our capacity to serve the public and these works are now complete. Detailed estates planning is under way on a further 151 of our buildings. We are finalising our plans to meet the capacity challenge in the remainder of our offices.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of working days lost of staff of Jobcentre Plus in *(a)* each month since January 2008 and *(b)* each year since 1997. [285805]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number of working days lost for staff of Jobcentre Plus in each month since January 2008 and *(b)* the average number of such working days lost in each year since 1997. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Available information is shown in the following tables.

Average working days lost by month

	Number
January 2008	10.2
February 2008	10.1
March 2008	10.1
April 2008	10.1
May 2008	10.0
June 2008	10.0
July 2008	10.0
August 2008	9.8
September 2008	9.7
October 2008	9.6
November 2008	9.7
December 2008	9.7
January 2009	9.5
February 2009	9.4
March 2009	9.3
April 2009	9.1
May 2009	9.0

Source:
The monthly information provided has been drawn from the MI Portal for the period January 2008 to October 2008 and from BOXI for the subsequent period from November 2008 to May 2009 (the latest information available).

Average working days lost by year

	Number
2003	12.0
2004	9.8
2005	10.3
2006-07	11.1
2007-08	10.1
2008-09	9.3

Sources:
2003 to 2006-07 - the Cabinet Office's annual report 'Analysis of sick absence in the Civil Service'; 2007-08 and 2008-09 - DWP's HR computer systems.

I am unable to provide annual information from 1997 as Jobcentre Plus was only formed in April 2002. The annual information provided for the first three years (2003 to 2005) relates to each calendar year reported in the Cabinet Office's Annual Report 'Analysis of sick absence in the Civil Service'. For 2006-07, the reporting period changed from calendar year to our operational year (April to March).

Jobcentre Plus: Access

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment her Department has made of levels of accessibility of Jobcentre Plus offices for elderly and disabled people; and if she will make a statement. [285148]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what recent assessment her Department has made of levels of accessibility of Jobcentre Plus offices for elderly and disabled people. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus offices are designed to include accessibility measures for the elderly and disabled people in accordance with statutory requirements and Building Regulations. These measures are reviewed annually by the Department's external facilities provider, Telereal Trillium, as part of the annual building assessment which they are responsible for carrying out under the private finance initiative negotiated in 1998. The annual assessments may be carried out sooner if there is a major reconfiguration of a building, to check that our statutory and regulatory responsibilities are fully met.

Our departmental policy on provision of services requires us to ensure that both offices and processes do not discriminate against any of our customers. If any of our customers do have any real difficulty with accessing services in an office, we are always able to offer other options to meet their needs, for example home visits or call back arrangements.

Jobcentre Plus: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus spent on consultants in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [279382]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking how much Jobcentre Plus spent on consultants in (a) 2006-07 and (b) 2007-08. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus spent £6m on consultancy costs in 2006/07 and £11m in 2007/08.

Source:

Departmental Financial Systems

Jobcentre Plus: Disabled

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's policy is on the provision of accessible seating for elderly and disabled people in Jobcentre Plus offices. [284248]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what her Department's policy is on the provision of accessible seating for elderly and disabled people in Jobcentre Plus offices. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Disability Discrimination Act requires all providers of public services to ensure that services to customers can be accessed by all, whether that is in regard to the physical office environments or by other means. Our departmental policy on provision of services requires us to ensure that both offices and processes do not discriminate against any of our customers—this includes the range of seating components in use in our public offices.

All our components are designed and risk assessed with the full business process in mind, for example taking account of waiting times at any particular stage and considering comfort alongside safety. There is also a range of chairs, which are available for our customers should any individual have a particular problem for example, waiting seating with high or low backs and a height adjustable chair can be offered if necessary. If any of our customers have any real difficulty with accessing services in an office, however, we are always able to offer other options to meet the need, for example home visits or call back arrangements.

Disability access audits were also introduced during the rollout of Jobcentre Plus, to ensure that where physically possible, our offices provided suitable access for all groups, including customers with mobility and sensory impairments.

Jobcentre Plus: Drugs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment her Department plans to make of the effectiveness of drug co-ordinators in Jobcentre Plus. [284846]

Jim Knight: Evaluation examining the effectiveness of drug co-ordinators will take place next year. It will examine key aspects of the drug co-ordinator role in order to identify best practice and areas for improvement, and explore ways in which co-ordinators engage in wider partnership working. The research will explore the perceptions and experiences of a range of stakeholders, including service users.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed at Jobcentre branches in each London borough in each of the last five years. [272832]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff were employed at Jobcentre branches in each London borough in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table enclosed shows the number of staff employed in Jobcentre Plus offices by London borough as at March 2008 and March 2009. Information is not available for previous years as our IT records cannot match our Jobcentre sites to local authority boroughs.

The table uses full-time equivalent (FTE) staff figures rather than actual staff numbers, as a proportion of the staff involved are part-time. Substantial recruitment of staff is ongoing across London to enable Jobcentre Plus to maintain its services to its customers.

London borough	*Full-time equivalent March 2008*	*March 2009*
Barking and Dagenham	118	130
Barnet	116	138
Bexley	111	114
Brent	186	197
Bromley	108	107
Camden	78	76
Croydon	177	198
Ealing	175	175
Enfield	172	178
Greenwich	167	175
Hackney	227	240
Hammersmith and Fulham	134	177
Haringey	161	167
Harrow	160	138
Havering	83	96
Hillingdon	98	100
Hounslow	98	89
Islington	225	223
Kensington and Chelsea	45	45
Kingston upon Thames	45	73
Lambeth	342	330
Lewisham	174	200
Merton	75	46
Newham	231	235
Redbridge	96	110
Richmond upon Thames	35	32
Southwark	205	189
Sutton	48	60
Tower Hamlets	173	170
Waltham Forest	170	181
Wandsworth	83	97
Westminster	128	138
Total	4,446	4,624

Note:
The table shows that in a small number of boroughs, staffing numbers reduced between March 2008 and March 2009. In Merton, where the biggest reduction took place, this was due to the closure of the Wimbledon office. In other cases, reductions were due to the retrenchment of clerical posts and staff and work will also have moved from one office to another, within the same Jobcentre Plus district but across borough boundaries.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Dataview.

Jobcentre Plus: Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [276368]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how much Jobcentre Plus has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All expenditure on entertainment (also known within the Department as hospitality) is made in accordance with published Departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety. These are based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The information requested is shown in the table below.

	£000
2003-04	[1]79
2004-05	28
2005-06	43
2006-07	106
2007-08	10

[1] Denotes an estimate based on analysis of expenditure for 2003-04.
Source:
DWP financial systems

The figures for 2008/09 are not yet available, but will be due for publication later this month.

Jobcentre Plus: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vacancies for front-line staff in Jobcentre Plus have been advertised since 1 January 2009; how many have been filled *(a)* internally from within Jobcentre Plus, *(b)* from another Government Department or agency and *(c)* from elsewhere; and for each vacancy that has been filled, what the length of the contract was. [268022]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many vacancies for front-line staff in Jobcentre Plus have been advertised since 1 January 2009; how many have been filled internally from within Jobcentre Plus, from another Government Department or agency and from elsewhere; and for each vacancy that has been filled what the length of the contract was. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I can confirm that there were from 1 January 2009 to 29 May 2009 11,856 front-line vacancies advertised across the whole of Jobcentre Plus and that 7,146 posts were filled, broken down as follows:

Internally from within Jobcentre Plus: 481

From other government departments or agencies: 214

From elsewhere: 6,451

For each appointment made within this period, the appointment type and length of the contract is as follows:

Permanent staff: 3,202

Temporary and Fixed Term Appointments: 3,249

Jobseeker's Allowance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data her Department collects on the living costs of jobseeker's allowance claimants aged *(a)* 25 years old or more and *(b)* under 25 years old. [281601]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* My Department does not collect data on the living costs of jobseeker's allowance claimants.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her policy is on jobseeker's allowance claimants accepting offers of short-term casual employment; what guidance her Department issues to Jobcentre Plus staff on the provision of advice to claimants on this matter; and if she will make a statement. [284232]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The Government recognise that work is the best way out of poverty and actively encourages customers to take up employment; this includes part-time and casual work.

In order to incentivise the uptake of part-time and casual employment and to make it easier to move back on to benefit, Jobcentre Plus has introduced a rapid reclaim process. This means that where a customer returns to jobseeker's allowance within 26 weeks the claim process is shortened and the return to benefit is simpler and quicker.

Customers can also undertake part-time or casual employment and remain on jobseeker's allowance provided that they work for less than 16 hours per week. For those who work over 16 hours in a job where they expect that work to continue for at least four weeks, working tax credit may be available.

There is no specific guidance for Jobcentre Plus staff in respect of jobseeker's allowance benefit recipients wishing to do part-time or casual employment. However, advisers are fully aware of jobseeker's allowance regulations about part-time work and actively encourage those wishing to undertake part-time or casual work while still assisting them in finding full-time work.

Key Workers

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent estimate is of the number of key workers in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands. [282486]

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of key workers in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency. [283184]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the form requested as official employment statistics are collected using a standard occupational classification that does not directly match the categories commonly used to determine eligibility for existing local initiatives aimed at key workers.

Local Employment Partnerships

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 123W, on local employment partnerships, what the outturn costs of *(a)* each of the local award ceremonies and *(b)* the grand final were. [286627]

Jim Knight: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W.

National Insurance: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many national insurance *(a)* cards and *(b)* numbers were withdrawn for having been found to have been fraudulently obtained in each of the last five years; [281962]

(2) how many applications for a national insurance card or number were rejected owing to fraudulent documents being used in support of such applications in each of the last five years. [281988]

Jim Knight: The adult National Insurance number allocation process administered by Jobcentre Plus includes stringent verification of identity and right to work checks, which are designed to ensure that National Insurance numbers cannot be fraudulently obtained.

No National Insurance numbers or National Insurance number cards have been withdrawn in the last five years. However, in any case where there is suspicion that a National Insurance number is vulnerable to misuse, such as benefit fraud, the relevant National Insurance number record is annotated accordingly. Any subsequent claim using a National Insurance number would automatically be subjected to close scrutiny and, if appropriate, referred to the Departments Fraud Investigation Service.

The number of National Insurance number accounts marked over the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Number of marked accounts
2004-05	1,087
2005-06	2,521
2006-07	2,965
2007-08	3,234
2008-09	1,470

Note:
Each year runs from 1 April to 31 March.
HMRC are responsible for the issue of National Insurance cards. Possession of a card does not provide proof of identity, right to work or proof of entitlement to benefits.
National Insurance cards only serve as a reminder to the individual of their National Insurance number and nothing else. National Insurance cards are not withdrawn.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus

The following table shows the latest available information for National Insurance numbers that have been rejected due to the use of fraudulent documents.

	National insurance number applications rejected due to fraudulent documents being used in support of such applications
2004-05	548
2005-06	748
2006-07	595
2007-08	654

Notes:
1. Each year runs from 1 April to 31 March.
2. Information is not available for 2008-09.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus.

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding her Department has provided to the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in each of the last five years. [285553]

Jim Knight: Although my Department works closely with the National Treatment Agency, we have not provided any funding in the last five years.

New Deal Schemes

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* average duration of the test trading scheme element of the New Deal was in England in the last 12 months. [274343]

Jim Knight: The maximum duration of the test trading scheme element of the new deal in the last 12 months was 26 weeks. The average duration of the test trading scheme element of the new deal was 18 weeks.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what restrictions are in place on New Deal early entry; and in what areas they apply. [283593]

Jim Knight: There are no such restrictions in place. Where an adviser feels a customer is particularly disadvantaged in the labour market and unlikely to find work without more intensive support, they will offer voluntary early entry access to additional help delivered either through stage three of the new jobseekers' regime and flexible new deal process where introduced, or the existing new deal gateway. Either way, the customer receives intensive support from their own personal adviser and access to a wide range of employment and training related opportunities.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any existing New Deal providers in flexible New Deal 1 areas have *(a)* reduced and *(b)* withdrawn service provision since 29 May 2009. [283595]

Jim Knight: The transition arrangements agreed with the new deal providers to ensure provision is kept in place to 25 September 2009 are continuing. There has been no reduction of new deal provision since 29 May 2009. There have been no notified changes of services by new deal providers outside of the above agreements.

No new deal providers in the flexible new deal phase 1 areas have withdrawn the services they provide since 29 May 2009.

There are no new referrals to new deal provision from 29 June 2009 in phase 1 areas, but providers are continuing to provide a service to support those customers already on the provision. Customers who would have been referred to new deal will now be referred to stage 3 of the jobseeker's regime.

Pathways to Work

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people she expects to participate in Pathways to Work in each year from 2008 to 2015. [266114]

Jim Knight: Official statistics on the number of participants in Jobcentre Plus and provider-led pathways to work are available up to January 2009. The figures are to be found at annex A in the report "Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work Official Statistics", June 2009 and annex A in "Provider-Led Pathways to Work Official Statistics", July 2009. These reports can be accessed at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/ib_rtf_p2w.asp

Copies of these two reports have been placed in the Library.

With the exception of those placed in the support group, all new employment and support allowance customers are required to participate in pathways to work. Those in the support group can volunteer for back-to-work support through pathways to work, as can existing incapacity benefits customers.

Forecasts for the numbers of people expected to reach the main phase of employment and support allowance are available for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11. These can be viewed in table C1: Numbers receiving benefits, 1991-92 to 2010-11 at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

A copy of the table has been placed in the Library.

These will next be updated at the pre-Budget report. Figures beyond 2010-11 are not provided. Final spending plans for departmental expenditure limits will be set in relation to the final annually managed expenditure forecasts at the time of the next spending review.

These forecasts do not take into account the measures announced in the December 2009 White Paper, Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future. From 2010, all existing incapacity benefits customers will receive personalised back-to-work support, based on the pathways to work model, when they are migrated from incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance.

Pension Credit

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of raising the level of pension credit to ensure that no pensioner receives an income below the poverty line. [271597]

Angela Eagle: No single measure captures all aspects of poverty—as a result PSA 17 includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), after housing costs

are taken into account. The low income threshold varies for each household to take into account variations in both the size and composition of a household. For example, the threshold for a single pensioner living alone is different to that of a single pensioner living with grown-up children. However, in both cases they would be entitled to the same amount of pension credit.

The information requested in the question is not available. Furthermore, raising the value of guarantee credit for couples to the level of the 60 per cent. threshold would be insufficient to ensure that no pensioner remains below that threshold because of those pensioners who do not take up the benefits to which they are entitled.

It is not possible to predict in advance the value of low income thresholds. Any projection of the median for the population as a whole would be subject to uncertainties around future income growth, changes in the income distribution and individual behavioural responses to policy changes.

From 6 April 2009 the pension credit standard minimum guarantee increased by the largest amount since it was introduced in 2003. It increased to £130 a week for single pensioners or £198.45 for a couple. The Government are committed to tackling pensioner poverty and are continuing to promote take-up of benefits by those who are entitled.

Pension Credit: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in each parliamentary constituency in the Lancashire County Council area received *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* winter fuel payment in the latest period for which figures are available. [283072]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the tables.

Households in receipt of pension credit in Lancashire by parliamentary constituency—November 2008

Constituencies wholly or partially in Lancashire	Households in receipt
Blackpool, North and Fleetwood*	6,660
Burnley	5,120
Chorley	4,270
Fylde	4,380
Hyndburn	4,600
Lancaster and Wyre	4,250
Morecambe and Lunesdale	5,240
Pendle	4,800
Preston	5,170
Ribble Valley	3,040
Rossendale and Darwen*	4,520
South Ribble	3,730
West Lancashire	4,890

Number of winter fuel payment recipients 2007-08 (final run)

Constituencies wholly or partially in Lancashire	Total winter fuel payment recipients
Blackpool, North and Fleetwood*	25,800
Burnley	17,380
Chorley	21,600
Fylde	25,970
Hyndburn	17,510
Lancaster and Wyre	24,980
Morecambe and Lunesdale	22,660
Pendle	17,590
Preston	16,110
Ribble Valley	23,740
Rossendale and Darwen*	18,210
South Ribble	21,840
West Lancashire	20,950

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
4. The constituencies included are those wholly or partially in Lancashire as defined by the most up to date postcode directory. '*' denotes those constituencies not wholly in contained in Lancashire. (Makerfield parliamentary constituency was excluded as only one postcode which might have pension credit or winter fuel payments living within it was within Lancashire.)

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Pensioners

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the proportion of pensioners receiving less than 90 per cent. of the 1997 levels of expected and accrued pensions in Financial Assistance Scheme annuities; and if she will make a statement. [283703]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* This information is not available in the form requested.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby were in relative poverty in each of the last five years. [282531]

Angela Eagle: Statistics on relative poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in relative poverty at Government office region level, inner London and outer London. Therefore, information for Merseyside and the Crosby constituency is not available.

Latest information for the North West Government office region, is based on three-year averages and provided in the following table.

Table 1: Number of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, North West Government office region

million

	Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income	Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.3	0.1
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.3	0.1
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.2	0.1

Table 1: Number of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, North West Government office region

	million	
	Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income	*Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income*
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2	0.1
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.2	0.1

Notes:
1. Three survey year averages are given for regional statistics as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. Incomes have been equivalised using OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Number of pensioners have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand people.

Source:
These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

Petrol: Planning Permission

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on petrol: storage, which local authority granted planning permission against Health and Safety Executive advice. [285535]

Jonathan Shaw: Pembrokeshire county council granted planning permission for the construction of an industrial unit at Waterston Industrial Estate, Milford Haven within the development proximity zone of a large-scale petrol storage site. The Health and Safety Executive had advised the local authority against the granting of permission for this development on safety grounds.

Right to Bid

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bids her Department has received from organisations as part of the Right to Bid initiative; and from which organisation, and in relation to which services or functions provided by her Department, they have been received. [285803]

Jim Knight: Right to Bid commenced on 1 January 2009 and to date (8 July 2009), 92 bids from 85 different organisations have been received. Of these, 42 are private sector organisations, 41 from the third sector, one from the public sector and one is a consortium of private, third, and public sector organisations. The bids remain 'commercial in confidence' and the detail cannot be divulged without the permission of the organisations. The majority of the bids received have been in the Welfare to Work arena. A small number have replicated Learning and Skills Council or Department for Business, Innovation and Skills services.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent officials in her Department are working on the Right to Bid team. [285804]

Jim Knight: The Right to Bid scheme is administered and managed by a team of three dedicated full time equivalent officials. The central team is supported by other officials from a number of expert domains throughout the Department as part of the detailed evaluation process.

Social Security Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's definition is of a gateway overstayer; and what targets her Department has set to reduce the number of such overstayers. [283591]

Jim Knight: A gateway overstayer is defined as someone who has gone beyond the maximum period (16 weeks) on a New Deal personal adviser caseload and has not started a mandatory Option/Intensive Activity Period. In July 2006, the Jobcentre Plus Chief Operating Officer made a commitment to ensure the number of overstayers was no more than 7 per cent. of the total number of participants within the gateway. The level of overstayers at the end of 2008-09 was 3.8 per cent. of caseload.

Specialist Disability Employment Programme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism her Department has put in place for the independent monitoring of prime providers in the delivery of the Specialist Disability Employment Programme. [286584]

Jonathan Shaw: The quality of provision is subject to external scrutiny by Ofsted in England and Estyn in Wales. From January 2010 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education will begin to inspect our provision in Scotland.

Once the Specialist Disability Employment Programme has been fully developed the three inspectorates will be commissioned to develop an inspection model to suit this piece of provision. Reports from these inspections will be in the public domain.

This Department will work closely with the external inspectorates to produce an annual programme of inspection, ensuring all prime providers' contracts are inspected over the course of an inspection cycle.

Providers who are found to be unsatisfactory at external inspection will be offered improvement support, through the Learning and Skills Improvement Service, leading up to re-inspection.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what criteria will apply in monitoring the effectiveness of the Specialist Disability Employment Programme in respect of each impairment type; [286585]

(2) what support her Department will make available to customers on the Specialist Disability Employment Programme following their completion of the first nine months of the programme. [286587]

Jonathan Shaw: No final decisions have been made as to exactly what information will be collected for the new Specialist Disability Employment Programme. We are currently considering what level of detail it is desirable and practical to collect on customers' impairment types.

In addition, independent evaluation will be an important element of the new programme. It will seek to investigate the extent to which the programme meets its objectives and critical success factors.

The first element of the new programme is called Work Entry Support. Its aim is to offer a range of services and support to help disabled customers with the highest support needs enter paid employment, whether it be unsupported in the open market place or supported employment. With support from the provider, we expect that the majority of customers will be able to do this within nine months of starting on the programme. If they have not been successful in finding suitable employment at this point, then the provider will work with and agree with the customer a detailed action plan, which will offer advice on how they should move forward to help them either move into employment in the future or possibly return to the programme at a later date, which ever is most appropriate to their individual needs.

State Retirement Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people over the age of 100 receive a state pension. [272471]

Angela Eagle: At November 2008, there were 422,250 state pension recipients aged 90[1] and over.

[1] Figures given are for state pension recipients aged over 90, rather than for those aged over 100. This is because the available data on ages at the extreme higher end of the distribution is not thought to be sufficiently robust to provide accurate figures for more detailed breakdowns.

Note:

Definitions and conventions

Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Third Sector

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what terms and conditions are set by her Department in relation to the provision of funding from her Department's budget to *(a)* charities, *(b)* voluntary organisations and *(c)* social enterprises. [284209]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions works on a commercial, contractual basis with charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises where such an organisation is in a position to provide a specialist ongoing service which clearly assists in the delivery of the Department's core objectives. The Department uses its standard terms and conditions for goods or services. The Commercial Employment Provision (CEP) standard terms and schedules are used when dealing with welfare to work contracts.

These terms and conditions are based on model terms and conditions recommended by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC). They can be viewed online in the supplier section of the Department's website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk

Vacancies

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs have been advertised in each Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last 12 months. [282979]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The information has been placed in the Library. The data are broken down by notified vacancies and live unfilled vacancies.

Vocational Training

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which colleges in each region offer training for jobseekers commissioned by Jobcentre Plus; and how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance have taken part in a training programme offered by a college in each of the last 12 months. [272658]

Jim Knight: The information is not centrally collated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Welfare to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 51W, on welfare-to-work: standards, if she will place in the Library a copy of the most recent monthly report summarising the performance of all welfare-to-work providers against agreed targets. [285140]

Jim Knight: A copy of the most recent report, which includes the cumulative performance of contracted provision up to the end of March 2009, has been placed in the Library as requested. This is the end-of-year report for 2008-09.

The DWP continues to develop plans to make this information available on a monthly basis from later in 2009 via the DWP website.

Winter Fuel Payments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people in receipt of winter fuel payment who were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* receiving pension credit in each of the last five years. [285845]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) The requested information is not available.

(b) Winter fuel payments are made to pension credit claimants, not individual beneficiaries. Information on payments made to pension credit claimants is contained in the following table:

	Number of people in receipt of winter fuel payments
2003-04	1,630,000
2004-05	2,430,000
2005-06	2,530,000
2006-07	2,550,000
2007-08	2,560,000

Note:
Rounded to the nearest 10,000.
Source:
Winter Fuel Payment datasets, 2007-08 is the latest available data.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the annual saving to the Exchequer if winter fuel payments were made only to those eligible for pension credit. [285847]

Angela Eagle: Estimates show that if winter fuel payments were only made to recipients of pension credit next financial year that the annually managed expenditure savings could be around £1.5 billion.

Note:
The estimate assumes that all pension credit claimants receive a full winter fuel payment and that both partners are eligible for the same level of payment. Estimates are made on the basis of forecast recipients and not eligibility for pension credit.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals received the winter fuel payment in each of the last five years. [286028]

Angela Eagle: The number of winter fuel payments paid to households and individuals in Great Britain are as follows:

	Households	Individuals
2007-08	8,834,610	12,068,740
2006-07	8,630,900	11,702,900
2005-06	8,506,750	11,514,760
2004-05	8,377,365	11,401,170
2003-04	8,166,345	11,468,235

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will extend eligibility for the winter fuel allowance to young people with disabilities. [285842]

Helen Goodman: Winter fuel payments are paid to people aged 60 and over to help mitigate the effects of cold weather during the winter months. There are no plans to alter the eligibility criteria for winter fuel payments.

TREASURY

Child Tax Credit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to review entitlement to child tax credit to families with a gross income of over £80,000. [285224]

Mr. Timms: Tax credits are a carefully targeted system of financial support that provides the greatest help to the least well off families. Support is assessed on the basis of household circumstances, taking into account factors such as the number of children in the household and any disabilities, and only in very exceptional cases will families with very high incomes receive any support. No families with an income over £80,000 a year are currently receiving tax credits, and the majority of families in receipt have incomes below £20,000 a year.

Child Trust Fund: Yorkshire and The Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* York had received Child Trust Fund payments on the latest date for which figures are available. [285698]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The most recent constituency level statistics on child trust fund accounts were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

There were 261,000 children born before 6 April 2007 in Yorkshire and the Humber who have a child trust fund account.

Empty Property

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the net revenue received in empty property rates in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [285568]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: CLG publish the cost of reliefs, but Central Government do not collect data on the split between business rates paid on empty and occupied property.

The data on the amount of empty property relief that local authorities estimated that they will grant is available in table 2 of the Statistics Release National non-domestic rates to be collected by local authorities in England 2009-10 and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/nondomesticrates/forecast/

Energy: Conservation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research has been carried out by his Department on the merits of installing A-rated circulator pumps in public sector buildings. [285066]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury has not carried out any research on this subject. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' market transformation programme undertakes research into the environmental impact of products. The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently consulting on introducing efficiency standards for circulator pumps under building regulations.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency form VO6403 used for the 2010 business rates revaluation. [283840]

Mr. Timms: This form is not specifically used for the 2010 business rates revaluation and has a limited application. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1216W, when form VO6403 was placed in the Library.

A full list of forms used to request information from ratepayers for the revaluation is published on the Valuation Office Agency website at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/business_rates/List-of-Forms-Requesting-Information.htm

Premium Bonds

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the odds of winning a minimum prize with a £500 Premium Bond holding were in *(a)* 1992, *(b)* 1997, *(c)* 2001, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2009. [284297]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: NS&I publishes details of the current odds of winning prizes on premium bonds on their website at:

http://www.nsandi.com/products/pb/rates.jsp

In 1992, the odds[1] of winning a minimum prize with a £500 premium bond holding were 1 in 23.

In 1997, in January and February, the odds were 1 in 44; in March, 1 in 45; in April, 1 in 46; in May 1 in 47; and between June and December, 1 in 39.

In 2001 the odds were 1 in 41; in 2005 1 in 49; and in 2009 are 1 in 73.

The interest rate and the value of eligible funds invested in premium bonds provides a total prize pool. NS&I then look at two variables to determine the prize draw structure based (i) on the odds; and (ii) the number of prizes allocated to each value prize band.

These variables are determined based on keeping the number and value of prizes at a favourable level for premium bond holders within the constraints of the interest rate and value invested.

[1] Rounded to the nearest whole number.

Public Expenditure

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Prime Minister's answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 294, what the change in total spending will be between 2012-13 and 2013-14. [284606]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2009 set the Government's spending assumptions beyond the CSR period, from 2011-12 to 2013-14.

Table C4 in Budget 2009 (page 226) shows projected public sector current expenditure and public sector net investment from 2011-12 to 2013-14.

Public Sector Debt

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to hold public consultations on proposed changes to his Department's policy on levels of public debt. [283821]

Mr. Byrne: The Government publish their economic and fiscal forecast, including their forecast of the public sector net debt, twice a year in the pre-Budget report and the Budget.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been set for the closure of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley. [285007]

Mr. Timms: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1398W. The position has not changed.

Tax Incentives: Energy

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax incentives there are for the installation of energy-efficient circulator pumps in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties. [285065]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Two energy-efficient circulator models are supported through the Government's flagship household energy efficiency policy, the carbon emissions reduction target.

Energy efficiency measures for households are also supported by a reduced rate of VAT for the professional installation of certain energy saving products, including "hot water system controls" and "central heating system controls". Where circulator pumps fall within this description they will be eligible for the reduced rate.

Taxation: Business

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in tax liability was set off against company borrowing in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07, *(d)* 2007-08 and *(e)* 2008-09. [285735]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

JUSTICE

Ashwell Prison

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North West Leicestershire of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 68-69W, on HM Prison Ashwell, if he will place in the Library a copy of the representations from the Prison Officers' Association on the recent disturbances at HM Prison Ashwell. [274146]

Mr. Straw: With the permission of the national chairman of the Prison Officers' Association I have placed in the Library a copy of the letter referred to in the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor) of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 68-69W.

Of the two issues referred to in the letter, the extension to the deadline for the investigation was agreed to and the meeting took place on 6 May.

Approved Premises: Convictions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residents in approved premises were *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of (i) murder, (ii) manslaughter, (iii) rape, (iv) attempted murder and (v) attempted rape in the last year for which figures are available. [285298]

Mr. Straw: The number of residents in approved premises who were *(a)* charged in 2007-08 and *(b)* subsequently convicted of the offences specified are in the following tables. The tables are based on the most recent published statistics, the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, in October 2008.

There are 101 approved premises in England and Wales, providing 2,200 bed spaces. Approved premises are used primarily to supervise high risk of harm offenders on release from custody, where supervision can be provided more effectively than if such offenders were dispersed into less suitable accommodation elsewhere in the community. In 2007-08, 14,607 offenders or bailees spent some time in an approved premises.

Approved premises residents 'charged' with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape and attempted rape, 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

Serious violent offence description	*England and Wales notifications*
Attempt to commit murder or a conspiracy to commit murder	1
Manslaughter	1
Murder	3
Rape	4
Total	9

Approved premises residents 'convicted' of murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape and attempted rape, 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

Serious violent offence description	*England and Wales notifications*
Attempt to commit murder or a conspiracy to commit murder	1
Manslaughter	1
Murder	3
Attempt to commit rape	1
Rape	2
Total	8

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applicants to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme have died while awaiting *(a)* a decision, *(b)* the outcome of a review and *(c)* the outcome of an appeal against a decision in each of the last five years. [285269]

Mr. Straw: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, which administers the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, currently does not record this information. However, work is ongoing in the authority in relation to the recording of cases where the applicant dies while the application is live, and which will enable the recording of these cases in the future.

CICA has made significant improvements in the average time it takes to reach decisions on cases: from an average of 14 months in 2006-07 for first decisions to an average of 9.3 months in the current financial year to end of June 2009. The average time taken to conclude a review of a case has almost halved in the same period, from an average of 11.2 months in 2006-07 to 5.9 months in the current financial year to end of June 2009. These improvements of themselves should reduce the number of cases where the applicant dies before a decision is made.

Dead Bodies: Identification

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bodies of persons who died in the last 10 years in England and Wales remain unidentified. [285002]

Bridget Prentice: Where a deceased person cannot be identified the body must be disposed of by the local authority in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, either by burial or cremation. Central records of such disposals are not kept.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285031]

Mr. Wills: The Department has commenced the upgrade of Internet Explorer from version 6 to version 7. Internet Explorer 6 is still supported by Microsoft, and the upgrade to version 7 is planned to be completed prior to Microsoft ceasing to support Internet Explorer 6.

With respect to individual business areas, the upgrade from version 6 to version 7 has commenced in the HQ areas of the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA). This will be completed by the end of October 2009. Approximately 1,800 PCs within the Legal Services Commission (LSC) will be upgraded by the end of March 2010, bringing all their computers up to version 7. Plans to upgrade Her Majesty's Courts Service are currently being considered. Meanwhile, staff will continue to use the Microsoft supported Internet Explorer version 6.

Within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), version 6 of Internet Explorer is being deployed to staff within the probation service on the OMNI network as part of their contractual agreement with their IT supplier. They are considering the upgrade path to Internet Explorer 7, as part of the wider strategy of convergence of the infrastructure.

For staff within Her Majesty's Prison Service, an exercise is under way to upgrade from version 6 to version 7 as part of the Quantum Infrastructure Improvement Programme. This exercise is currently in the planning stage and work is under way to validate this plan which currently anticipates the main deployment of version 7 taking place between mid-2010 and 2011. Tactical upgrades may occur as required.

NOMS staff that use the NOMSnet service (primarily regional offender managers) are already operating at version 7.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284889]

Mr. Straw: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code. There are no records of any civil servant from the Ministry of Justice being posted to the political offices of Members of Parliament.

Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust. However details on numbers of civil servants from this department that have had such an attachment cannot be obtained as this information is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost in trying to obtain.

Information Commissioner's Office

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to enable the Information Commissioner's office to reduce the length of time taken for the determination of complaints. [285811]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice and the Information Commissioner regularly review the resources required for the commissioner to discharge all of his freedom of information responsibilities. For this financial year, the Government have identified additional funding of £500,000 for the Information Commissioner's office's freedom of information work, over and above the baseline funding of £5 million. We are discussing with the office how it can use this additional funding most effectively to reduce the number of outstanding cases.

In addition, the MOJ promoted a scheme last year where secondees from central Government Departments work for the ICO to help clear the freedom of information cases at their home departments' expense. There are currently seven secondees working at the ICO.

Parole

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions on which the Parole Board recommended parole it has not been granted in each year since 1997. [285761]

Maria Eagle: The number of prisoners' cases where a recommendation for early release from the Parole Board was turned down for the years 2004-09 is given in the table. All the cases were those of prisoners serving fixed-term sentences of 15 years or more and subject to the release provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991. The figures are derived from internal records. We do not have reliable data for previous years.

	Number of prisoners
2004	1
2005	3
2006	3
2007	3
2008	0
2009 (as of 8 July 2009)	1

Prisons: Construction

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 82-83W, on prisons: construction, whether Scarisbrick is under consideration as a possible site for construction of any type of prison. [285736]

Mr. Straw: Following my announcement on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-80, about our plans to build 1,500 place prisons, a fresh site search to identify potential sites for these new prisons will begin in due course.

Sentencing: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign nationals have been discharged from a mandatory life sentence in each of the last 10 years; [285297]

(2) how many foreign nationals have been discharged from a discretionary life sentence in each of the last 10 years. [285299]

Mr. Straw: The number of foreign national prisoners serving a mandatory and discretionary life sentence and who were subsequently released from custody was not, before April 2007, recorded centrally. To answer the question would require a manual exercise checking every release of a mandatory and discretionary lifer during the period in question and this would incur disproportionate cost.

However, since April 2007 the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) has recorded the nationality of prisoners being released. In 2007, there were three foreign national prisoners serving a mandatory life sentence and who were released from custody. There were no discretionary life sentence prisoners, identified as foreign nationals, who were released in 2007. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

Details of prisoners released are published "Offender Management Caseload Statistics" published by Offender Management and Sentencing Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice. This bulletin is available in the Library of the House and is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics

The 2008 figures will be published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008 at the end of July 2009. The publication of this bulletin has been pre-announced on the Ministry of Justice and United Kingdom Statistics Authority websites.

To provide the 2008 figures for foreign national prisoners released would constitute providing a breakdown of an as yet unpublished figure. This would breach the code of practice for statistics and so cannot be provided until after this publication.

It is for the independent Parole Board to determine whether to direct the release of life sentence prisoners and will do so only if it is satisfied that it is no longer necessary on the grounds of public protection for the prisoner to be detained in custody.

Victims Advisory Panel: Meetings

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Victims' Advisory Panel has met since July 2006; and what matters were discussed at each such meeting. [285265]

Mr. Straw: The Victims Advisory Panel (VAP) have met on nine occasions since July 2006. They last met on 11 June 2009 and are next due to meet on the 14 July 2009. VAP meetings usually include presentations on emerging policy relevant to improving support to victims and subsequent discussion by panel members.

Matters the VAP have discussed and given their view on are numerous. They include: the appointment of the Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses, the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, the payment of court ordered compensation, the provision of special measures, research into victims experience, the complaints system for victims, support for victims of domestic violence, support for young victims of crime, support for victims at coroners courts and support for victims in civil cases.

TRANSPORT

A1

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure the installation of separated junctions at the main intersections and roundabouts on the A1 between Alconbury and the A1(M) north of Baldock. [284487]

Chris Mole: The A1 trunk road in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire is identified as a road of regional importance. As such, the priority to be given for separated junctions at the main intersections and roundabouts on the A1 south of Peterborough to the beginning of the A1(M) north of Baldock is initially for the East of England region to consider.

In March 2009 the region submitted advice to Government on public spending priorities for transport, housing and regeneration, economic development and skills as part of the refresh of the Regional Funding Advice (known as RFA2). This includes transport priorities in the region through to 2018-19. The Government expect to respond to the region's advice later this year. However, the region did not include these junctions in their submitted priorities.

Aviation: Insecticides

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport, what recent action the Aviation Health Working Group has taken in respect of the use of insecticides on commercial aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [285807]

Paul Clark: The Aviation Health Working Group is a stakeholder forum reporting to Ministers; it is not an executive body. The use of insecticide is required under the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on flights to or from certain destinations to control the spread of insects and to protect public health from insect borne diseases.

Rules established by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) permit the use of certain insecticides, which have the approval of and are recommended by the WHO, based on their efficacy and minimal human toxicity. These rules are binding on International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) contracting states, including the UK.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many complaints have been reported to the Aviation Health Working Group from passengers regarding the use of insecticides on commercial aircraft in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [285808]

Paul Clark: None. The Air Transport Users Council (AUC) has received three complaints in the last four years.

The Civil Aviation Authority's Aviation Health Unit has, during the period from 1 July 2008 to 9 July 2009, received four enquiries regarding the use of insecticides on commercial aircraft. Two of these were complaints and both concerned non-UK airlines.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what insecticides are approved for use by cabin crew on commercial aircraft. [285809]

Paul Clark: The following table gives a list of the insecticides currently approved by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for aircraft disinsection in Great Britain:

Product name	*HSE number*
Aircraft aerosol insect control	5408
Aircraft disinsectant	6254
Aircraft disinsectant multi	7016
Aircraft disinsecting spray	8380
Aircraft insecticide	7021
Aircraft insecticide multi	7025
Callington 1-shot aircraft insecticide	8882
Callington aerosafe (d-Phenothrin) aircraft insecticide	8323
Callington aerosafe aircraft insecticide	7431
Callington top of descent aircraft insecticide	7430
Disinsecting spray multi	7024
Disinsecting spray single	6977
Extermisect	[1]6976
Extermisect multi	[1]7027
Multi-shot permethrin spray	7119
Non-flammable aircraft insecticide 222/A-203D/P-238/D	7502
One-shot aircraft aerosol insect control	5407
Orvec aircraft insecticide	7028
Polygard one-shot aircraft disinsectant	7298
Single-shot permethrin spray	7118
Ventaire sure-serve aircraft insecticide	8789
Ventaire sure-serve aircraft insecticide	8904

[1] Two of the products listed, Extermisect (HSE 6976) and Extermisect multi (HSE 7027), have been withdrawn from the market for commercial reasons—but can still be supplied, stored and used until 16 July 2009.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what countries of *(a)* origin and *(b)* destination of flights to or from the UK the use of insecticides by cabin crew is mandatory. [285810]

Paul Clark: The International Health Regulations (2005) published by the World Health Organization (WHO) require states to ensure that measures are taken to prevent the spread of disease on aircraft. In the UK the regulations were implemented by the Public Health (Aircraft) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. They are enforced at UK airports by the local port health authority.

Port health authorities in UK require that aircraft entering the UK from countries listed in chapter 7 of the WHO guidance (see links) in relation to the control of malaria should be sprayed.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1995/WHO_PCS_95.51_Rev.pdf

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2005/9241580364_chap7.pdf

A copy of the list of countries given in the WHO guidance has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Benefex

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, on departmental conditions of employment, by what method the contract won by Benefex Limited was let by his Department. [285472]

Chris Mole: The contract was evaluated and awarded to Benefex Ltd. in accordance with the European Union procurement directives. The competition was published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union.

Bicycles: Safety

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which local authorities have received funding from his Department for the provision of Bikeability training; and what award was made in each case. [285373]

Mr. Khan: We have awarded cycle training grants to local authorities since 2006-07 to encourage cycling to school. Since 2008-09 we have been able to meet all bids in full. The grants awarded each year to local authorities are set out in the table which has been placed in the Libraries of the House. We also provide funding for training direct in schools via grants to the school sports partnerships.

Bicycles: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire in each of the last five years. [285364]

Mr. Khan: Between 2005 and March 2008 Sustrans (the Sustainable Transport Charity) has on the Department for Transport's behalf made available grants for local authorities to deliver a Links to Schools programme to encourage more children to cycle to school. £80,000.00 was made available to Staffordshire county council in 2006-07.

We have also awarded cycle training grants to local authorities since 2006-07 to encourage cycling to school. The grants awarded each year to Staffordshire county council are set out in the following table:

Local authority cycle training grants, Staffordshire county council

	Grant (£)
2006-07	—
2007-08	68,000.00
2008-09	156,000.00
2009-10	249,000.00
Total 2007-08 to 2009-10	473,000.00

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in what circumstances staff contracts have been varied in his Department to include the requirement for a total reward statement; and what methods were used to vary those contracts. [285387]

Chris Mole: Issuing total reward statements does not give rise to any variation in terms and conditions of employment.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what cost codes have been set up by his Department's Shared Service Centre in relation to the flexible benefit project; and what costs have been recorded against each cost code and on what dates. [285388]

Chris Mole: The system has not yet been implemented. The Shared Service Centre has therefore not set up any cost codes in relation to the flexible benefit project.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons his Department's design authority has sanctioned an emergency delivery of flexible benefits via the Emergency Path to Production process; and if he will make a statement. [285389]

Chris Mole: There are a number of minor application changes required to the Shared Services system in order to integrate the flexible benefits scheme into payroll, which is planned for roll-out in October 2009.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284386]

Chris Mole: A list of information databases maintained and used by the Department for Transport and its agencies is not yet centrally held and could be compiled to answer this question only at disproportionate cost. The information will be published on the Department's website in due course.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1388W, on departmental pay, if he will list the employers concerned, including contracts *(a)* which have been sub-let and *(b)* which are not exclusive to London; what the nature is of the work undertaken with regard to each contract; how many staff are employed under the terms of each contract, broken down by (i) grade and (ii) location; and what (A) the length of the contract is and (B) union recognition agreements are in place in each case. [285471]

Chris Mole: The number of contracted staff employed in London earning less than the London living wage of £7.45 is now 63. The employer of the staff concerned is Amey who have been contracted to provide a total facilities management service for the three London Department for Transport HQ buildings. The staff involved work in the kitchen (nine), mailroom (three) and cleaning services (51). The contract is for five and a half years and is currently exclusive to London. Amey have union recognition agreements in place.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of his Department's capital underspend in 2009-10; and how much of that sum he proposes to return to the Exchequer. [284328]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 921-22W.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281522]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has awarded one paid internship to a graduate in the last six months.

Driving Tests

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance has been issued to driving test examiners on the carrying of driving instructors as rear seat passengers during the car driving test. [285746]

Paul Clark: Guidance currently issued by the Driving Standards Agency to driving examiners is as follows.

A candidate may, if they so wish, and provided the examiner is satisfied there is sufficient room in the vehicle, be accompanied by their instructor or a friend. Any person(s) accompanying the candidate must be at least 16 years of age. The examiner should, however, make it clear that the third party must not in any way interfere with, or comment on, the test.

Examiners must ensure that any rear seat passenger wears a seat belt; if a rear seat passenger refuses to do so the test will be not be conducted.

Driving: Dyslexia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the accessibility of the driving theory test for people with dyslexia. [285284]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency works with disabled people's organisations, including those representing people with dyslexia, to ensure all candidates can take the driving theory test without discrimination or disadvantage. Screen layout, background colour, type size and colour have been taken into account.

Candidates with dyslexia can request an English voiceover and touch screen facility or an assistant who will read out the questions and record the candidate's answers. Candidates can also request additional time to complete the test.

Driving: Licensing

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many applications for driving licences from residents of *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Teesside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England using forged or stolen identity documents have been detected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last five years. [285196]

Paul Clark: The following table provides the number of applications for driving licences, which were supported by what appeared suspect documents to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, since April 2005. These figures were not recorded before April 2005. This Department does not investigate identity fraud. Instead cases are referred to the police who would have the final confirmed figures.

	April 2005 to March 2006	*April 2006 to March 2007*	*April 2007 to March 2008*	*April 2008 to March 2009*	*April 2009 to June 2009*
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	0	0	1	0	0
Teesside	0	0	0	0	0
North East	6	13	9	4	0
England	948	1,264	1,484	1,259	200

East Coast Railway Line

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the terms of the East Coast mainline franchise allow for any financial obligations of National Express East Coast Ltd. to be borne by their parent company National Express Ltd. [284709]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* Under the National Express East Coast franchise agreement, National Express Group is obliged to meet its parent company loan obligation of a £40 million loan facility. It is also open to National Express Group, at their discretion, to make available support in excess of this.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the estimated cost to the public purse is arising from the termination of the East Coast mainline franchise for the period between the date of transfer of the East Coast mainline franchise to the public sector and the expected date by which the franchise will be relet, net of operating profits received by the new public sector company. [284710]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* The cost to the public purse while the East Coast Mainline franchise is run by the public sector company will depend upon a number of factors, including ticket revenue during that period. The costs of transferring the franchise to the public sector company and re-letting the franchise will be met from within the £31.4 million performance bond that National Express is contractually committed to.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the funding required for the return to public ownership of the East Coast mainline franchise will come from existing rail budgets. [286329]

Chris Mole: The costs of transferring the franchise to the public sector company and re-letting the franchise will be met from within the £31.4 million performance bond that National Express is contractually committed to.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what surplus of income over expenditure on operating costs he expects the East Coast Main Line franchise to achieve in the period that it is in public sector management; to whom the surplus will be paid; and what plans he has for the allocation of such funds. [286373]

Chris Mole: Any surplus of income over expenditure on operating costs during the period that the east coast main line franchise is in public sector management will be used to meet expected premium payments to the Department for Transport. Any surplus beyond this will also be received by the Department. Any surplus will depend on future ticket revenue which is not yet known.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what surplus of income over expenditure on operating costs of the East Coast Main Line was in each of the last 10 years that the service was managed by British Rail; [286374]

(2) how many *(a)* passengers were carried and *(b)* kilometres were travelled by trains on the East Coast Main Line in each of the last 25 years. [286376]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. More general information on rail usage is contained in National Rail Trends, published by the Office of Rail Regulation at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

First Great Western: Rolling Stock

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to make a decision on First Great Western's bid for 44 new rail vehicles. [286533]

Chris Mole: We are in discussion with First Great Western regarding the provision of additional train capacity in the Bristol area, and will make an announcement in due course.

Heavy Goods Vehicles: Licensing

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many residents of *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland had heavy goods vehicle licences in each of the last five years. [285560]

Paul Clark: The following table provides the number of drivers who held a heavy goods vehicle licence in the requested countries in each of the last five years:

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	503,009	577,521	674,355	782,103	889,167
Wales	36,398	41,714	48,649	56,166	63,543
Scotland	44,854	51,507	59,860	69,349	78,367
N. Ireland	13,291	18,094	25,160	33,726	42,701

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many tests of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* public service vehicles were carried out at the Llandrindod Wells test centre in each of the last three years; and how much the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency received from such tests in each such year. [286024]

Paul Clark: The number of tests and income the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency received for *(a)* Heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* public service vehicles at Llandrindod Wells in the past three years is as set out in the following table:

	HGV Tests	*HGV Income (£)*	*PSV Tests*	*PSV Income (£)*
2006-07	2013	105,507.00	363	26,025.00
2007-08	2060	115,083.00	367	28,078.00
2008-09	1774	98,974.00	369	27,867.00

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many tests of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* public service vehicles have been carried out in (i) England and (ii) Wales by staff of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in the last three years. [286027]

Paul Clark: The following table sets out the number of tests of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and public service vehicles (PSVs) carried out by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in England and Wales over the past three years:

Financial year	*Country*	*Scheme*	*Annual tests*	*Re-tests*	*Total*
2006-07	England	HGV and trailers	611,049	121,036	732,085
	England	PSV	66,264	8,643	74,907
	England 2006-07 total		677,313	129,679	806,992
	Wales	HGV and trailers	36,518	7,445	43,963
	Wales	PSV	5,784	899	6,683
	Wales 2006-07 total		42,302	8,344	50,646
2007-08	England	HGV and trailers	605,444	121,592	727,036
	England	PSV	66,363	9,502	75,865
	England 2007-08 total		671,807	131,094	802,901
	Wales	HGV and trailers	37,955	7,735	45,690
	Wales	PSV	5,738	926	6,664
	Wales 2007-08 total		43,693	8,661	52,354
2008-09	England	HGV and trailers	602,359	107,762	710,121
	England	PSV	68,330	9,251	77,581
	England 2008-09 Total		670,689	117,013	787,702
	Wales	HGV and trailers	35,759	7,016	42,775
	Wales	PSV	5,717	901	6,618
	Wales 2008-09 total		41,476	7,917	49,393

Network Rail: Directors

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 611-2W, on Network Rail: directors, whether he has identified criteria on which he would consider appointing a special director to Network Rail. [285758]

Chris Mole: No consideration has been given to identifying such criteria.

Public Expenditure

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on his Department's priorities and plans of the re-allocation of funding announced in the White Paper, Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654; [286327]

(2) what proportion of the £1.5 billion to be allocated to new housing announced in Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654, will be drawn from his Department's budgets. [286328]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 921-22W.

Public Transport: Greater Manchester

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated for the purposes of improving public transport *(a)* in each local authority area in Greater Manchester and *(b)* in England in each of the last five years. [285370]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block funding to local transport authorities outside London for capital investment in transport. Funding is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities, including support of public transport. The following table shows funding support in Greater Manchester and England between 2005-06 and 2009-10:

	Integrated transport funding				*£ million*
	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Greater Manchester					
Bolton	1.577	2.244	1.757	1.548	1.694
Bury	1.004	1.488	1.207	1.177	1.290
Manchester	5.203	6.048	5.442	5.358	4.189

Integrated transport funding

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	£ million 2005-06
Oldham	1.321	1.925	1.852	1.852	2.000
Rochdale	1.197	1.797	1.433	1.332	1.462
Salford	1.457	2.261	2.261	2.260	2.481
Stockport	4.511	5.084	4.837	4.493	1.657
Tameside	2.345	2.871	2.606	2.544	1.536
Trafford	1.148	1.640	1.321	1.265	1.397
Wigan	1.741	2.449	1.881	1..558	1.706
GMITA[1]	26.528	17.905	21.788	16.528	17.088
England	589.393	576.791	571.017	546.999	552.528

[1] GMITA—Greater Manchester integrated transport authority

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant, but the Department provides support for public transport through rural bus subsidy and special grant funding to meet the additional cost of the new, England-wide concessionary bus travel. The figures are as follows:

Rural bus subsidy

	Greater Manchester	£ million England
2009-10	0.329	58.500
2008-09	0.320	57.000
2007-08	0.312	55.598
2006-07	0.305	54.300
2005-06	0.298	52.999

Concessionary fares funding

	Greater Manchester ITA	£ million England
2009-10	10.800	217.000
2008-09	10.500	212.000

The Department has supported the following major schemes over the period 2005-06 to 2009-10 in the Greater Manchester area.

	£ million
Northern Orbital quality bus corridor (GMITA)	2.459
South East Manchester quality bus network (GMITA)	11.716
Manchester Metrolink (GMITA)	252.509
Greater Manchester urban traffic control (Manchester City Council)	8

Major project allocations in England (£ million)[1]

England	£ million
2009-10	383.602
2008-09	467.085
2007-08	264.490

[1] The England figures cover local transport authorities outside London and include funding to improve highways as well as public transport schemes.

Funding support for rail services and bus service operators grant are not available on the basis of local authority boundaries.

Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department *(a)* is funding and *(b)* plans to fund any projects included in the rail Control Period Four programme. [284812]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has funding to deliver the projects included in the programme for Control Period Four.

Railways: Concessions

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consultation with passengers took place before the introduction of the recent changes in terms and conditions for Network Railcards. [284729]

Chris Mole: Network Railcards are offered commercially by train operators.

Consultation on any proposed changes to the terms and conditions for the Network Railcard are a matter for the participating Train Operators acting together through their industry body, the Association of Train Operating Companies.

Railways: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Exchequer received from *(a)* GNER and *(b)* National Express East Coast in each year that each held the East Coast Main Line franchise; and what profits each reported to his Department in respect of its operation of the franchise in each such year. [286375]

Chris Mole: Details of subsidy paid and premiums received from all Train Operating Companies are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in National Rail Trends on an annual basis. This document is available in the Library of the House and on the ORR's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Details of the profits generated by Great North Eastern Railway and National Express are contained in the certified company accounts which are held at Companies House.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanisms are in place to ensure the continuity of rail services in the event of the default of a franchisee; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such provision. [283040]

Chris Mole: Section 30 of the Railways Act 1993 (as amended by the Railways Act 2005) places a duty on the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure passenger services are maintained in the event that a franchise is not in place.

Contingency plans are in place to deal with a franchise failure. These plans are regularly reviewed to ensure that they are still fit for purpose.

The cost of any such provision would depend on the specific circumstances of the case.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff of his Department would be required to manage the return of a franchise by a train operating company. [283041]

Chris Mole: Staffing requirements would depend on the specific franchise returned and the circumstances at the time of the return.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what legal advice he has received with regard to cross default provisions in rail franchise contracts; [285770]

(2) if he will publish any legal advice he has received with regard to cross default provisions in rail franchise contracts. [285771]

Chris Mole: Legal advice on the issue of cross default in the context of the franchise agreement is privileged and confidential; therefore, it will not be published or divulged.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* punctuality and *(b)* reliability of the rail service on the Wimbledon loop line (i) before and (ii) after the award of the franchise to First Capital Connect. [285806]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport holds information on punctuality and reliability for each train operator for routes as a whole. The service on the Wimbledon Loop is assessed as part of the Thameslink route and not broken down into specific sections.

The Public Performance Measure Moving Annual Average (PMM MAA) for performance before the start of the First Capital Connect Franchise (April 2006) was 86.2 per cent. The latest PPM MAA performance figure is 89.2 per cent. on the Thameslink route.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to Chart 5 of his Department's publication, Franchise Evaluation Process Charts, May 2008, Selection of winning bid, whether the National Express East Coast bid for the Inter City East Coast franchise awarded in 2007 had a greater than 2.5 per cent. advantage in the delivery plan score against the next best bid, after an assessment of the affordability, compliance and deliverability of the bid had been as completed. [285855]

Chris Mole: The Inter City East Coast Franchise was let on 13 August 2007. A January 2007 version of the Franchise Evaluation Process Charts was used in the evaluation process.

National Express East Coast bid for the Inter City East Coast franchise had a greater than 2.5 per cent advantage in its deliverability score over the lead risk adjusted net present value bidder. Both bids were within the risk adjusted net present value materiality threshold.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to Chart 4 of his Department's publication, Franchise Evaluation Process Charts, May 2008, categorisation of financial risk, what category of financial risk was awarded to the National Express East Coast bid financial for the Inter City East Coast franchise. [285856]

Chris Mole: The Intercity East Coast Franchise was let on 13 August 2007. A January 2007 version of the Franchise Evaluation Process Charts was used in the evaluation process.

National Express East Coast bid was categorised as medium financial risk.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on his Department's plans for transport schemes of the return to public ownership of the East Coast mainline franchise. [286326]

Chris Mole: The temporary transfer of operation of the east coast main line train services to a public sector company will, in itself, have no impact on the plans for long term development of those services or other transport schemes.

Road Signs and Markings: Isle of Sheppey

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will instruct the Highways Agency to ensure that road signage on the Isle of Sheppey and the A249 includes directions to HM Prison Swaleside, HM Prison Elmley and HM Prison Standford Hill. [285276]

Chris Mole: The signing for the HM Prisons Isle of Sheppey on the A249 is being reviewed by the Highways Agency in liaison with Kent county council which is responsible for all other roads on the island. The Highways Agency hope to be able to reach a conclusion in this matter soon.

Roads: Death

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people were killed in *(a)* road and *(b)* rail accidents in each year since 1980. [284010]

Paul Clark: The numbers of people killed in reported *(a)* road and *(b)* rail accidents in Great Britain in each year between 1980 and 2008 are given in the table.

Number of fatalities

	Road accidents[1]	*Rail accidents*[2]: *total*	*Of which: train accidents*[2]
1980	5,953	429	7
1981	5,846	445	7
1982	5,937	353	11
1983	5,445	427	10
1984	5,599	415	30
1985	5,165	392	6
1986	5,385	397	27
1987	5,125	421	10

	Road accidents[1]	Rail accidents[2]: total	Of which: train accidents[3]
		Number of fatalities	
1988	5,052	431	40
1989	5,373	362	18
1990	5,217	369	6
1991	4,568	359	12
1992	4,229	307	10
1993	3,814	316	4
1994	3,650	299	12
1995	3,621	289	5
1996	3,598	288	5
1997	3,599	299	8
1998	3,421	288	4
1999	3,423	349	34
2000	3,409	319	7
2001	3,450	308	13
2002	3,431	316	11
2003	3,508	286	11
2004	3,221	288	12
2005	3,201	314	9
2006	3,172	343	1
2007	2,946	309	4
2008	2,538	[4]	[4]

[1] Fatalities in reported personal injury road accidents on the public highway which involved at least one vehicle. Confirmed suicides are excluded.

[2] Fatalities in train accidents, accidents occurring through movement of railway vehicles and other accidents occurring on railway infrastructure (including acts of trespass and suicides).

[3] Train accidents are defined as collisions, derailments, trains running into obstructions, fires on board trains and missile damage to drivers' cab windscreens.

[4] 2008 figures for fatalities in rail accidents are scheduled for publication end July 2009.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road fatalities there have been in each constituency in the West Midlands in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [285363]

Paul Clark: The number of fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in each constituency in the West Midlands in each of the last five years are given in the table:

Parliamentary constituency[1]	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number of fatalities				
Aldridge-Brownhills	2	0	1	4	0
Birmingham, Edgbaston	3	3	5	3	1
Birmingham, Erdington	1	1	3	3	1
Birmingham, Hall Green	2	2	1	2	6
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	1	3	1	1	2
Birmingham, Ladywood	6	13	10	1	5
Birmingham, Northfield	1	0	6	2	3
Birmingham, Perry Barr	3	4	6	2	5
Birmingham, Selly Oak	3	2	5	5	1
Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath	3	1	5	0	2
Birmingham, Yardley	0	2	5	3	1
Bromsgrove	8	4	6	3	8
Burton	10	4	8	7	5
Cannock Chase	5	3	0	5	2
Coventry, North-East	3	5	3	6	4
Coventry, North-West	1	5	3	1	0
Coventry, South	3	5	4	2	0
Dudley, North	3	2	2	7	1
Dudley, South	4	2	1	6	0
Halesowen and Rowley Regis	4	3	0	1	1
Hereford	4	5	4	9	8
Leominster	12	13	8	14	9
Lichfield	6	4	6	7	5
Ludlow	12	14	8	14	6
Meriden	6	6	4	2	4
Mid-Worcestershire	9	8	14	9	4
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2	5	5	5	4
North Shropshire	5	14	3	7	8
North Warwickshire	11	7	10	12	6
Nuneaton	5	6	9	9	5
Redditch	2	5	1	2	3
Rugby and Kenilworth	10	6	12	4	6
Shrewsbury and Atcham	5	7	7	4	5
Solihull	0	2	1	5	0
South Staffordshire	8	1	13	9	7
Stafford	5	6	10	7	6
Staffordshire, Moorlands	6	6	8	4	6
Stoke-on-Trent, Central	6	2	3	1	2
Stoke-on-Trent, North	1	4	6	1	1
Stoke-on-Trent, South	4	4	3	1	3
Stone	19	14	14	17	7
Stourbridge	1	3	4	0	2
Stratford-on-Avon	14	19	13	13	14
Sutton Coldfield	3	2	2	2	2
Tamworth	5	6	5	4	0
Telford	2	3	1	1	2
The Wrekin	5	6	7	4	4
Walsall, North	1	1	1	3	1
Walsall, South	4	4	7	4	3
Warley	4	1	5	0	1
Warwick and Leamington	9	2	3	5	12
West Bromwich, East	4	1	3	1	2
West Bromwich, West	7	1	4	1	2
West Worcestershire	9	6	11	4	9
Wolverhampton, North-East	3	2	1	2	2
Wolverhampton, South-East	0	3	8	2	4

[1] Parliamentary constituency boundaries as at 2005 general election.

Parliamentary constituency[1]	Number of fatalities 2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Wolverhampton, South-West	6	7	1	2	3
Worcester	0	1	2	1	1
Wyre Forest	5	8	2	6	8
Total	286	279	304	262	225

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary boundaries

Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what forecast his Department has made of the future trends in traffic congestion following the decision not to introduce national road pricing. [284705]

Mr. Khan: The latest forecasts published in December 2008 suggest that congestion across the English road network as a whole will increase by about 37 per cent. between 2003 and 2025. The modelling underpinning the Department for Transport's central forecasts does not assume the introduction of national road pricing.

Transport Innovation Fund

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what projects his Department plans to fund from the *(a)* productivity strand and *(b)* congestion charging strand of the Transport Innovation Fund. [284811]

Mr. Khan: Under the productivity Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) programme, resources have been allocated to:

Rail Schemes:

Gospel Oak/Barking

Humber Ports Gauge Enhancement

Peterborough/Nuneaton Gauge Enhancement

Southampton/Birmingham Gauge Enhancement

Olive Mount Chord

Highway Schemes:

Birmingham Box Active Traffic Management

A14 Traffic Management

In addition, the Department for Transport's contributions to the Crossrail project will be supported by the Fund. Funding also remains available through congestion TIF to support packages that tackle local congestion problems by combining investment in public transport and demand management such as road pricing.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency has received from the sale of property in each of the last three years. [286025]

Paul Clark: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) received the following amount in respect of property sales in the last three years:

2007: Nil

2008: £1.5 million

2009: £0.8 million in the year to date.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many Vehicle and Operator Services Agency testing centres in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales have closed in each of the last three years. [286026]

Paul Clark: No testing centres were closed in 2007. In 2008 the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) closed one test centre in England which was immediately replaced by a new facility in an improved location. VOSA has closed two English test centres so far in 2009.

VOSA plan to close two further test centres, one in England and one in Wales.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicle testing centres in England and Wales operated by Vehicle and Operator Services Agency staff are owned by *(a)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and *(b)* private companies. [286029]

Paul Clark: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) does not hold ownership details of designated premises which are owned by private companies.

There are 68 sites in England and Wales which are either owned by the Department for Transport, or held on leases exceeding 40 years—the latter category numbering 13 sites. Of these, four sites are owned by private companies, the remainder are owned by local authorities.

West Coast Railway Line

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether maintenance work is planned on the West Coast Main Line on the weekend of 28 and 29 August. [285583]

Chris Mole: Maintenance work is planned on the weekend of 28 and 29 August when all lines will be blocked between Watford Junction and Leighton Buzzard between Saturday morning and Monday lunchtime.

I understand that Virgin West Coast is proposing to operate additional services between London and Birmingham via an alternative route.

PRIME MINISTER

Iraq Committee of Inquiry: Finance

Mr. Davey: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how much funding he expects to allocate to the Chilcot Inquiry into Iraq; [285360]

(2) how many staff the Chilcot Inquiry into Iraq will have; [285361]

(3) whether witnesses to the Chilcot Inquiry into Iraq will be permitted legal representation; and if he will make a statement; [285362]

(4) which experts have been appointed to assist the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq war; [286444]

(5) if he will request Sir John Chilcot to *(a)* publish the rules of procedure which his inquiry into the Iraq war will follow, *(b)* establish a website for the inquiry to communicate with the public and *(c)* announce a venue for the public hearings to be held during the inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [286445]

(6) what assessment he has made of the merits of making provision for immunity for witnesses to the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq war in respect of any prosecution which might arise as a result of their evidence; and if he will make a statement; [286446]

(7) whether provision has been made for legal representation for Ministers and former Ministers giving evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq war; [286447]

(8) what discussions he has had with the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq war on arrangements for him to give evidence to the inquiry; what such arrangements have been made; and if he will make a statement; [286448]

(9) what guidance he has issued to Government Departments on *(a)* preparations for and *(b)* responses to requests for evidence from the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq war; and if he will make a statement. [286449]

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister (1) pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009 to Question 283370, on the Chilcot Inquiry, if he will direct the Committee to publish a list of those Privy Council members serving on the Committee who attend each closed session of the inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [285588]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009 to Question 283372, on the Chilcot Inquiry, whether a verbatim record of the public sessions of the inquiry will be published daily; and if he will make a statement; [285589]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009 to Question 283458, on the Chilcot Inquiry, for what reasons Sir John Chilcot plans not to have legal representation for the tribunal; and if he will make a statement; [285590]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009 to Question 283460, on the Chilcot Inquiry, under what powers Sir John Chilcot plans to exclude legal representation for witnesses to the inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [285591]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009 to Question 283459, on the Chilcot Inquiry, whether he provided guidance to the persons invited to serve on the Committee of Inquiry on the likely time commitment involved and the frequency of meetings; and if he will make a statement; [285592]

(6) when there will be an announcement on the form in which witnesses to the Committee of Inquiry on Iraq will give evidence when doing so on a basis equivalent to giving evidence under oath; [285681]

(7) pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 505W, on Iraq Committee of Inquiry, what level of *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* expenses will be provided to (i) Sir John Chilcot and (ii) other members of the Committee of Inquiry on Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [285682]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the statement I made to the House on 15 June 2009, to my letters of 17 and 22 June 2009 to the right hon. Sir John Chilcot GCB and his reply to me of 21 June 2009, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. I also refer to the written answer I gave on 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 505W.

As Chairman, it is for Sir John, in consultation with the Inquiry Committee members, to take decisions on how the inquiry conducts its work, and he will make public his intentions. The Cabinet Office, as the sponsoring Department for the inquiry, is taking forward work on the Government's support to and liaison with the inquiry, in consultation with other relevant Government Departments. We will continue to update the House.

Letter from the Prime Minister, dated 17 June 2009:

I would like to thank you for agreeing to Chair the Iraq Inquiry. As I said in Parliament, I believe this Inquiry will, through lessons learned, strengthen our diplomacy, our military and our democracy. I am fully committed to a thorough and independent inquiry, and guarantee the full co-operation of the Government. As Privy Counsellors, you will have unhindered access to government documents. I have written to all relevant current and former Ministers to underline the importance of their full cooperation. And the Cabinet Secretary is writing to departments to underline the need for full transparency.

It is essential that all those appearing before the Inquiry do so with the greatest possible candour and openness, and that the Inquiry itself proceeds as efficiently as possible, while maintaining full public confidence in the integrity of the process and without in any way damaging national security. Once you have met, as I have suggested, the Leaders of the other political parties and the Chairs of the relevant parliamentary Select Committees it would be helpful if you could set out how you and your colleagues think these objectives can best be met in the way that the Inquiry is conducted.

I hope as part of this that you will consider whether it is possible for there to be a process whereby they give their contributions on oath.

It is also essential that the families of those who gave their lives in Iraq are properly consulted on the nature of the inquiry. I hope therefore that you will be able to meet them as part of the preparations and as you continue your work, to explain how you are proceeding. This could be, at their request, in public or private.

Once you have established your plans in more detail, I would encourage you to hold an open session to explain in greater depth the significant scope and breadth of the inquiry.

I wish you and your Committee well with your important task, and look forward to your conclusions.

Letter from Sir John Chilcot, dated 21 June 2009:

Thank you for your letter of 17 June about the Iraq Inquiry. I am grateful for your assurance of the Government's commitment to a thorough and independent inquiry, and for the steps that have already been taken with former and current Ministers, and Departments, to ensure full cooperation, transparency and access to government documents. I welcome the fact that I and my colleagues are free to decide independently how best to fulfil our remit.

I am for my part wholly committed to the search for the lessons to be learned for the future from events and experience of the last seven and more years, to uphold the integrity of the process of inquiry and the need to ensure public confidence in it, and to ensure complete candour and openness from witnesses while protecting national security. I will indeed, as you suggest, examine how best, given the non-judicial nature of the Inquiry, a formal undertaking can be given by witnesses that their contributions will be complete, truthful and accurate.

If a judicial inquiry, or a statutory Tribunal of Inquiry, had been established, then I would not have been asked to take on this responsibility. That would have required an extended process, with legal representation for the tribunal, witnesses, and other interested parties. That is not what we have been asked to conduct. To find without extended delay the key lessons for the future from the Iraq experience is however something I believe is well worthwhile.

I have as you suggested begun a process of consultation with the Leaders of the main Opposition parties, and with the Chairs of the relevant Parliamentary Select Committees (Foreign Affairs,

Defence, and Public Administration as well as the Intelligence and Security Committee). I see this as helping the Inquiry to decide how best we can structure our procedures to fulfil our remit and meet the objectives we have been set. When these consultations have been completed, I expect to be in a position, having taken them fully into account, to say in more detail how we will propose to take the Inquiry forward.

As part of that, it will, I wholeheartedly agree, be essential to ensure that the families of those who gave their lives in Iraq, or were seriously affected by the conflict, have an early opportunity to express their views about the nature and procedures of the Inquiry, and to express them either in public or in private as they prefer. That will be important in helping us to decide how to go about the task, and explain what we are going to do.

I have also concluded that the Inquiry will need expert assessors at the highest level, including in military, legal, and international development and reconstruction matters, and I have already begun to identify people who may be willing to serve in that capacity. Then, when we have settled on how we are going to go about the Inquiry, I am sure it is right that we should explain this in open session.

More broadly, I believe it will be essential to hold as much of the proceedings of the Inquiry as possible in public, consistent with the need to protect national security and to ensure and enable complete candour in the oral and written evidence from witnesses.

One important point which has not received much public notice so far is that examining and analysing the very large body of existing documentary evidence, stretching over seven or more years, will necessarily occupy a significant part of the time available to the Inquiry, especially in the early stages, and by definition that part of the process cannot be conducted in public sessions. The results of that examination and analysis will, however, be crucial in guiding the selection of witnesses and the detailed questions that will then need to be answered. I expect our report will publish all the relevant evidence except where national security considerations prevent that.

A particular suggestion which has been made is that the Inquiry might make an interim report, possibly on the run-up to the war, or up to the moment when the coalition assumed responsibility for Iraq's internal affairs. While I do not rule out the possibility, it seems to me clear that the causes and effects of particular phases of these events cannot simply be divided up so as to separate clearly one period from another. To take one obvious example, the existence or otherwise of weapons of mass destruction could not be established with any reliability until well after the conflict phase, after the work of the Iraq Survey Group and others had gone as far as it could, while before the event the outstanding possibility had significant implications for the military deployment into the initial conflict phase.

Because we will need to give careful attention to what comes out of the consultation processes I have outlined, I am, as I said, not yet in a position to state in more detail exactly how we will conduct the Inquiry. It is however already clear to me that as much as possible of the work of the Inquiry as is consistent with fulfilling our remit should be conducted, or explained, in public.

Letter from the Prime Minister, dated 22 June 2009:

Thank you for your letter. I remain grateful that you have agreed to Chair the Independent Inquiry and welcome your interim response in your letter of 21 June.

I am grateful you agree with me on the process which has been established to consult with leaders of the main Opposition parties, and with the Chairs of the relevant Parliamentary Select Committees. I share the view that this will help the Inquiry decide how best to structure its procedures to fulfil the remit and meet the objectives we have set.

I believe the proposals we have discussed to ensure the families of those who gave their lives in Iraq, or who were seriously affected by the conflict, will be able to be involved at the earliest opportunity in the work of the Inquiry remain extremely important. Allowing them to express their views about the nature and procedures of the Inquiry, and being able to express these either in public or in private is essential.

As an independent Inquiry, as I said in the House of Commons last week, the methodology employed by the Inquiry is a matter for you. The Inquiry should decide on its structure, but I welcome the proposals for the process of the Inquiry as set out in your letter today. I believe your proposals will manage to meet both the need not to compromise national security but also enable the Independent Inquiry also to hold public sessions helping to build public confidence.

I share your view that the Inquiry will obviously need expert assessors and I am pleased you have already identified several who will be willing to serve in that capacity.

I am pleased that you intend to set out how these experts will be used and other matters explaining how you will go about the Inquiry in an open session.

I am grateful for your views that you will continue to examine whether witnesses can give evidence under oath or a similar formal undertaking.

Following further work and consultations by you, I look forward to hearing your final proposals as soon as possible.

Written Ministerial Statements

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will take steps to ensure that Ministers observe paragraph 9.3 of the Ministerial Code in relation to written ministerial statements on the last days before the summer recess. [286332]

The Prime Minister: Guidance for Ministers on announcements is set out in the Ministerial Code.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 40-42WS, on Colombia, what progress has been made in his Department's work with trade union partners on labour relations in Colombia. [285740]

Chris Bryant: We continue to work with the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and their Colombian counterparts, the Arbitration and Conciliation Advisory Service (ACAS) and others on opportunities aimed at strengthening labour relations in Colombia.

Representatives from the TUC, ACAS and the Confederation of British Industry visited Colombia in 2008 to look at the relationship between the Government, employers and unions. Their findings highlighted a number of challenges, and we are presently considering proposals for projects to address some of those challenges.

Colombia: Land Mines

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on landmine clearance projects in Colombia in each of the last five years. [285454]

Chris Bryant: Land mine clearance projects in Colombia have been supported by the Conflict Prevention Pool, which is funded jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence.

Expenditure on these projects over the period concerned has been as follows:

	£
2004-05	24,482
2005-06	35,645
2006-07	28,134
2007-08	18,083
2008-09	17,367

The Conflict Prevention Pool no longer funds projects in South America.

Colombia: Press Freedom

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Colombia on press freedom in that country; and if he will make a statement. [285874]

Chris Bryant: Freedom of expression and of the press is an issue we raise regularly with the Colombian Government. Our embassy in Colombia has committed over £600,000 to projects in this field over the next two years, which include a programme for strengthening national networks for journalists.

The press in Colombia play a vital role in bringing matters of importance to the public's attention. They have been instrumental in exposing wrongdoings, and have provided an important platform for the political opposition.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hours he spent on his Ministerial duties in the week commencing 21 June 2009. [283539]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spent 81 hours on his ministerial duties in the week commencing 21 June 2009. This includes meetings, dinner engagements and telephone conversations, as well as overseas trips. It does not include the time spent working on the ministerial box at home or constituency matters. The Foreign Secretary spends as much time as necessary to fulfil his ministerial and constituency obligations.

Hamas

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken at the United Nations on allegations of misappropriation of aid by Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [283712]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has had a number of working-level contacts with UN counterparts on this issue. The UN has been putting in place a range of verification and quality assurance procedures to minimise the risk of misappropriation of aid.

Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on the status of Jerusalem as capital of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [285542]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government's position is very clear in support of a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and Palestine. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear in the House on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 152.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of settlements removed by the government of Israel since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [285544]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not received any reports outlining the number of settlements removed by the Israeli Government since 1997.

We consider all Israeli settlement activity to be illegal and in contravention of international law. Settlement activity remains one of the major obstacles towards achieving a peaceful solution in the Middle East. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear during his recent meeting with the Israeli Defence Minister. We will continue to raise this issue both in public and private.

Israel: Foreign Relations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken recently and *(b)* plans to take during the next 12 months to improve UK relations with Israel; and if he will make a statement. [285499]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Israel is a close ally of the UK and we have regular warm and productive exchanges at all levels. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak on 6 July 2009. We shall continue to foster a close relationship with Israel.

Middle East

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent statement by the Head of Shin Bet Yuval Diskin on the West Bank security barrier. [285071]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* We are aware of reports on a statement made by the Head of Shin Bet regarding the security barrier.

While we recognise fully Israel's right to self-defence and agree that if it decides to build a barrier, it should be able to do so, we will continue to make clear to the Government of Israel, both in private and in public, that the barrier must be built either on or behind the green line.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when and where he last met Senator George Mitchell in his capacity as the US administration's special envoy to the Middle East. [286119]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Senator Mitchell on 26 June 2009 in the margins of the G8 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Trieste. They also spoke on 6 July 2009.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in the Niger Delta. [285011]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government remain concerned at the continuing high level of instability in the Niger Delta. We welcome the Nigerian Government's announcement of an amnesty and hope that this can lead to constructive dialogue towards reaching political, economic and environmental stability and development benefiting communities in the Delta. The UK stands ready to assist if requested by the Nigerian Government.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will continue to raise the situation in the Delta with senior Nigerians where opportunities arise.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on whether a UN Observer Mission should be sent to Sri Lanka. [285058]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We fully support the efforts of the UN in regard to the situation in Sri Lanka and welcome the personal engagement by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. We urged the Government of Sri Lanka to use the opportunity of the Secretary-General's recent visit to recognise that the UN has a central role to play, both in the delivery of humanitarian aid and in encouraging the process of political reconciliation that must be an integral part of rebuilding Sri Lanka's civil society. We would support further UN involvement that would lead to an improvement on the ground.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to the government of Sri Lanka on the freedom of the press in that country. [285061]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We regularly raise our concerns about media freedom, including attacks against media personnel, with the Sri Lankan Government. We believe the Sri Lankan authorities have a duty to take prompt action to ensure thorough and independent investigations are carried out into all incidents. We have also expressed our concern about media freedom in Sri Lanka through UK and EU statements this year.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been made by the Government in the UN Human Rights Council on alleged human rights abuses in Sri Lanka. [285062]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: At the UN Human Rights Council Special Session on 26-27 May 2009, we raised our concerns about the human rights and humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka. We condemned the killing of civilians in the conflict and expressed concern for the many thousands displaced from their homes. We also used the opportunity to draw attention to the worrying reports of extra-judicial killings, politically motivated disappearances and attacks on the media. A copy of the UK's full statement can be found here:

http://ukungeneva.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdf1/hrc-sri-lanka-statement-26052009.

I have placed a copy in the House Library.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on the return of Sri Lankan Muslims in Puttalam who were displaced by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in 1990. [284422]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is important that all communities, including Muslims, that have been displaced by the conflict over the years are able to return to their homes as soon as possible. We regularly discuss this with the Sri Lankan Government. Our immediate concern remains the humanitarian needs of the 280,000 civilians displaced by the recent fighting who are still held in camps. We support the continued engagement by Walter Kälin, the UN Representative on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, in addressing the needs of all displaced persons in Sri Lanka.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan. [284793]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, discussed the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) with Scott Gration, US Special Envoy to Sudan, in the margins of the African Union summit on 1 July 2009. He also led the UK delegation to the Forum of Supporters of the CPA in Washington on 23 June 2009.

Senior officials maintain regular contact with the US Administration on CPA and other Sudan issues. In addition, we remain in contact with the US embassy in Khartoum and US consulate in Juba.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of cancer have been *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* successfully treated in (i) the North East, (ii) Tees Valley and (iii) Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [285326]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of cancer have been (a) diagnosed and (b) cured in (i) the North East, (ii) Tees Valley and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997 [285326]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of (a) newly diagnosed cases of cancer from 1997 to 2006 in (i) the North East government office region, (ii) Tees Valley district and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency are in Table 1.

It cannot be stated definitively whether a patient (b) has been definitely cured. For most cancers, five-year survival rates are often taken to be 'cure' rates. Cancer survival rates are only produced for specific cancers. A figure giving the overall survival rate for all cancer patients is not produced as it would not be meaningful to combine figures for disparate conditions having very different survival rates.

ONS regularly publishes five-year relative survival for patients resident in England, government office regions and strategic health authorities for the most common cancers. The most recent report can be found on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of all cancers[1], North East Government office region, Tees Valley district[2] and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency[3], 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	12,384	12,922	13,093	13,119	13,483	13,645	13,748	13,605	13,620	13,495
Tees Valley	3,118	3,117	3,211	3,207	3,209	3,309	3,397	3,376	3,328	3,246
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	465	477	418	476	472	500	511	499	461	465

[1] All cancers coded to C00-C97 excluding C44 (non-melanoma skin cancer) in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] Tees Valley is defined as the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington local authorities.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Cancer: South East

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of cancer have been *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* successfully treated in (i) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (ii) Dacorum, (iii) Hertfordshire and (iii) the South East in each year since 1997. [285888]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of cancer have been (a) diagnosed and (b) successfully treated in (i) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (ii) Dacorum, (iii) Hertfordshire and (iv) the South East in each year since 1997. [285888]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of (a) newly diagnosed cases of cancer from 1997 to 2006 in (i) Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency, (ii) Dacorum local authority, (iii) Hertfordshire county and (iv) the South East government office region in each year since 1997 are given in Table 1.

It cannot be stated definitively whether a patient (b) has been successfully treated. For most cancers, five-year survival rates are often taken to be 'cure' rates. Cancer survival rates are only produced for specific cancers. A figure giving the overall survival rate for all cancer patients is not produced as it would not be meaningful to combine figures for disparate conditions having very different survival rates.

ONS regularly publishes five-year relative survival for patients resident in England, government office regions and strategic health authorities for the most common cancers. The most recent report can be found on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of all cancers[1]: Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency[2], Dacorum local authority, Hertfordshire county and the South East government office region, 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hemel Hempstead	381	400	439	411	420	389	308	340	478	345
Dacorum	542	585	653	563	549	591	482	527	653	511
Hertfordshire	4,378	4,232	4,321	4,334	4,149	3,967	4,038	4,093	4,640	4,038
South East	36,698	36,240	38,108	37,649	37,967	37,391	37,468	39,018	38,627	38,775

[1] All cancers coded to C00-C97 excluding C44 (non-melanoma skin cancer) in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Conditions of Employment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what measures are in place regarding the use in Government infrastructure programmes of local employment contracts; and if she will make a statement. [285392]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Public procurers are required to seek value for money through fair and open competition. They must comply with EU Treaty open market principles and the UK public procurement Regulations implementing the 2004 EU Public Procurement Directives. These set out the

value for money criteria to be used for the award of public contracts. Any preferential treatment for local companies or those offering local employment is not allowed.

Death: Drugs

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* drug-related and *(b)* methadone-related deaths there were in each year since 1997. [285232]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) drug-related and (b) methadone-related deaths there were in each year since 1997. (285232)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where (a) the underlying cause was drug poisoning, and (b) methadone was mentioned on the death certificate either alone or with other substances, in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths from (a) drug poisoning[1] and (b) where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales[2], 1997 to 2007[3, 4]

			Deaths (persons)
	Drug poisoning	Methadone alone	Methadone with other substances
1997	2,817	288	437
1998	2,976	230	398
1999	3,110	178	336
2000	2,932	150	269
2001	3,093	126	244
2002	2,830	91	199
2003	2,623	74	201
2004	2,787	105	219
2005	2,762	98	220
2006	2,570	125	241
2007	2,640	167	325

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where the underlying cause was *(a)* due to drug poisoning (corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are shown in Box 1), and *(b)* where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate, either alone or in combination with other substances.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Box 1: International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes used to define drug-related poisoning deaths by underlying cause

Description	ICD-9	ICD-10
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	292, 304, 305.2-305.9	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E850-E858	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E950.0-E950.5	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E962.0	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	E980.0-E980.5	Y10-Y14

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths were caused by drug dependency in each year since 1997. [285233]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths were caused by drug dependency in each year since 1997. (285233)

ONS routinely publishes figures on deaths related to drug poisoning, and the latest report was published on 28 August 2008[1]. However, it is not possible to determine from information collected at death registration whether a death was caused by drug dependency, since this information is not routinely recorded.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2008). Report: Deaths related to drug poisoning: England and Wales, 2003 to 2007. Health Statistics Quarterly 39, 82-88

Death: Skin Cancer

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths from skin cancer were recorded in each year since 1997. [285451]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from skin cancer were recorded in each year since 1997. (285451)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where skin cancer was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales, from 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Number of deaths where skin cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], England and Wales[2], 1997 to 2008[3,4]

	Deaths (persons)
1997	1,734
1998	1,865
1999	1,844
2000	1,867
2001	1,877
2002	1,921
2003	2,036
2004	2,073
2005	2,068
2006	2,109
2007	2,313
2008	2,264

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 172-173 (Malignant melanoma of skin, and Other malignant neoplasm of skin) for the years 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C43 -C44 (Malignant melanoma of skin, and Other malignant neoplasm of skin) for 2001 onwards.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Departmental ICT

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what recent discussions she has had with the Minister for Digital Engagement and Civil Service Issues on the use and provision of information communications technology in *(a)* the Civil Service, *(b)* Government Departments and *(c)* 10 Downing Street; and if she will make a statement; [271092]

(2) what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Government's online communications strategy in meeting its objectives; and if she will make a statement; [271093]

(3) what recent discussions she has had with the Minister for Digital Engagement and Civil Service Issues on the Government's online communications strategy; and if she will make a statement. [271094]

Tessa Jowell: The Power of Information Taskforce was formed in April 2008 to help increase innovation in the use of new media by Government and to improve the way Departments share information. The taskforce published their final report on 2 March 2009 and made 25 recommendations for further action. All these recommendations have been accepted.

Copies of the Taskforce's report and the Government response have been placed in the Library.

Divorce

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many divorces were granted in each region in each of the last 30 years. [285997]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many divorces were granted in each region in each of the last 30 years. (285997)

Divorce statistics are based upon information supplied to ONS by the courts in England and Wales. The fact that a divorce has taken place in a court in a particular region does not mean that either one or both parties are resident there. Therefore, divorce statistics have been historically presented at a national level only. Table 1 shows the number of divorces separately for Wales and England for all years from 1986 to 2007. Figures are not available for years prior to 1986. Figures for 2008 will be published later in the year.

Table 1: Number of divorces by country 1986 to 2007

	Wales	Thousand England
1986	7.8	146.0
1987	7.8	143.2
1988	7.9	144.7
1989	8.2	142.7
1990	8.3	145.1
1991	8.4	150.1
1992	8.9	151.5
1993	8.9	156.1
1994	8.6	149.6
1995	8.0	147.5
1996	8.4	148.7
1997	8.0	138.7
1998	7.8	137.4
1999	7.5	137.0
2000	7.2	133.9
2001	7.4	136.4
2002	7.6	140.2
2003	7.7	145.8
2004	7.9	145.5
2005	7.2	134.6
2006	7.0	125.6
2007[1]	6.7	121.9

[1] Data are provisional for 2007

Drownings

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths from drowning were recorded in each of the last five years. [285446]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from drowning were recorded in each of the last five years. (285446)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where drowning was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales, from 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Deaths from drowning may be accidental or due to suicide or homicide.

Table 1. Number of deaths where drowning was the underlying cause of death[1], England and Wales[2], 2004-08[3,4]

	Number
2004	412
2005	432
2006	429
2007	390
2008	429

[1] Cause of death was defined using die International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), codes W65-W74 (Accidental drowning and submersion), X71 (Intentional self-harm by drowning and submersion), X92 (Assault by drowning and submersion) and Y21 (Drowning and submersion, undetermined intent).
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Employment: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in employment in (i) City of York constituency, (ii) the City of York local authority area and (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber in (A) May 1997 and (B) each year since. [285824]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women were in employment in (i) City of York constituency (ii) City of York local authority area and (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber region in (A) May 1997 and (B) each year since. (285824)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of males and females in employment resident in the requested areas. For the 12 month periods ending in February for 1997 to 2004 estimates have been provided from the Annual LFS. For the 12 month periods ending in December 2004 to 2008 estimates have been provided from the APS. The estimates for Yorkshire and The Humber have also been compiled from the Annual LFS and APS to be consistent with those for the City of York parliamentary constituency and City of York local authority and will therefore differ from the employment figures published in the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of males and females in employment aged 16 and over resident in the City of York parliamentary constituency, City of York local authority and Yorkshire and the Humber

Thousand

	City of York parliamentary constituency		*City of York local authority*		*Yorkshire and the Humber*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
12 months ending						
February 1997	22	22	43	39	1,163	988
February 1998	24	21	43	34	1,178	993
February 1999	28	20	45	38	1,202	1,010
February 2000	25	20	44	39	1,197	1,014
February 2001	27	24	49	44	1,208	1,051
February 2002	28	24	47	43	1,221	1,044
February 2003	29	25	50	43	1,233	1,047
February 2004	28	25	48	43	1,248	1,064
December 2004	29	27	49	44	1,247	1,068
December 2005	30	27	52	47	1,298	1,098
December 2006	29	28	51	50	1,309	1,107
December 2007	32	27	54	49	1,324	1,108
December 2008[1]	**32	**28	**54	**51	*1,324	1,124

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

Lobbying

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when the Government plans to respond to the Public Administration Select Committee's First Report of this Session on Lobbying: access and influence in Whitehall; and if she will make a statement. [286430]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 824-25W.

Parliamentary Session

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information her Department holds on the average length of a working week in each of the last 30 years. [285685]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what information is held on the average length of a working week in each of the last 30 years. (285685)

Estimates of the average actual weekly hours of work for those in employment from 1980 to 2009 are shown in the attached table. This information is updated monthly as part of the Labour Market Statistics Bulletin and can be found on the National Statistics website at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS/WebTable07.xls

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Average actual weekly hours of work, three-month periods ending April, 1980 to 2009, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

	Average weekly hours[1, 2]
1980	34.6
1981	33.7
1982	33.6
1983	33.5
1984	33.5
1985	33.7
1986	33.5
1987	33.6
1988	33.7
1989	33.8
1990	33.7
1991	33.2
1992	33.0
1993	32.9
1994	33.2
1995	33.4
1996	33.2
1997	33.3
1998	33.3
1999	32.9
2000	32.8
2001	32.7
2002	32.5
2003	32.2
2004	32.1

Average actual weekly hours of work, three-month periods ending April, 1980 to 2009, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

	Average weekly hours[1, 2]
2005	32.1
2006	32.0
2007	32.0
2008	32.0
2009	31.6

[1] Average hours actually worked in the reference week, which includes hours worked in second jobs.
[2] Figures include both paid and unpaid overtime.
Note:
The above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Public Houses: Closures

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate her Department has made of the number of public houses which have ceased trading in each of the last 30 years. [285687]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of public houses to have ceased trading in each of the last 30 years. (285687)

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography. Data on business deaths are only available back as far as 2002 in this series. The table below contains the count of enterprise deaths of public houses for 2002-2007.

Table showing counts of Enterprise 'deaths' within Public Houses SICs for the years 2002-07

Standard industrial classification	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
55402—Independent public houses and bars	5,530	6,775	6,875	6,175	5,300	5,260
55403—Tenanted public houses and bars	2,150	2,610	2,950	2,590	2,310	2,340
55404—Managed public houses and bars	130	200	255	315	345	350
Total	7,810	9,585	10,080	9,080	7,955	7,950

Unemployment: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her most recent estimate is of the number of children in a household in which no adult is in work in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [285961]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the most recent estimate is of the number of children in a household in which no adults work in a) Essex and b) Castle Point. (285961)

Estimates for Essex from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset for January to December 2007 are shown in the attached table. An estimate for Castle Point has not been provided as it is unreliable for practical purposes.

Figures for children in households are based on children aged under 16 years old living in working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Number of children[1] in workless[2] households in Essex, 2007, January to December 2007

			Thousand
	Estimate	Lower bound[3]	Upper bound[3]
Essex	32	23	42

[1] Children under 16.
[2] Workless household is a working-age household where no one aged 16 or over is working.
[3] 95 per cent. confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95 per cent. certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.
Source:
Annual Population Survey Household data sets

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Public Appointments

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to make appointments of Audit Commissioners to replace those commissioners who retired at the end of March 2009. [284696]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Three audit commissioners left the board at the end of April 2009. The statutory size of the board is being reduced from 1 August and in the light of this, we are not replacing all three members.

Interviews took place in June 2009, to appoint one new member to the Audit Commission board and we expect to announce a decision shortly.

Chorley Borough Council: Bank Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 199W, on Chorley Borough Council: bank services, what steps his Department has taken to assist Chorley Borough Council in recovering its deposits in Icelandic banks; and if he will make a statement. [285574]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 958W.

Council Housing: Construction

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether new council houses to be built under the proposals in Building Britain's Future will be allowed to be sold under right to buy provisions. [284800]

John Healey: Tenants in new council houses will have the same rights as other council tenants. However, I announced last month that we will exclude all new build council housing from the HRA subsidy system, which means that councils will retain in full the rent and capital receipts from these homes.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-24, on Building Britain's Future, what steps he is taking to inform councils of the new opportunities for them to build homes; and how he plans to encourage them to do so. [284913]

John Healey: We have encouraged local authorities by making up to £350 million available to support the provision of new council housing, and by changing the rules governing the financing of such housing. The Homes and Communities Agency issued guidance to local authorities on accessing the funding available on 8 May, and will encourage delivery through its continuing dialogue with each authority.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-24, on Building Britain's Future, when he expects the local authority house building programme to start. [284915]

John Healey: I expect the first building starts of new homes in the last quarter of 2009.

Council Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he expects his Department to launch its consultation on the future of the Housing Revenue Account. [286009]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 898-99W.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285308]

Mr. Malik: No changes have been made to the Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in his Department has lead policy responsibility for the Audit Commission. [284697]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is responsible for all areas of policy, including those relating to the Audit Commission. I as Minister of State with responsibility for local government, lead on oversight of the Audit Commission on his behalf.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to charge households for the provision of wheelie bins. [284290]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 sets out the provisions under which an authority can seek payment for waste receptacles, which include wheelie bins.

Eco-Towns: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has allocated for its eco-towns programme in each of the next three years. [284935]

John Healey: We expect to make growth area funding available to those taking forward eco-town proposals, and in particular to support early delivery. In addition support will be available from the National Affordable Housing Programme, managed by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Home Information Packs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an assessment of the effects of the introduction of home information packs on the level of *(a)* demand for the services of domestic energy assessors and *(b)* competition in the domestic energy assessment market; and if he will make a statement. [285744]

John Healey: Both demand for the services of domestic energy assessors and competition in the domestic energy assessment market are matters for the market to determine. There are therefore no plans to carry out an assessment of the effects of the introduction of home information packs on either.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the Homes and Communities Agency's capital funding he expects to be allocated to the provision of homes for *(a)* social rent, *(b)* shared ownership and shared equity, *(c)* intermediate rent, *(d)* intermediate tenure other than intermediate rent and *(e)* private sale in each region in the next three years. [284699]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency will set out their spending plans and allocations in their corporate plan, which will be published shortly.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 112, on housing policy, whether his Department is on course to deliver three million new homes by 2020. [284481]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable", published in July 2007, set out the Government's ambition to increase housing supply.

The Department does not produce forecasts of housing supply. However, the Government recognise that the current financial and economic conditions will make the achievement of their housing supply ambition extremely challenging. But despite the difficult economic and financial conditions, long-term pressures on housing supply and affordability remain. The Government therefore remain fully committed to doing all they can to meet the long-term demand and need for housing.

At Budget 2009 the Government announced a further £1 billion housing package which included a £400 million Kickstart housing delivery fund to restart stalled construction activity across the country. This should help developers retain jobs and skills, and boost the supply of homes over the next year.

In order to complement this investment, the Government are putting in place measures to enable a strong and sustainable recovery in house building, including: ensuring availability of sufficient supply of land and an effective and responsive planning system; and delivering effective and coordinated infrastructure provision.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes for *(a)* social rent, *(b)* shared ownership and shared equity, *(c)* intermediate rent and *(d)* intermediate tenure other than intermediate rent have been (i) started, (ii) completed and (iii) acquired in the last three years; what estimate he has made of the number of homes in each such category to be (A) started, (B) completed and (C) acquired in the next three years; how many homes for private purchase have been (1) started and (2) completed in the last three years; and how many he expects to be (x) started and (y) completed in the next three years. [284698]

Mr. Ian Austin: Figures showing the number of social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership completions in England, broken down by new build completions and acquisitions, were released in live table 1009 on the CLG website in December 2008:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table1009.xls

Affordable housing figures are collated from the Homes and Communities Agency investment management system (IMS); and housing strategy statistical appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities.

Comprehensive figures showing the total number of affordable housing starts are not available.

Communities and Local Government do not set targets for affordable housing. The details of how the national affordable housing programme (NAHP) will be managed, taking account of the housing pledge, part of Building Britain's Future, announced on 29 June, will be published in the HCA corporate plan shortly.

Figures showing the number of house building starts and completions in England, broken down by tenure, were released in live tables 208 (house building starts) and 209 (house building completions) on the CLG website in May 2009:

Starts:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/323492.xls

Completions:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/323495.xls

Figures are not available showing how many homes for private purchase are expected to be started and completed in the next three years.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent under the Kickstart programme to re-start stalled housing projects; and how many houses have been completed under the programme. [284799]

John Healey: Since its announcement in April, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has been conducting a competitive exercise to select projects for the Kickstart Housing Development Programme. I expect to announce the first allocations from the HCA from this programme later this month and to see the first building starts of new homes from the third quarter of 2009.

Housing: Energy

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people had successfully completed a diploma in *(a)* domestic energy assessment and *(b)* home inspection in (i) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (ii) Hertfordshire and (iii) England at the latest date for which figures are available. [284815]

John Healey: Data about the number of people who successfully complete diplomas for either domestic energy assessment or home inspection are not collected centrally.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of additional energy-efficient homes the Government expects to be built in the next two years which will be built in eco-towns. [284936]

John Healey: As yet no decisions have been made on those locations with potential to be an eco-town, but our aim is to see the first phase of a number of exemplar projects starting in the next couple of years, which will include providing energy efficient homes.

Housing: Low Incomes

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes for shared ownership, shared equity and discounted market sale were sold to households with an annual household income at the time of purchase of *(a)* £20,000 or less, *(b)* between £20,001 and £30,000, *(c)* between £30,001 and £40,000, *(d)* between £40,001 and £50,000, *(e)*

between £50,001 and £60,000, *(f)* between £60,001 and £70,000 and *(g)* over £70,000 in 2008-09; and what the average amount of subsidy provided to households in each income bracket was in that year. [284701]

John Healey: These data are available from the Continuous Recording (CORE) returns to the Tenant Services Authority from registered social landlords. Data for 2008-09, however, are not yet available.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-24, on Building Britain's Future, whether the £1.5 billion additional expenditure for affordable housing he announced includes the £400 million allocated in the 2009 Budget. [284733]

John Healey: The £1.5 billion for the Housing Pledge set out in Building Britain's Future is additional expenditure. It does not include the £400 million allocated in the 2009 Budget.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities which have transferred housing stock to a registered social landlord under a large scale voluntary transfer are permitted to build new social housing. [284802]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is nothing to prevent any local housing authority building new social housing.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many new properties were available for sale under the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy and *(c)* Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each of the last 12 months; [285963]

(2) how many properties were available under the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Rent to HomeBuy and *(d)* First-time Buyers Initiative in each of the last 12 months. [286015]

John Healey: Data on the number of properties available each month for New Build HomeBuy and Rent to HomeBuy are not held centrally. The following table shows the number of newly completed properties available for New Build HomeBuy and Rent to HomeBuy in each of the last 12 months.

	New Build HomeBuy	*Rent to HomeBuy*
2008		
July	415	0
August	495	0
September	868	18
October	476	70
November	545	28
December	1,129	48
2009		
January	413	10
February	632	27
March	2,849	972
April	126	63
May	388	245
June	716	133

There were 1,670 properties available under the First Time Buyers initiative in July 2008. This has gradually declined and as at the end of June 2009 there were 1,118 properties available.

HomeBuy Direct was introduced in September 2008 and there are currently over 8,000 properties available.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure his Department has incurred on *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First-time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Built HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy in 2009-10 to date. [286014]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1546W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been withdrawn from the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Rent to HomeBuy and *(d)* First Time Buyers Initiative scheme in each of the last 12 months. [286031]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1178W.

No homes have been withdrawn from First Time Buyers Initiative schemes in the last 12 months. It is open to housing associations to convert NewBuild HomeBuy units to social, intermediate rent and Rent to HomeBuy to meet local circumstances.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest date was on which applications for *(a)* OwnHome, *(b)* MyChoice HomeBuy and *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy were accepted; and if he will make a statement. [286032]

John Healey: The latest dates on which applications were taken for MyChoiceHomeBuy were in mid May and early July for Ownhome.

Open Market HomeBuy is a general term for Ownhome and MyChoiceHomeBuy rather than a separate product.

Housing: Sales

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will permit local authorities to participate in the Housing and Communities Agency's clearing house scheme for the sale of homes to housing associations. [284801]

John Healey: The Home and Communities Agency's (HCA) National Clearing House was set up to streamline initial assessment of national packages of at least 250 units from private sector house builders and operated during 2008-09. For the future, the HCA will continue to fund the purchase of unsold stock from developers where it represents value for money, is of good quality and in the right locations.

Local authorities, who successfully pre-qualify, will be able to bid for grant from the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme through two bidding rounds announced in May.

Local Government: Bank Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision each local authority which has lost more than £5 million as a result of the Icelandic banking collapse has made to cover the loss. [286394]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for each individual local authority to assess and manage their own financial situation and revise their financial plans and strategies where necessary. We do not hold the information requested.

We produced a regulation, which came into force on 31 March 2009, which allows local authorities to postpone the impact on budget calculations of the impairments required by accounting practice from the financial year 2009-10 to 2010-11. This will give councils time to adjust their medium-term financial plans and be clearer about how much money might be recovered before taking decisions which affect their budgets or council tax.

Local Government: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* local authorities in England and *(b)* City of York Council spent on employing (i) educational and (ii) other staff in (A) 2002-03 and (B) the latest year for which figures are available; and what change there has been in the proportion of (1) local authority and (2) City of York Council expenditure on staff since 2002-03. [285708]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is tabled as follows:

Employee expenditure

£ million

		2002-03	2007-08
City of York	Education service	67.5	99.8
	Other services	37.[illegible]	42.3
	All services	[illegible]	152.1
	Percentage of total net current expenditure: all services	63	69
England	Education service	21,972.8	30,687.7
	Other services	22,372.0	31,393.7
	All services	44,344.8	62,081.5
	Percentage of total net current expenditure: all services	64	65

Total expenditure on employees as reported by authorities to Communities and Local Government on revenue outturn (RO) forms. This includes all direct and indirect employee expenses and contributions to employee-related provisions, including national insurance contributions, pensions and employee-related expenses.

Figures are not necessarily comparable year-on-year owing to changes in the funding, function and structure of local authorities during this time. In particular, the outturn data for 2002-03 have been calculated on a non-financial reporting standard (FRS) 17 basis while the outturn data for 2007-08 have been calculated on a FRS 17 basis.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what expenditure his Department has incurred on the administration of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme to date; [285968]

(2) what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Mortgage Rescue Scheme to date. [286020]

John Healey: The Mortgage Rescue Scheme was established as part of wide continuing work on the Department's homelessness prevention programme. The impact assessment, which sets out the estimated costs and benefits for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, was published on 16 September 2008 and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/homeownerssupportpackage

The Mortgage Rescue Scheme has funding of £285 million over two years. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is responsible for delivery of the scheme. The HCA's programme expenditure will be published in its annual report and accounts.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the *(a)* total business rate liability that eligible businesses will defer under the business rate deferral scheme and *(b)* number of businesses eligible to make such deferrals in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [285126]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On *(a)*, details of take-up estimates and revenue impacts of the business rates deferral scheme are contained in the scheme's impact assessment which can be found at the following link:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20091597_en.pdf

A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

On *(b)*, information on the number of businesses eligible to defer in 2009-10 is not held centrally.

We have no plans to implement a similar business rates deferral scheme for 2010-11 or 2011-12.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of properties subject to the business rate deferral scheme in respect of which more than 40 per cent. of the 2009-10 rates liability will have been paid before the first recalculated payment instalments are issued by local authorities; and what

estimate has been made of the total business rate liabilities which will have been paid before the recalculated payments come into effect. [285127]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No estimates have been made as the required information is not held centrally. Ratepayers are able to defer 60 per cent. of the increase in their 2009-10 rates bills caused by: the RPI adjustment to the non-domestic rates multiplier; and the end of the transitional relief scheme for the 2005 revaluation period. However, the amount that an eligible ratepayer can defer will be based on their entire 2009-10 bill.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations his Department has received on empty property business rate relief from *(a)* representative industry groups and *(b)* individual property owners since January 2008. [285118]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Our records show that we received 349 letters on empty property rates (EPR) between March 2007 and December 2008 from businesses and individuals both directly to Community and Local Government Ministers and via constituency MPs.

We have received representations from a number of representative bodies. These include:

British Property Federation
Consortium of British Industry
British Council of Shopping Centres
Machinery Users Association
British Retail Consortium
The Urban Regeneration Companies.

The Government listened to the concerns expressed by stakeholders and as a result announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report a temporary raising of the threshold at which rates on empty property becomes due from £2,200 to £15,000.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of properties *(a)* eligible for empty property business rate relief and *(b)* on which empty property business rate relief was claimed in each region in each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for each year from 2009-10 to 2011-12. [285128]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authority estimates of the number of properties on which empty property relief was being claimed, by region, as at 31 December 2007 and 31 December 2008 are shown in the following table. Data for earlier years were not collected and no estimates have been made of the number of properties that will claim relief in future years.

Number of properties on which empty property relief is being claimed

	31 December 2007	*31 December 2008*
North East	8,575	7,570
North West	30,305	27,597
Yorkshire and the Humber	19,233	17,138
East Midlands	15,158	12,244
West Midlands	24,282	18,181
East of England	19,682	14,967
London	33,506	20,840
South East	20,498	15,793
South West	15,129	13,593
Total England	186,370	147,923

No estimates have been made of the number of properties eligible for empty property rate relief.

Data are not strictly comparable as the rules governing empty property rate relief were changed by the Ratings (Empty Properties) Act 2007 and further subsequent changes.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much empty property business rate relief was granted in each region in each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for each year from 2009-10 to 2011-12. [285129]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the amount of empty property business rate relief granted in each year by local authorities (in £ million) in each region in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08 are shown in the following table. Also shown are local authority estimates of the empty property business rate relief they will grant in 2008-09 and 2009-10. No estimates have been made for 2010-11 or 2011 -12.

Empty property business rate relief granted by local authorities

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*£ million 2009-10*[1]
North East	36.9	43.4	42.2	32.8	22.1
North West	161.3	189.3	178.6	149.3	94.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	97.0	110.0	117.7	82.4	50.9
East Midlands	74.1	83.4	81.6	77.3	43.7
West Midlands	154.8	145.1	143.8	111.3	54.2
East of England	119.2	122.5	127.9	102.1	52.9
London	397.7	383.2	327.6	246.7	145.3
South East	202.2	206.1	195.0	140.3	67.3
South West	70.3	78.8	79.5	59.1	39.0
Total England	1,313.5	1,361.8	1,294.0	1,001.2	569.8

[1] Estimate

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in business rates on empty properties in each region in each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for each year from 2009-10 to 2011-12. [285130]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available centrally.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fast-track reassessments of port operators' business rates are being made by the Valuation Office Agency; how long on average each such reassessment has taken; and when he expects such reassessments to be completed. [284983]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 24 November 2008 the Valuation Office Agency has received 308 proposals (appeals) against properties within ports. All have been dealt with in accordance with the 'fast track' procedures. 71 appeals have been resolved. At 1 June 2009 the average time taken for each appeal was 44 days.

In all but the most complex cases, the agency will reach a considered decision within two months of the date of receipt of the appeal.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many operators in each port *(a)* are being assessed and *(b)* remain to be assessed for business rates by the Valuation Office Agency. [284984]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Within the 45 statutory ports and container terminals in England, there are, at 1 April 2005, over 2,200 separate assessments for business rates.

The Valuation Office Agency continues to update the rating list to reflect new information and physical changes since 1 April 2005 in accordance with its statutory functions to maintain the rating lists.

Repossession Orders

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to provide security of tenure to tenants resident in properties subject to repossession proceedings. [286245]

Mr. Ian Austin: We announced on 13 May 2009 our intention to legislate at the earliest opportunity to fill a gap in legal protection for private tenants whose landlords are repossessed to ensure that those tenants get adequate notice to vacate the property, regardless of whether their tenancy has been authorised by the landlord's lender.

We will consult on our proposals over the summer 2009 with a view to legislate at the next opportunity.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shared ownership purchases were made in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England by people registered on housing waiting lists in each year since 2000; and what proportion of all such sales this represented in each such year. [285134]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on shared ownership purchases is not available below the spatial level of local authority.

The following table shows the number of shared ownership completions made in Dacorum local authority, Hertfordshire and England by people on housing waiting lists, and as a percentage of total shared ownership sales.

	Dacorum		*Hertfordshire*		*England*	
	Number of sales	*Percentage of sales*	*Number of sales*	*Percentage of sales*	*Number of sales*	*Percentage of sales*
2000-01	0	0	10	34	1,360	36
2001-02	0	0	[1]—	18	1,310	32
2002-03	10	100	10	38	1,620	36
2003-04	0	0	10	24	1,830	38
2004-05	0	0	30	62	2,830	45
2005-06	0	0	40	37	2,910	38
2006-07	10	39	80	34	3,620	34

[1] Not available due to small sample size of less than five.

Source:
CORE (Continuous Recording) returns to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) from Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

CORE data only record data from RSLs with at least 250 units or bedspaces, so the figures above may be underestimates if not all RSLs are included. Also not all CORE data are compulsory for RSLs to complete, and details on whether sales were made to people on LA waiting lists was missing in approximately 20 per cent. of returns.

Details on whether shared ownership sales were made to people on LA waiting lists was removed from the CORE form in 2007-08, so the figures are only available up to 2006-07.

Temporary Accommodation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people aged *(a)* over 65 and *(b)* under 18-years-old have been placed in temporary accommodation in each year since 2004. [283438]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes so.

The number of households housed in temporary accommodation by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter, is also recorded. This figure consists of those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority; and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The temporary accommodation figures are for households, not individuals, and therefore data are not collected centrally by age bands.

However, figures are collected for the number of dependent children (and expected children) that are included within the households in temporary accommodation. Dependent children comprise all children under 16, and children aged 16 to 18 years old who are in, or about to begin, full-time education or training or for other reasons are unable to support themselves and who live at home. These figures are available for 2007-08 and 2008-09, shown in the following table:

Table 1: Number of dependent children (and expected children) in temporary accommodation at the end of each financial year (31 March), from 2007-08 to 2008-09, England

	Number of children
2007-08	110,360
2008-09	92,590

We also collect figures for the number of 16 or 17-year-old applicant households in temporary accommodation—i.e. where a 16 or 17-year-old applicant is not a dependent child, has applied for assistance themselves, and they (and their household where applicable) are being housed in temporary accommodation. These figures are also available for 2007-08 and 2008-09, shown in the following table:

Table 2: 16 or 17-year-old applicant households in temporary accommodation at the end of each financial year (31 March), from 2007/08 to 2008-09, England

	Number
2007-08	2,300
2008-09	1,830

Note that the two sets of figures should not be added together, as the former covers individuals and the latter households.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on the use of animal experimentation for scientific advancement; and if he will make a statement. [284794]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's policy on the use of animal experimentation for scientific advancement is clear and straightforward. We believe that the responsible use of animals for experimental and other scientific purposes continues to be essential if improvements in health care and veterinary treatment are to be developed with the minimum of delay and to make proper provision to protect man and the environment from health risks and other hazards.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* academic departments practising vivisection and *(b)* anti-vivisection organisations to discuss the Government's policy on vivisection. [284941]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier) met People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) earlier in 2009 to discuss aspects of the European Commission proposal for a draft directive for the protection of animals used in scientific procedures to replace Directive 86/609/EEC. My hon. Friend also met the All Party Parliamentary Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME) Group to discuss the draft directive. In addition, Home Office officials have met with a wide and representative cross-section of relevant stakeholder groups to discuss its provisions. A public consultation on the proposal closed on 3 July 2009.

Asylum: Bahrain

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with (i) the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, (ii) other Ministerial colleagues and (iii) the UK Border Agency on grounds for granting asylum to Bahraini nationals. [267974]

Mr. Woolas: Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary have had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs or with other ministerial colleagues about grounds for granting asylum to Bahraini nationals. I frequently discuss matters of asylum and immigration policy with officials across a range of Whitehall Departments including the UK Border Agency. It is the policy of the Home Office not to discuss individual asylum cases with third parties.

Separately, I have engaged directly with the Bahraini Interior Minister to build better understanding on matters of mutual interest, including conveying the fundamental principles of the United Kingdom's international protection obligations.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions an individual *(a)* stopped and searched and *(b)* arrested on the basis of automatic number plate recognition data was released without charge in each year since 2005. [285402]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information on the individual circumstances of arrests and stops and searches (including whether automatic number plate recognition was used during the arrest/search) are not reported to the Home Office.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many authorisations were given by senior police officers for access to automatic number plate recognition data in each year since 2005; [285403]

(2) how many police officers have authorised access to automatic number plate recognition data in each year since 2005; [285404]

(3) how many instances there have been of senior police officers accessing automatic number plate recognition data which had been retained for more than 90 days in each year since 2005; [285405]

(4) how many automatic number plate recognition records have been permanently deleted in each year since 2005; [285406]

(5) how many automatic number plate recognition records have been created in each year since 2005. [285413]

Mr. Hanson: Information regarding the number of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) records created, accessed to and deleted is not held centrally. ANPR data is collected and stored locally on computer systems that are owned and managed by the individual police force. Chief Police Officers are responsible for the management of this ANPR data, including access to and deletion of records.

Aviation: Personal Records

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of passenger name record data submitted by airlines to the *(a)* Semaphore and *(b)* e-Borders projects included data relating to (i) place of birth and (ii) date of issue of travel document. [282238]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* Statistical information on the individual elements of PNR data was not captured under Semaphore, and equally there are no plans to collect these figures as a percentage of the Passenger Name Record (PNR) data collected under e-Borders.

These data elements would only be transmitted to e-Borders if the carrier were to collect these data for its own commercial purposes.

Borders: Personal Records

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many intelligence-led checks on people leaving the UK at ports and airports were made by UK Border Agency officers in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2008. [282998]

Mr. Woolas: Details on the number of intelligence-led checks made on outbound passengers are not routinely recorded.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles to tackle *(a)* crime and *(b)* terrorism. [284602]

Mr. Hanson: I have had no discussions recently on the subject of unmanned aerial vehicles.

Crime Prevention: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been provided by his Department to each local authority area identified as a youth crime priority area. [284834]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP), published in July 2008, sets out the Government's plans for tackling offending by young people. It is supported by close to £100 million over the three year period from 2008-09 to 2010-11, in addition to the existing investment in children's and youth services, to support local authorities in making inroads into youth crime locally.

69 local authority areas in England and two in Wales have been identified as "priority areas" under YCAP. In 2008-09, under YCAP, the 69 local authorities in England each received £65,000 to implement an intensive package of activity set out in YCAP.

Each of the 69 local authority areas in England will receive £350,000 this financial year (2009-10) and £350,000 in 2010-11 to deliver the intensive package of activity to help reduce youth crime. In addition, the two Welsh areas will receive £175,000 in each of the two years to fund those aspects of the intensive package that are not devolved.

This year, building on the success of the Home Office enforcement campaign in 2008-09 we will provide funding to the 69 areas to develop a co-ordinated plan of activity to tackle alcohol related youth crime. Areas will be provided with a grant of up to £20,000 (£1.4 million in total) to kick-start activity to begin before the summer and last at least throughout the summer holidays.

Criminal Records Bureau

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have undergone *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four and *(c)* five or more standard or enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks in the last (i) three, (ii) six and (iii) 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [286096]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not hold data to show the number of individuals who have been required to apply for more than one Disclosure.

It is ultimately for each recruiting organisation and not the CRB to decide whether a fresh Disclosure should be applied for. The recruiting organisation, using a full range of pre-recruitment checks, is best placed to assess whether a new Disclosure is required for a specific position, bearing in mind their legal and other responsibilities. Organisations can accept a previously issued Disclosure at their own risk but they must understand the limitations and risks of doing so.

Guidance can be found on the CRB website at:

www.crb.gov.uk,

but the overriding consideration must always be the safety of those whom the Disclosure Service is designed to protect.

Cybercrime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions have been made consequent on investigations by the E-Crime Unit of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [278434]

Alan Johnson: The mandate of SOCA's e-Crime Department is to reduce the harm caused to the UK by online crime. It is resourced to address the threat of technology-enabled crime, and in particular to degrade criminal capability to

use the Internet as an operational enabler or means of influence;

use the Internet to obtain information on serious organised crime in order to improve understanding of how those involved operate;

use the internet as a tool to assist in the disruption of criminal activity; and

help our citizens protect themselves from criminal activity on the internet.

From April 2006 until March 2009 the Serious Organised Crime Agency's e-Crime unit was involved in

(a) 22 prosecutions; and

(b) 21 convictions.

Prosecution is however only one of a number of tools available to help achieve harm reduction in line with the Home Secretary's priorities in this area. Resources are directed also to the development of new intervention techniques, to disrupt and deny criminal opportunities worldwide and to work with international partners. Similarly these techniques include work with internet protocol registrars and others involved in regulating the internet and the influencing of future legislation. The aim is not just to pursue the criminals involved, many of whom operate beyond the reach of our courts but also provide long-term solutions for harm reduction on the internet. The SOCA 2008-09 annual report recorded significant operational successes by the e-Crime unit, notably against DarkMarket and the Sumitomo Banking Corporation.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre (CEOP) was involved over the same period in the investigation of offences of alleged child abuse where technology may have been a factor.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made towards ratification of the European Convention on Cybercrime; and if he will make a statement. [283483]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are fully committed to ratifying the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention. We are currently working through the formal UK process of ratification, during which we will lay the required explanatory memorandum before Parliament to obtain approval for ratification. If Parliament agrees to ratification, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will then commence the formal ratification process with the Council of Europe.

The Government had hoped to complete this process earlier in the year, but due to extended discussions with the devolved administrations and with legal advisors this has not been possible. We do not believe that further legislation will be necessary before we can proceed. We hope to complete the Parliamentary process shortly.

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department of employing press office staff other than press officers has been in each year since 1997. [283085]

Mr. Woolas: Staff employed in the Home Office press office other than press officers include staff in administrative and management roles. The following table which is based on our records provides the costs of these staff each year since 1997.

	Cost (£)
1997-98	258,650
1998-99	191,334
1999-2000[1]	215,431
2000-01	328,688
2001-02	244,309
2002-03	428,276
2003-04	443,509
2004-05	[2]423,061
2005-06	560,715
2006-07	474,324
2007-08	501,390
2008-09	573,322

[1] Prison Service and Core Home Office Press Offices merged.
[2] Exact costs of management 2004-05 are not available—management costs included here are the same as 2003-04.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285314]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has made no changes to its *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months.

The Department participates in cross-government collaborative arrangements for office equipment and stationery that include built-in incremental benefits. Additionally, the Department regularly engages with the market to ensure that the objective of value for money is achieved.

Departmental Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much his Department has spent on staff training in health and safety procedures in each of the last five years; [278142]

(2) how much his Department has spent on health and safety training for its employees in each of the last two years. [284112]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DNA: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new profiles have been added to the National DNA Database by each police force since 4 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [285742]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The figures in Table 1 show the number of subject profiles added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by forces in England and Wales between 5 December 2008 and 8 July 2009, broken down by police forces.

The figures in Table 2 show the number of crime scene profiles added to the NDNAD by forces in England and Wales between 5 December 2008 and 8 July 2009, broken down by the police forces.

The number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals. A proportion of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded on more then one occasion (this may be because the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because of upgrading of profiles). It is currently estimated that 13.5 per cent. of subject profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. The replication rate of 13.5 per cent. should only be applied over the entire database however, as the replication rate for individual forces varies considerably. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

Table 1: Subject profiles added to the NDNAD between 5 December 2008 and 8 July 2009

Force	*Number*
Avon and Somerset	7,429
Bedfordshire	4,168
British Transport	3,687
Cambridgeshire	3,188
Cheshire	4,292
City of London Police	911
Cleveland	3,219
Cumbria	2,850
Derbyshire	4,436
Devon and Cornwall	7,259
Dorset	2,857
Durham	2,720
Dyfed-Powys	2,224
Essex	9,066
Gloucestershire	3,678
Greater Manchester Police	14,255
Gwent	2,466
Hampshire	8,198
Hertfordshire	4,938
Humberside	5,026
Kent	8,739
Lancashire	8,663
Leicestershire	3,532
Lincolnshire	3,557
Merseyside	19,148
Metropolitan Police	50,331
Norfolk	3,030
North Wales	3,597
North Yorkshire	3,468
Northamptonshire	2,787
Northumbria	9,623
Nottinghamshire	6,137
South Wales Constabulary	6,297
South Yorkshire	6,598
Staffordshire	7,516
Suffolk	3,515
Surrey	3,225
Sussex	6,049
Thames Valley	11,502
Warwickshire Police	1,886
West Mercia	4,490
West Midlands	16,169
West Yorkshire	11,516
Wiltshire	3,227
Total	301,469

Table 2: Crime scene profiles added to the NDNAD between 5 December 2008 and 8 July 2009

Force	*Number*
Avon and Somerset	533
Bedfordshire	241
British Transport	303
Cambridgeshire	410
Cheshire	565
City of London Police	26
Cleveland	154
Cumbria	208
Derbyshire	329
Devon and Cornwall	408
Dorset	212
Durham	315
Dyfed-Powys	91
Essex	597
Gloucestershire	191
Greater Manchester Police	2,289
Gwent	266
Hampshire	702
Hertfordshire	419
Humberside	571
Kent	1,484
Lancashire	1,091
Leicestershire	427
Lincolnshire	193
Merseyside	825
Metropolitan Police	4,003
Norfolk	379
North Wales	502
North Yorkshire	169
Northamptonshire	558
Northumbria	835
Nottinghamshire	419
South Wales Constabulary	482
South Yorkshire	662
Staffordshire	618
Suffolk	280
Surrey	458
Sussex	1,091
Thames Valley	1,046
Warwickshire Police	169
West Mercia	462

Table 2: Crime scene profiles added to the NDNAD between 5 December 2008 and 8 July 2009

Force	*Number*
West Midlands	1,360
West Yorkshire	969
Wiltshire	161
Total	27,467

Drug System Change Pilots

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the budget is for each of the seven drug system change pilots for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [284995]

(2) when he plans to publish details of the independent evaluation process for the seven drug system change pilots. [284996]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Drug System Change Pilots programme is not a source of new money for service delivery. The aim of the programme is to improve outcomes for communities and individuals by encouraging partnerships to make better use of existing resources, align the efforts of all partners and key stakeholders, encourage innovation and share best practice, and to identify efficiencies that can come from the pooling of budgets, streamlined communication and information systems.

Joint funding (£2 million from the Home Office and Department of Health) has been allocated to kickstart the pilots in 2009-10, and to help build capacity by funding the appointment of a project manager and administrative support in those pilot sites which require it.

A tendering process for the independent evaluation of the programme is currently being undertaken, and it is hoped that this will be completed, and an independent contractor appointed, by September 2009. The intention is that, based on the reports from the contractor and the pilot sites, updates on progress from the Drug System Change Pilots will be made available on a quarterly basis.

Entry Clearances

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many risk assessment officers are *(a)* based at the UK Border Agency Abu Dhabi hub and *(b)* working on Pakistani visas in Abu Dhabi. [282948]

Mr. Woolas: Risk and Liaison Overseas Network staff are deployed on a risk assessment basis.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 455W, on entry clearances, if he will allocate greater resources to the processing of sponsor licences in order to meet the target time. [283485]

Mr. Woolas: There are currently no plans to allocate more resources to the processing of sponsor licences. The available resources are being targeted to better effect to improve turnaround times.

Entry Clearances: China

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visitor visas were issued to Chinese nationals in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [283323]

Mr. Woolas: The number of visit visas issued to Chinese nationals in the calendar years 2007 and 2008 is given in the following table:

Chinese nationals	*2007*	*2008*
Family visit	19,211	19,138
Other visit	111,116	90,176
Total	130,327	109,314

Note:
These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional
Source:
Central Reference System.

Entry Clearances: Jamaica

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the electronic processing of emergency visa applications from Jamaica has been suspended; when it will be resumed; and what steps he is taking to ensure that applications for emergency visas from that country can be granted where appropriate. [282890]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* There has been no suspension of the processing of any visa applications in Jamaica. Kingston continues to operate a normal visa issuing service.

Entry Clearances: Macedonia

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visas from nationals of *(a)* Macedonia and *(b)* Kosovo were processed at the visa section of the British Embassy in Skopje in the latest period for which figures are available. [281218]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* In the financial year 2008-09, our visa section in Skopje received 3,326 visa applications from nationals of Macedonia, and 3,233 applications from nationals of Kosovo.

Note:
These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
Proviso visa processing system.

Entry Clearances: Nepal

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Nepalese visa legacy cases there were as at 31 May 2009. [282944]

Mr. Woolas: As at 31 May 2009 there were 1,290 applications made in country for leave to remain where the lead applicant's nationality was given as Nepalese.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Russia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visitor visas were issued to Russian nationals in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [283325]

Mr. Woolas: The number of visit visas issued to Russian nationals in the calendar years 2007 and 2008 is given in the following table:

Russian nationals	*2007*	*2008*
Family visit	9,360	8,324
Other visit	116,438	118,374
Total	125,798	126,698

Note:
These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional
Source:
Central Reference System

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he took to inform hon. Members of the recently announced planned changes to the Forensic Science Service prior to the release of information to the media. [285580]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* I made the announcement of Forensic Science Service (FSS) Transformation plans in a written ministerial statement (WMS) on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 22WS and the commencement of the process by the FSS through internal meetings with staff and staff representatives began on the same day. I was aware that Bill Griffiths, the executive chairman of the company, had previously written to, and in some cases spoken to, Members with constituency interests. I also agreed with Bill that he would write to Members on the day of the WMS. This was done. This process was designed so that the statement was made to Parliament first.

Forensic Science: Standards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to assess the *(a)* quality and *(b)* adequacy of private forensic science services operating under contract to police forces. [283018]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Regulator sets out the quality standards and accreditation that are required for all forensic practitioners, including private forensic laboratory service providers.

Under the national forensic framework agreement, private forensic providers must comply with the standards set by the Forensic Science Regulator to be eligible to provide forensic services to police forces (in England and Wales). This is a mandatory clause contained within the framework agreement. The current standard requirements include ISO9001 quality management systems, 17025, and where appropriate 17020 compliance for each speciality area of work performed.

At a national level, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) manages the framework agreement on behalf of the 43 police forces and ensures that these quality standards are held by the participating suppliers and that they are maintained. The private companies themselves undergo annual inspection for compliance with the standards which is carried out by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). UKAS report any failings in compliance to the Forensic Regulator, who then passes relevant information on to the NPIA. If any action is required in terms of contract management, or there has been a breach of contract terms, the NPIA will address this through formal contract management processes with the supplier concerned.

To monitor the adequacy of any services being performed throughout the life of a forensic services provision contract, key performance indicators (KPIs) have been developed. These KPIs are reviewed at regular intervals.

This performance monitoring regime also includes regular contract management meetings between the suppliers and the police force and strategic business reviews carried out by the NPIA on behalf of Association of Chief Police Officers.

The regime is being designed to ensure that the services being provided by the private forensic suppliers are adequate to meet the operational needs of the police force. This also ensures that high quality standards set by the Forensic Science Regulator continue to be complied with, throughout the length of any service contract and for the lifetime of the national forensic framework agreement itself.

Immigration: Somalia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on levels of immigration to the EU from Somalia. [284103]

Mr. Woolas: There are a number of initiatives concerning migration from Somalia to the EU in which the UK is involved with other EU member states and also the European Commission.

We supported a proposal by the incoming Swedish presidency of the European Union for a migration specific mission from EU capitals at official level to Kenya with a regional focus on Somalia.

The UK also leads an EU funded initiative called the 'East Africa Migration Routes Initiative' worth approximately £1 million in 2008 and 2009 which was co-funded by the EU Commission, UK, Malta, Italy and the Netherlands. The initiative included:

work by UK, Italy and Maltese border authorities to monitor and debrief migrants arriving by sea from Africa in the EU including Somali migrants in 2008;

an East-Africa wide information campaign by the International Organisation for Migration which informed prospective migrants about the risks of attempting the dangerous journey to the EU; and

creation of a regional focal point in Djibouti to help co-ordinate migration policies of countries of the region, including Somalia.

EU Heads of Mission (HOMS) in Nairobi also recently agreed to establish a local taskforce on Somali migration issues that will share information about illegal migration from Somalia and work with Somali authorities to curb irregular migration to the EU.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a privacy impact assessment has been undertaken in relation to the Independent Safeguarding Authority's database. [285414]

Mr. Hanson: The Vetting and Barring Scheme programme, which includes establishment of the Independent Safeguarding Authority is being delivered in phases. The programme is currently in its third phase and a privacy impact assessment is scheduled to be completed with the full support and contribution of the Information Commissioner's Office during the remaining three phases of the programme. Some aspects of the privacy impact assessment have been captured in the first round of business impact assessments and the Information Commissioner's Office is aware of this progress.

International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has allocated to development of the International Child Sexual Exploitation Image database; and if he will make a statement. [284829]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office paid £300,000 towards the International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database (ICSEID) in two instalments of £150,000 in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Life Imprisonment: Prisoner Release

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals on life licence have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* removed in each of the last 10 years. [285277]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide them with all the robust and accurate information available relating to foreign national criminals. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

Local Government Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which *(a)* specific and *(b)* area-based grants are distributed to local authorities by each division of his Department; [285045]

(2) what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to *(a)* his Department of distributing each grant made by it to local authorities and *(b)* local authorities of administering each such grant; [285046]

(3) what *(a)* eligibility conditions and *(b)* compliance measures are in place in respect of the expenditure by local authorities of each grant distributed by his Department; and what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to his Department of monitoring the compliance by local authorities with such measures in respect of each such grant. [285124]

Mr. Woolas: The introduction of the Area Based Grant has reduced ring-fencing, giving councils increased flexibility to manage their budgets. Alongside this, the new local performance framework has provided a simplified and more effective structure for priority setting and performance measurement.

The following specific revenue grants are being paid by this Department direct to local authorities in 2009-10:

Grant stream	*Budget 2009-10 (£ million)*
Adult Facing Chronic Exclusion	0.75
Alcohol Arrest Referral Pilots	1.60
Priority Areas	1.50
Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Grants	4.22
National Support Framework	1.40
Youth Crime Action Plan Initiatives	10.00
Local Funding for Domestic/Sexual Violence	2.10
Drug Intervention Programme	87.85
Community Justice Panel	0.04
Positive Futures	2.18
Protect: Crowded Places	1.00
Prevent: Identification and Referral	0.62
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	127.00
UASC Leaving Care Costs Grants	17.20

Area Based Grant is paid by Communities and Local Government on behalf of the Government as a whole, in monthly instalments. Funding streams from this Department which are being paid through Area Based Grant in 2009-10 are:

Grant stream	*Budget 2009-10 (£ million)*
Safer Stronger Communities Fund—Resource	61.15
Young People Substance Misuse Partnership	15.39

The Department does not routinely estimate the costs of distributing grant each year.

As Area Based Grant is not ring-fenced, it comes with no specific conditions or compliance requirements.

Eligibility conditions and compliance measures vary with each specific revenue grant and, given the number of grants provided to local authorities, it is not cost effective to detail the criteria of all grants awarded. A standard criterion in place for all grants is that work delivers against Home Office PSA targets.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 14 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Tariq Mahmood Butt. [284720]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 11 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. J. Haig; [284721]

(3) when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 18 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Muhamad Imran Khan; [284723]

(4) when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 24 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Amjad Khan; [284724]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 7 July 2009.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a response will be provided to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's inquiry of 4 March 2009 on Zahir Omar Ahmed, HO Ref A1166882. [284981]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency responded to my right hon. Friend by e-mail on 27 March 2009. A duplicate response was issued on 6 July 2009.

Police Community Support Officers: Protective Clothing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with chief constables on the issuing of stab-proof vests for police community support officers. [284604]

Mr. Hanson: There have been no further discussions with chief constables on the subject of body armour for PCSOs since the exchange of correspondence referenced in my answer to my hon. Friend on 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1206W.

Police: Absenteeism

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting from injury at work was among Hertfordshire Constabulary employees in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such absences; and if he will make a statement. [284445]

Mr. Hanson: The detailed absence figures requested are not collected annually.

Figures on sickness absence for the past five financial years are published on the Home Office website at the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/

Information on the cost of such absences is not collected centrally.

Police: Complaints

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were made about police actions at the camp for climate change at the Kingsnorth Power Station; and how many related to specific officers. [285522]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* I am informed by the chief constable of Kent police that in relation to the camp for climate change at Kingsnorth 35 complaints about the conduct of a person serving with the police have been recorded under the Police Reform Act 2002. An additional 49 complaints were made about the direction and control of the event. No officers are the subject of multiple complaints.

Police: Cycling

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on the use of *(a)* bicycles and *(b)* electrically-assisted bicycles by (i) police officers and (ii) police community support officers in performing their duties. [285721]

Mr. Hanson: The use of bicycles and/or electronically assisted bicycles is a matter for the operational discretion of individual force chief officers and the Home Office does not issue any policy or guidance in respect of this.

Police: Dogs

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has issued to police forces on the issue of anti-stab vests for police dogs. [285455]

Mr. Hanson: Neither the Home Office nor the Association of Chief Police Officers have issued guidance to forces on the issue of anti-stab vests for police dogs.

Police: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers (PCSOs) were assigned to duties in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in the latest period for which figures are available; how many police officers were assigned to duties in each of those areas in 1997; and how many PCSOs were assigned to duties in each of those areas in 2003. [284950]

Mr. Hanson: There were 3,410 police officers in the Essex Police as at 30 September 2008 and 2,961 as at 31 March 1997. These figures exclude officers on career break or maternity/paternity leave.

There were 437 police community support officers as at 30 September 2008 and 10 as at 31 March 2003. Police community support officers were introduced by the Police Reform Act 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.

All figures are given as full-time equivalents.

Police personnel data by parliamentary constituency are not collected centrally.

Police: Protective Clothing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will require police forces to submit to him an annual risk assessment form in respect of their body armour policy; and if he will make a statement. [285518]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* There are currently no plans to require police forces to submit an annual risk assessment concerning their body armour policy. The management of health and safety and related services provided for police officers and police staff is the responsibility of the individual chief officer and police authority.

Police: Tetra

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effects on the health of police officers from radiation emissions from Tetra handsets issued to police forces. [285237]

Mr. Hanson: Since the roll out of Airwave radio began in 2001, the Government have made a considerable investment into research into the safety of the Tetra technology. None of the research to date has produced any evidence that Airwave is harmful to health.

All Airwave terminals comply fully with international safety standards and exposure levels are typically lower than those of the analogue terminals that they replaced.

Police: Uniforms

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which manufacturers have been accredited by his Department's Scientific Development Branch to supply stab-proof vests for use by *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* police officers in police forces in England and Wales. [284790]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) maintains an online database detailing all approved models of armour, from various manufacturers, tested according the HOSDB body armour standards for UK police 2007. The database can be viewed on the HOSDB website.

The HOSDB body armour standards do not differentiate between armour suitable for PCSOs or other police officers. The level of protection selected, and who the armour is issued to, are decisions made by the police force concerned based on the forces' risk and threat assessments.

Police: Vehicles

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police vehicles have been damaged by the vehicle of a suspect during attempts to apprehend the suspect in each police force area in each of the last five years. [285199]

Mr. Hanson: Statistics on the number of police vehicles damaged by the vehicle of a suspect during attempts to apprehend the suspect are not collected centrally.

Right of Abode: European Economic Area

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what obligations set at EU level his Department has in relation the time taken to process applications for EEA residence permits. [283952]

Mr. Woolas: Under EEA legislation member states are required to issue registration certificates immediately, and residence cards and documents certifying permanent residence no later than six months after an application with the required documents is subnitted.

UK Border Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the areas for which regional directors and regional offices of the UK Border Agency are responsible are the same as the areas designated as Government Office regions. [284288]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency regions do not correspond directly with Government Office regions. In a number of areas a UKBA region will cover more than one Government Office region. A list of UKBA regional directors and the areas that they are responsible for can be found at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/organisation/structure/

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will arrange for a reply to be sent from the UK Border Agency to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North dated 27 May 2009, reference M1274079. [284613]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 8 July 2009.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many airport liaison officers are employed by the UK Border Agency; and what their average annual salary is. [282958]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 41W.

UK Border Agency: Training

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* training leading to a formal qualification and *(b)* other training is offered to UK Border Agency staff who make decisions on asylum claims. [283384]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The training does not presently lead to any formal qualification.

(b) Asylum caseowners in the UK Border Agency receive comprehensive learning and development in all aspects of their role of owning cases from end to end of the asylum process. Although the course does not currently lead to a qualification, the Agency is now well-advanced in securing accreditation for it and hopes to have this in place by the end of the year.

HEALTH

Abortion Act 1967

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new files on the Abortion Act 1967 have been created by his Department since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [285485]

Gillian Merron: The information is shown in the following table. File names have been amended to remove identifying information in order to protect the Government policy making process and also private individuals.

Prefix	*Title*
CPO 2/36	Miscellaneous Parliamentary Matters
CPO 4/34	Future Regulation Of Top Establishments Under The Care Quality Commission
CPO 5/27	2007 Abortion Statistics Bulletin
CPO 5/28	2008 Abortion Statistics Bulletin
CPO 10/50	ICO (name withheld) Case
CPO 12/28	RCOG: Working Party On Termination Of Pregnancy For Fetal Abnormality
CPO 12/29	RCOG: Working Party On Fetal Awareness
CPO 14/39	Smoking In Pregnancy Campaign: Scan Creative Concept
CPO 14/41	(Name withheld)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he has published since 1997 consequent on the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967; and if he will make a statement. [285356]

Gillian Merron: Since 1997, the Department has published, or funded the publication of, the following statutory instruments, departmental circulars and documents on the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967.

Statutory instruments

The Abortion (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2002

The Abortion (Amendment) Regulations 2008

Departmental circulars

Letter from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) about the completion of the abortion notification forms (HSA4) (1998)

Letter on the consultation on changes to the HSA4 form (2000)

Letter from the CMO about changes to the abortion notification form (2002)

Letter from the CMO following the publication of his report "An Investigation into the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) Response to Requests for Late Abortions" (2005).

Other documents

Documents issued by the Department of Health

Procedures for the Approval of Independent Sector Places for the Termination of Pregnancy (1999)

Procedures for the Registration of Pregnancy Advice Bureaux (1999)

The National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV (2001)

The National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV Implementation Action Plan (2002)

Conscious Sedation in Termination of Pregnancy: Report of the Department of Health Expert Group (2002)

Independent Health Care National Minimum Standards and Regulations (2002)

Effective Commissioning of Sexual Health and HIV Services, A Sexual Health and HIV Commissioning Toolkit for Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities (2003)

Government Response to the Health Select Committee's Third Report of Session 2002-03 on Sexual Health (2003)

An Investigation into the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) Response to Requests for Late Abortions, A report by the Chief Medical Officer (2005)

Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Prohibition of Abortion (England and Wales) Bill (2005)

Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Termination of Pregnancy Bill (2007)

Government Response to the Report from the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee on the Scientific Developments Relating to the Abortion Act 1967 (2007)

Evaluation of Early Medical Abortion (EMA) Pilot Sites (2008)

Documents funded by the Department of Health

The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) (2000 and 2004)

National Audit of Induced Abortion 2000, RCOG (2001)

Recommended Standards for Sexual Health Services, Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health (2005)

Accident and Emergency Departments: Alcoholic Drinks

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each age group attended accident and emergency departments for treatment of symptoms associated with alcohol consumption in each NHS hospital trust area within the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [286278]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Admissions: Young People

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions of persons aged *(a)* under 16 years and *(b)* 16 years and over there were with a primary or secondary diagnosis relating to attack by an animal in each of the last five years. [285449]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is as follows:

Count of hospital admissions by age group for 'injuries caused by animals'. Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Age group	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Under 16	1,839	2,039	1,917	1,673	1,746
16 and over	7,465	7,381	6,377	5,701	5,142
Unknown	2	3	1	—	2

Count of hospital admissions by age group for 'injuries caused by animals': Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Age group	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Total	9,295	9,422	8,210	7,573	6,890

Notes:
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Data quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and works to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements to information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Cause code
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. The field within HES records only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode. The codes used are: W53, W54, W55, W57, W58, and W59.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Alcoholic Drinks

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average amount of alcohol consumed by an individual in each of the last 30 years. [285681]

Gillian Merron: Data on the average amount of alcohol purchased by an individual are collected by HM Revenue and Customs. Data are available for the years 1986-87 to 2007-08 and are given in the following table. It is important to note that not all alcohol purchased is consumed by the individual that purchased it.

Amount of alcohol purchased per adult[1]

	Total alcohol purchased (litres of pure alcohol per adult)	Total alcohol purchased (units per adult)
1986-87	9.53	953
1987-88	9.94	994
1988-89	9.99	999
1989-90	9.96	996
1990-91	10.01	1,001
1991-92	9.65	965
1992-93	9.45	945
1993-94	9.41	941
1994-95	9.70	970
1995-96	9.75	975
1996-97	9.97	997
1997-98	10.14	1,014
1998-99	10.16	1,016
1999-2000	10.78	1,078
2000-01	10.56	1,056
2001-02	11.09	1,109
2002-03	11.46	1,146
2003-04	11.70	1,170
2004-05	11.78	1,178
2005-06	11.54	1,154
2006-07	11.39	1,139
2007-08	11.53	1,153

[1] Adult equals aged 16 and over from the Population Trends Spring 2008, published by the Office for National Statistics. Purchase of pure alcohol is calculated using estimated average strengths for wine, beer and cider.
Source:
HM Revenue and Customs, Alcohol Factsheet, July 2008.

Ambulances

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many county towns in England do not have an ambulance control centre within their boundaries; [285283]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of the ambulance control centres in Brierley Hill and Stafford; [285285]

(3) what qualifications ambulance control centre telephone operators need to perform their duties; [285286]

(4) what his Department's policy is on ambulance crews operating in areas in which they are not based. [285287]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The location, organisation and operation of control centres and training requirements for control centre staff are for national health service ambulance trusts to manage locally. Information on numbers and efficiency of control centres and on staff qualifications is therefore not collected centrally.

It is also for NHS ambulance trusts locally to manage the deployment of staff across the trust. Cross-border arrangements between neighbouring trusts may also be agreed which may lead to some crews attending incidents outside the boundaries of the trust, where appropriate.

Arthritis

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the management by multi-disciplinary teams of *(a)* rheumatoid arthritis, *(b)* ankylosing spondylitis and *(c)* psoriatic arthritis. [285217]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the effectiveness of the management by multi-disciplinary teams for these conditions.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of patients with rheumatoid arthritis are being managed by multi-disciplinary teams; and what percentage of primary care trusts are managing

all their rheumatoid arthritis patients by multi-disciplinary teams throughout their care; [285467]

(2) which primary care trusts do not review new patients presenting with rheumatoid arthritis using a multi-disciplinary team; [285468]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of hospitals able to provide patients suspected of having rheumatoid arthritis with access to a multi-disciplinary assessment *(a)* on first referral, *(b)* on subsequent admission and *(c)* throughout their care. [285469]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of patients with rheumatoid arthritis being managed by multi-disciplinary teams, and the proportion of primary care trusts providing new or existing patients with access to such teams, is not collected centrally.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many haemophiliacs known to have been infected with hepatitis C through contaminated blood products are still alive; and if he will make a statement. [285970]

Gillian Merron: The 2008 United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Doctor's Organisation Annual Report shows that a total of 4,168 patients with haemophilia A and haemophilia B, have been exposed to hepatitis C, based on historical clotting factor concentrate exposure. Of these, 2,535 were alive at the end of 2007, which are the latest figures available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many legal waivers his Department holds which were signed by registrants of the MacFarlane Trust indemnifying the Government against further litigation; if he will publish these documents; and if he will make a statement. [285259]

Gillian Merron: The Department holds 239 legal waivers which were signed by registrants of the Macfarlane Trust. These documents hold personal information which the Department is not able to release.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the ELISA test for hepatitis C antibodies in blood was first used by the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [286097]

Gillian Merron: Enzyme Linked ImmunoAssay (ELISA) tests for antibodies to hepatitis C virus for diagnostic and blood screening purposes were introduced over a period between 1990 and 1991. There was no single date of introduction throughout the national health service.

Carers: Telephone Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints his Department has received in relation to the Carers Direct Helpline since it was established. [285482]

Phil Hope: Since the commencement of Carers Direct Helpline on 1 April 2009, it has received one complaint.

CJD

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the average *(a)* annual and *(b)* total lifetime cost to the NHS of a patient diagnosed with vCJD; and if he will make a statement. [285737]

Gillian Merron: The average total cost to the national health service of patients diagnosed with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is estimated at £40,000. The National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit reports the median duration of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from the onset of first symptoms to death as 14 months.

Crohn's Disease

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of Crohn's disease were recorded in each of the last five years. [285452]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of cases of Crohn's disease is not collected.

Dental Services

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* initial orthodontic assessment and *(b)* subsequent orthodontic treatment was in (i) South Tyneside, (ii) the North East and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [284639]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

Information is available for part of the period requested from which average hospital waiting times from referral to first outpatient appointment and from decision to hospital admission (both day case and in-patient) can be provided.

This information available covers the period up to and including Quarter 2 2007-08. From Quarter 3 2007-08 this data collection no longer broke waits down by speciality. The information available is held by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area and is set out in the following tables.

Hirdias orthodontic speciality out-patient waiting time for first out-patient appointment

Weeks

	Month ending			
Area	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*	*September 2007*
England	5.1	3.9	4.2	3.9
North East SHA	5.4	5.6	4.4	4.5
South Tyneside PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QM08R and MMRCOM

Median orthodontic specialty in-patient waiting time for elective admission

Weeks

	Month ending					
Area	*March 2003*	*March 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*	*September 2007*
England	11.2	9.2	8.9	6.8	4.0	5.8
North East SHA	8.0	8.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Tyneside PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. Figures shown are for those recorded under the orthodontic speciality.
3. Out-patient waiting times are measured from referral by the dentist to first out-patient appointment to the consultant. The data are based on a snapshot in time, and so will include some patients who were yet to see a consultant.
4. In-patient waiting times are measured from the decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
5. The last time these data were collected was for the period ending September 2007.
6. Time bands for all specialties were only collected from 2004-05 onwards for out-patients so average waiting first out-patient times are available only from this point forward.
7. Where n/a, no orthodontic waiters were declared for the time periods specified or there were very low numbers.
8. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are estimates of the position on average waits.
9. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QF01 and MMRCOM.

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner or dentist to start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer. The 18 weeks commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care, including orthodontics, which is now recorded under the oral surgery speciality.

Latest data show that since January 2009, the national health service has been delivering the operating standards for 18 weeks to ensure that no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their consultant-led treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer.

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much of his Department's spending on NHS dentistry has been allocated to front-line services since April 2006; [285890]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the new contract for NHS dentistry and associated policy changes in each year since April 2006. [285891]

Ann Keen: The Department has allocated the following total sums to primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities to fund primary dental care services. These allocations were net of any income from national health service dental charges collected from patients, which is retained by the relevant local PCT as an additional resource.

Primary dental care service allocations, England

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	1,764.7
2007-08	1,872.4
2008-09	2,081
2009-10	2,257

Departmental staff to monitor NHS dental services and review policy were provided from within existing departmental resources. The following table sets out estimated expenditure levels from centrally managed programme funds on additional and external services to support the commissioning and development of dental services and oral health measures in each of the last three years.

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	2.2
2007-08	2.5
2008-09	2.7

Dental Services: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of NHS dentistry in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [285962]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to assess local need and demand for national health services dental services and commission the appropriate services.

All 10 strategic health authorities have set themselves the aim of providing access to NHS dentistry for all who seek it by March 2011 at the latest.

We are supporting PCTs to meet this aim with extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift in total funds for 2009-10, which takes the total available for dental allocations to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

We have also set up an expanded national dental access programme, headed by Dr. Mike Warburton an experienced clinician and manager, to support managers and clinicians to rapidly expand services where needed.

The report of the Independent Review of Dentistry in England, published on 22 June recommends a series of further actions to support access and quality. Piloting of the recommendations will begin from this autumn. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

Dental Services: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists there were with open national health service contracts in the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust area at the latest date for which figures are available. [285870]

Ann Keen: The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the years ending 31 March 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08 report. Information is provided by strategic health authority and by primary care trust. This information is based on

the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

These figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Figures for the year ending 31 March 2009 are due to published by the Information Centre for health and social care on 19 August 2009.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* initial orthodontic assessment and *(b)* subsequent orthodontic treatment was in (i) Hemel Hempstead, (ii) Dacorum, (iii) Hertfordshire, (iv) the South East and (v) England in each of the last five years. [285132]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

Information is available for part of the period requested from which average hospital waiting times from referral to first out-patient appointment and from decision to hospital admission (both day case and in-patient) can be provided.

This information available covers the period up to and including quarter 2 2007-08. From quarter 3 2007-08 this data collection no longer broke waits down by speciality. The information available is held by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area and is set out in the following tables.

Median orthodontic speciality out-patient waiting time for first out-patient appointment

Weeks

	Month ending			
Area	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*	*September 2007*
England	5.1	3.9	4.2	3.9
East of England SHA	5.1	4.6	3.9	3.1
Hertsmere PCT	n/a	n/a	—	—
Watford and Three Rivers PCT	n/a	n/a	—	—
Dacorum PCT	n/a	n/a	—	—
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT	n/a	n/a	—	—
West Hertfordshire PCT	—	—	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time. Hertsmere, Watford and Three Rivers, Dacorum and St. Albans PCTs were combined to form West Hertfordshire PCT on 1 October 2006. For the time periods where an organisation was not in existence, "—" has been entered into the table.
2. Figures shown are for those recorded under the orthodontic speciality.
3. Out-patient waiting times are measured from referral by the dentist to first out-patient appointment to the consultant. The data are based on a snapshot in time, and so will include some patients who were yet to see a consultant.
4. In-patient waiting times are measured from the decision by the consultant to admit to admission to hospital.
5. The last time these data were collected was for the period ending September 2007.
6. Time bands for all specialties were only collected from 2004-05 onwards for out-patients so average waiting first out-patient times are only available from this point forward.
7. Where n/a, no orthodontic waiters were declared for the time periods specified or there were very low numbers.
8. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are estimates of the position on average waits.
9. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QM08R and MMRCOM.

Median orthodontic speciality in-patient waiting time for elective admission

Weeks

	Month ending					
Area	*March 2003*	*March 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*	*September 2007*
England	11.2	9.2	8.9	6.8	4.0	5.8
East of England SHA	25.1	14.6	11.1	9.1	3.6	5.7
Hertsmere PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—
Watford and Three Rivers PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—
Dacorum PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—

Median orthodontic speciality in-patient waiting time for elective admission

Weeks

Area	*Month ending*					
	March 2003	*March 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*	*September 2007*
West Hertfordshire PCT	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time. Hertsmere, Watford and Three Rivers, Dacorum and St. Albans PCTs were combined to form West Hertfordshire PCT on 1 October 2006. For the time periods where an organisation was not in existence, "—" has been entered into the table.
2. Figures shown are for those recorded under the orthodontic speciality.
3. Out-patient waiting times are measured from referral by the dentist to first out-patient appointment to the consultant. The data are based on a snapshot in time, and so will include some patients who were yet to see a consultant.
4. In-patient waiting times are measured from the decision by the consultant to admit to admission to hospital.
5. The last time these data were collected was for the period ending September 2007.
6. Time bands for all specialties were only collected from 2004-05 onwards for out-patients so average waiting first out-patient times are only available from this point forward.
7. Where n/a, no orthodontic waiters were declared for the time/periods specified or there were very low numbers.
8. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are estimates of the position on average waits.
9. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QF01 and MMRCOM.

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner or dentist to start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer. The 18 weeks commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care, including orthodontics, which is now recorded under the oral surgery speciality.

Latest data show that since January 2009, the NHS has been delivering the operating standards for 18 weeks to ensure that no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their consultant-led treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were waiting for orthodontic treatment in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire, *(d)* the South East and *(e)* England in each of the last five years. [285136]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for national health service orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner or dentist to the start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so, or they choose to wait longer.

The 18 weeks commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care. Referral to treatment (RTT) data collection monitors the length of time from referral through to treatment and is used to measure performance against the 18 weeks operational standard.

Information is collected on the total number of incomplete RTT pathways, for oral surgery, which includes orthodontic treatment. These data look at patients who have entered a RTT pathway but whose treatment had not yet started. Data are available from August 2007. Information is not available in the format requested, however, the following table sets data for East and North Hertfordshire PCT, West Hertfordshire primary care trust (PCT), East of England strategic health authority (SHA) and England.

Oral surgery, total number of incomplete RTT pathways

	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	*West Hertfordshire PCT*	*East of England SHA*	*England*
August 2007	1,268	757	16,906	152,302
April 2008	1,473	2,601	15,879	121,032
April 2009	1,062	1,530	11,779	111,188

Note:
Data on incomplete pathways are only available from August 2007 onwards.

Depressive Illnesses

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* Castle Point have been diagnosed with (i) major depression, (ii) atypical depression (iii) psychotic depression, (iv) dysthymia and (v) manic depression in each year since 1997. [285921]

Phil Hope: This information is not available. Most treatment for mental health problems including depressive illnesses occurs in primary care settings, where information on the number of patients treated for specific conditions is not collected.

Approximately one in six adults in England has a common mental illness, including dysthymia, at any given time, with one in four adults experiencing mental ill heath at some stage in their lives. Approximately one in 100 people are thought to have a more severe mental illness, including psychotic or bipolar (manic) depressive conditions.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that candidates shortlisted for the post of Chair of the Food Standards Agency are aware of the implications of implementation of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; and what plans he has to consult the official Opposition on the appointment of the Chair. [285675]

Gillian Merron: As is customary, the candidate that was recommended for pre-appointment scrutiny by Ministers was given a factual briefing by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on the organisation and the topical issues it was facing, including food supplements. The successful candidate will receive a full induction on taking up the position, including on the issues associated with the Food Supplements Directive.

The position of Chair of the FSA is appointed jointly by the Secretary of State for Health and the Health Ministers in the devolved Administrations. Following a full recruitment process, run by the Appointments Commission in accordance with the Commissioner's Code of Practice for Public Appointments, Ministers considered the selection panel's recommendations and agreed Lord Rooker as the preferred candidate.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State invited the House of Commons Health Committee to scrutinise the preferred candidate prior to appointment. The Committee invited Lord Rooker to give evidence on 6 July 2009, following which they recommended that the Secretary of State continue with the appointment. Lord Rooker was confirmed as the new Chair of the FSA on 10 July and will take up his position on 27 July 2009, for a period of four years.

The appointment has been run jointly with the devolved Administrations as required by the Food Standards Act. As is customary, there are no plans to consult with Her Majesty's official Opposition outside of the pre-appointment scrutiny process.

The appointment process had involved an independent assessor at all stages, including the shortlist and interview panel.

Domestic Visits: Norwich

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he last made an official visit to Norwich; and when he next plans to make such a visit. [285720]

Phil Hope: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State or his predecessor my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson) has made an official visit to Norwich.

At the present time, there are not any confirmed visits to the area by the Secretary of State.

Epilepsy: Drugs

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what cost-benefit analysis his Department has undertaken of the effects of implementation of its proposal for the generic substitution of branded anti-epilepsy drugs; [285488]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of NHS patients likely to be affected by implementation of proposals for the generic substitution of branded anti-epileptic drugs; [285489]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the potential for savings to accrue to the NHS from the implementation of proposals for the generic substitution of branded anti-epileptic drugs. [285490]

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether there are any defined exclusions from his proposals for generic substitution of medicines; [285443]

(2) whether there will be an exemption for epilepsy under the proposals for generic substitution of medicines; and if he will make a statement; [285665]

(3) whether his Department has assessed the views of leading clinicians operating in the field of epilepsy on the clinical impact of generic substitution of medicines on people with epilepsy; [285666]

(4) whether his Department has had discussions with epilepsy patient groups on patient concerns about automatic generic substitution of medicines in epilepsy. [285667]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Patient safety will be paramount in taking forward the work on generic substitution. It has long been the Department's policy to encourage generic prescribing where possible, for reasons of good professional practice and because of the opportunities for more effective use of national health service resources. However, we have always recognised that there are circumstances in which it may be clinically appropriate to prescribe a particular brand of drug even where a generic is available if the prescriber considers it essential for the patient to receive that specific product. This position will need to be maintained under any new specific proposals made as part of the work on generic substitution.

In addition, as stated in the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) of December 2008, in implementing generic substitution, provision may also be made to exclude certain categories of medicines for clinical reasons in the interests of patient safety. No decisions have yet been made on whether any medicines and, if so, which should be excluded from the arrangements.

The detail of implementing the PPRS generic substitution provision is still being considered. No cost-benefit analysis, estimation of possible numbers of patients affected by or potential savings from the implementation of generic substitution in relation to anti-epileptic drugs have been made.

A number of patient representative groups, such as those representing epilepsy sufferers, have written to the Department expressing their concerns on the implementation of generic substitution. Whilst we have not yet met with any such groups, nor with clinicians operating in the field of epilepsy, we want to make sure we engage with all stakeholders in the best way possible and are currently considering how best to do so.

Eyesight: Testing

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in York have received free eye tests since they were re-introduced. [286007]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

Patients aged 60 and over became eligible for national health service sight tests on 1 April 1999.

The numbers of NHS sight test claims processed for persons aged 60 and over in the former North Yorkshire Health Authority (HA), the former York and Selby Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the North Yorkshire and York PCT in the relevant financial years are shown in the following table.

The three columns in the table represent each organisation in place that included York over the relevant time period. The geographical areas covered by each organisation listed vary in size which makes it impossible to have a comparable time series over the full period.

The Information Centre for health and social care is due to publish information for 2008-09 on 19 August 2009.

General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) NHS sight tests for persons aged 60 and over in the specified organisations

	North Yorkshire HA	*York and Selby PCT*	*North Yorkshire and York PCT*
1999-2000	52,072	n/a	n/a
2000-01	61,787	n/a	n/a
2001-02	68,855	n/a	n/a
2002-03	70,278	n/a	n/a
2003-04	n/a	26,254	n/a
2004-05	n/a	26,619	n/a
2005-06	n/a	25,057	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	[1]
2007-08	n/a	n/a	88,428

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Validated information at a PCT level is not available for 2006-07.

Notes:

1. Patients may qualify for an NHS sight test on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60, with glaucoma, is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate.
2. The figures relate to the number of NHS sight tests and are not a count of individuals.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Fibromyalgia

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the provision of services for people diagnosed with fibromyalgia; and whether he plans to review that policy. [286854]

Ann Keen: People living with fibromyalgia have access to the full range of health and social care from the national health service, including access to pain management services. We have no plans to review this policy.

We have published an 18-week pathway to support those commissioning pain management services. The pathway is specifically aimed at supporting local implementation of good practice, to improve efficiency, reduce delays, and improve quality of service provision in a safe and effective way.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to commission specific services for people with fibromyalgia, taking into account the resources they have available, the needs of their wider population, and available guidance on best practice.

Health Professionals: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors were employed in (i) the North East, (ii) the Tees Valley and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [285222]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested. However, information on the number of nurses and doctor in the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area and related organisations is shown in the following table.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North East SHA area												
Medical and dental staff	60,230	62,140	63,994	66,067	68,484	72,168	76,400	82,951	87,043	90,243	91,790	95,942
General Practitioners (GPs)	1,485	1,506	1,520	1,536	1,603	1,645	1,741	1,825	1,873	1,995	1,945	1,986
Hospital and community health service (HCHS) nurses	17,791	18,079	18,870	19,125	20,035	20,473	20,991	22,065	22,291	22,220	22,296	22,937
GP Practice nurses	807	954	1,002	881	942	1,031	1,117	1,124	1,064	1,167	1,123	1,099
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust												
Medical and dental staff	526	552	570	567	606	596	624	653	707	741	770	785
HCHS nurses	2,077	2,134	2,155	2,198	2,262	2,127	2,296	2,334	2,283	2,325	2,300	2,369

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust (PCT)												
Medical and dental staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	14	8	5	12	11	1
GPs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	117	119	122	124	123	98	102	98
HCHS nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	229	252	252	258	257	205	10
GP Practice nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	80	89	83	96	116	92	78	71
Redcar and Cleveland PCT												
Medical and dental staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	0	1	0	9	11
GPs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	62	61	65	68	73	94	96	95
HCHS nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	184	175	191	201	213	184	429
GP Practice nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36	36	43	45	53	67	70	71

n/a = Not available. We cannot accurately map figures for PCT predecessor organisations.

Notes:

1. Headcount practice nurse figures were estimated for these years for the whole of England, using a standard nation-wide headcount to full-time equivalent ratio. These two years must be treated with caution in a local level time series such as this.
2. Practice nurse data as at 1 October 1997-1999 and 30 September 2000-08.
3. In 2002, South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust merged to form South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust. Figures prior to 2002 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
4. In 2006, Langbaurgh PCT became Redcar and Cleveland PCT.

Health Services: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid through the *(a)* MacFarlane Trust, *(b)* Skipton Fund and *(c)* Eileen Trust in each year of their operation; to how many individuals payments have been made through each fund; and if he will make a statement. [285852]

Gillian Merron: The details of the funding since 1990 for the Macfarlane Trust, Skipton Fund and Eileen Trust are shown as follows:

Macfarlane Trust, Skipton Fund and Eileen Trust: Funding by the Department of Health

£000

Year ending 31 March	Macfarlane Trust	Skipton Fund	Eileen Trust[1]
1990	100	0	0
1991	130	0	0
1992	136	0	0
1993	5,165	0	0
1994	158	0	525
1995	166	0	23
1996	2,662	0	23
1997	173	0	22
1998	3,177	0	23
1999	181	0	23
2000	2,187	0	157
2001	2,693	0	25
2002	2,448	0	606
2003	284	0	74
2004	3,489	0	33
2005	3,287	[2]70,147	166
2006	3,778	14,000	80
2007	3,754	7,000	177

Macfarlane Trust, Skipton Fund and Eileen Trust: Funding by the Department of Health

£000

Year ending 31 March	Macfarlane Trust	Skipton Fund	Eileen Trust[1]
2008	3,754	6,400	178
2009	3,754	5,000	178

[1] These are approximate amounts for each year that have been provided by the Administrator of the Eileen Trust.
[2] Includes funding for the month of March 2004.

Notes:

1. Funding to all three organisations covers both payments to beneficiaries and administration costs.
2. It is not possible to provide separate figures in relation to haemophiliacs, and their dependants.

The details of the total number of individual payments that have been made by the Macfarlane Trust, Skipton Fund and Eileen Trust are shown as follows:

Macfarlane Trust, Skipton Fund and Eileen Trust: Total number of individuals payments that have been made by each fund[1]

	Number of individuals payments
Macfarlane Trust	[2]14,682
Skipton Fund	4,807
Eileen Trust	[3]

[1] Information provided by the Administrators of each body.
[2] Individual payments made to infected registrants and non-infected beneficiaries.
[3] This information is not available as requested. In total the trust has made payments to fewer than 100 people. In the year to 31 March 2008 the Eileen Trust provided assistance to 23 beneficiaries. We believe that the trust assisted 22 beneficiaries in the year to 31 March 2009.

Health Services: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what revenue allocations were made to each primary care trust in North Yorkshire in each year since 2003-04. [285715]

Ann Keen: The revenue allocations made to each primary care trust in North Yorkshire for the period 2003-04 to 2010-11 are provided in the following tables:

Table 1: 2003-04 to 2005-06 primary care trust revenue allocations

Primary Care Trust	Allocation (£000) 2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Three year increase £000	Percentage
Craven, Harrogate and rural district	166,668	181,585	197,111	43,216	28.1
Hambleton and Richmondshire	91,187	99,349	107,843	23,644	28.1
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale	138,792	152,118	166,123	38,642	30.3
Selby and York	216,207	235,557	255,791	56,154	28.1

Table 2: 2006-07 to 2007-08 primary care trust revenue allocations

Primary Care Trust	Allocation (£000 2006-07	2007-08	Two year increase £000	Percentage
Craven, Harrogate and rural district	235,518	254,740	36,977	17.0
Hambleton and Richmondshire	129,360	139,918	20,310	17.0
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale	198,010	216,805	35,399	19.5
Selby and York	307,131	335,917	53,344	18.9

Table 3: 2008-09 primary care trust revenue allocations

Primary Care Trust	Allocation (£000)	Cash increase £000	Percentage
North Yorkshire and York	999,125	51,746	5.5

Table 4: 2009-10 to 2010-11 primary care trust revenue allocations

Primary Care Trust	Allocation (£000) 2009-10	2010-11	Two year increase £000	Percentage
North Yorkshire and York	1,076,587	1,139,019	118,557	11.6

Notes:
1. On 1 October 2006, the number of PCTs reduced from 303 to 152. Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT, Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT, Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT and Selby and York PCT merged to become North Yorkshire and York PCT. Allocations were made to North Yorkshire and York PCT from 2008-09.
2. Comparisons between allocations should be made with caution because of changes to PCT baseline funding between rounds.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 219 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, what the reasons are for the difference between the level of spending on EEA medical costs in 2007-08 and the estimate of spending on such costs in 2008-09. [283876]

Gillian Merron: The figure for European Economic Area medical costs for 2008-09 in the Department's Annual Report is an estimate made during the 2008-09 year where as the 2007-08 cost is an actual cost. The actual costs for 2008-09 will be known after the National Audit Office have completed the audit of the 2008-09 figures and the Resources Accounts are ready for publication. This is expected to be during 2009.

Hospital Beds: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of intensive care beds provided by NHS trusts in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [285336]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not held in the format requested. However, information on the number of intensive care beds in the North East Strategic Health Authority area is shown in the following table.

2007-08

Name	Intensive care: Neonates	Paediatric
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	6	
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	2	
North Tees And Hartlepool NHS Trust	17	
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	20	4
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	16	18
North East Strategic Health Authority	61	22

Note:
The KH03 provides a count of available and occupied bed days by broad ward classification. It is an annual return and relates to available and occupied bed days over a 12-month period between 1 April of one year and 31 March of the following year. The average daily number of available beds is then calculated based on the number of reported bed days.
Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Incontinence: Health Services

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the Government will establish a continence care health improvement national programme. [285585]

Phil Hope: We have no plans to establish a continence care health improvement national programme.

Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* ebola, *(b)* West Nile fever, *(c)* yellow fever, *(d)* sleeping sickness, *(e)* dengue fever, *(f)* anthrax poisoning, *(g)* rabies, *(h)* guinea worm disease, *(i)* leprosy and *(j)* Chagas's disease were recorded in each of the last five years. [285448]

Gillian Merron: The information available on the number of cases of the specified diseases from 2004 to 2008 is in the table. There were 24 laboratory diagnoses of Chagas disease in the United Kingdom from January 2005 to March 2009. An annual breakdown is not available.

Disease	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Ebola	0	0	0	0	0
West Nile fever	0	0	[1]1	[1]1	0
Yellow fever	0	0	0	0	0
Sleeping sickness	0	2	0	1	1
Dengue fever	[3]120	[3]144	[2]166	[1]164	[1,4]167
Anthrax poisoning	0	0	[5]1	0	[5]1
Rabies	0	[6]1	0	0	[7]1
Guinea worm disease	0	0	0	0	0
Leprosy[8]	1	4	7	5	7

[1] Acquired in Canada
[2] These data are confirmed, probable, and suspected cases.
[3] These data are confirmed and probable cases.
[4] Provisional total.
[5] Fatal case of inhalational anthrax.
[6] Dog bite in Goa
[7] Dog bite in South Africa.
[8] Leprosy data are statutory notifications by registered medical practitioners. Data for other diseases in the table are laboratory diagnoses.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Infectious Diseases: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases of *(a)* mumps, *(b)* measles and *(c)* rubella there were in (i) the North East, (ii) Tees Valley and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [285333]

Gillian Merron: The available information is shown in the following table.

The Health Protection Agency does not break down these data beyond the regional level.

Laboratory confirmed cases of Measles, Mumps and Rubella in the North East 1997 to 2008

	Measles	*Mumps*	*Rubella*
2008	17	184	0
2007	12	169	0
2006	12	123	0
2005	0	3,766	0
2004	2	579	1
2003	0	541	1
2002	8	101	2
2001	3	3	1
2000	0	17	1
1999	0	36	8
1998	0	0	5
1997	1	5	1

Influenza: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts had designated influenza treatment distribution centres on 1 July 2009; [284985]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the preparedness of primary care trusts for an influenza pandemic. [285001]

Gillian Merron: Data on the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) who have set up antiviral collection points are not collected centrally.

The Department has been working closely with PCTs across the country to ensure their plans are robust, and so far the response from PCTs, particularly in areas of sustained transmission, has been very good in challenging circumstances.

Kidney Patients: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the London Borough of Bexley are receiving kidney dialysis treatment. [285734]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. Information on the prevalence of people on dialysis is collected by the UK Renal Registry.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust spent per capita on mental health services in each year since 2004-05; what proportion of the Trust's expenditure such spending represented in each such year; and where the Trust was placed in national rankings relating to primary care trust expenditure on mental health services in each such year. [285713]

Ann Keen: The information is shown in the following table:

North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT)—Expenditure on mental health disorders (estimated from programme budgeting data)

Financial year	*Estimated spend on mental health disorders (£/capita)*	*Expenditure on mental health disorders as a percentage of total expenditure*	*PCT ranking for mental health disorders by expenditure per capita*
2004-05	123.41	10	117
2005-06	140.44	10	107

North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT)—Expenditure on mental health disorders (estimated from programme budgeting data)

Financial year	*Estimated spend on mental health disorders (£/capita)*	*Expenditure on mental health disorders as a percentage of total expenditure*	*PCT ranking for mental health disorders by expenditure per capita*
2006-07	138.64	10	122

Notes:
1. Data are best estimate of expenditure on own population.
2. Continual refinements made to the calculation methodology and to underlying data sources which makes like-for-like comparisons between years difficult.
3. Expenditure across all sectors is included.
4. Disease specific expenditure will not include expenditure on prevention, or GP expenditure, but will include prescribing expenditure.
5. Source of data are PCT financial programme budgeting returns.
6. 2007-08 Programme Data has not yet been published.
7. The population values used to calculate expenditure per capita are those used for PCT resource allocations, and have been weighted for age, sex and need.
8. Total expenditure is total expenditure on own population.

Source:
Programme Budgeting Data.

Methadone

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of people prescribed methadone were aged under 30 in each year since 1997; [285216]

(2) how many people have been prescribed methadone for more than three years in each year since 1997. [285218]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collected centrally.

Necrotizing Fasciitis

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of necrotizing fasciitis were recorded in each of the last five years. [285444]

Gillian Merron: These data are not collected centrally, but available information suggests cases of necrotising fasciitis are uncommon. Further information can be found at:

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/pastcon.htm#14

NHS Litigation Authority

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value was of the tax levied on claimant costs in cases involving the NHS Litigation Authority in each of the last five years. [286088]

Ann Keen: This answer can be provided only at disproportionate cost, as it would involve the NHS Litigation Authority working through each and every claim within the five-year period.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the largest *(a)* absolute and *(b)* reduction in claimant costs consequent on the levying of tax in cases involving the NHS Litigation Authority in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed was in each of the last five years; and what the names of the solicitors were in each case. [286089]

Ann Keen: This answer can be provided only at disproportionate cost, as it would involve the NHS Litigation Authority working through each and every claim received within the five-year period.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many cases involving the NHS Litigation Authority in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed involving claimant costs of over £50,000 contested those costs in each of the last five years; in how many such cases those costs were reduced in each such year; and what the total monetary value was of such reductions. [286090]

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases involving claimant costs of over £50,000 the NHS Litigation Authority contested in the last 12 months; in how many of those cases costs were reduced following contest by the authority; and what the combined monetary value of such reductions was. [286275]

Ann Keen: While the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) contests the value of claimant costs on the vast majority of claims, to provide this answer would be at disproportionate cost as it would involve the NHSLA working through each and every claim within the five-year period where claimant costs were settled above £50,000.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many cases involving the NHS Litigation Authority in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed claimant costs exceeded the amount of compensation awarded in each of the last five years. [286092]

Ann Keen: The information requested was supplied by the NHS Litigation Authority in the following table.

	Number of claims closed where claimant costs exceeded damages	*Total number of claims closed*
2004-05	2,384	11,250
2005-06	2,330	9,369
2006-07	2,555	9,879
2007-08	3,438	10,611
2008-09	3,380	10,006
Total	14,087	51,115

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many cases involving the NHS Litigation Authority claimant costs have exceeded the compensation awarded in the latest period for which figures are available. [286277]

Ann Keen: In 2008-09, the NHS Litigation Authority closed 10,006 claims. Of those claims, 3,380 were closed with claimant costs exceeding the compensation awarded.

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which recruitment agencies are approved by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency to supply the NHS with medical staff. [286378]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following recruitment agencies have been awarded a place on the current NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency national framework agreement for the supply of medical locums:

Accident and Emergency Agency Ltd.
Ambition Recruitment Services Ltd
Arthur Rai Medical Services Ltd.
Athona Ltd.
Britannic Medical Services Ltd.
Capital Care Services (UK) Ltd.
Care Providers
Castlerock Care Services Ltd.
Clinical Employment Services Ltd. (CES)
Corrigan's Door Ltd.
Doctors On Call Ltd.
dr-locums
DRC Locums Ltd.
Evergood Associates Ltd.
First Medical Staffing Solutions Ltd.
Geneva Health International Ltd.
G4S Integrated services (UK) Ltd. (formerly GSL UK Ltd.)
Hays Healthcare
Holt Medical Recruitment
ID Medical
InterAct Consulting (Reality HR)
kcare nursing agency Ltd.
Medacs Healthcare Services Plc
Medecho Ltd.
Medical Professional Personnel Ltd.
Medicspro Ltd.
Medicure Ltd.
Mediplacements Ltd.
Medpro Group
Medsol Healthcare Services Ltd.
Medteam Healthcare Ltd.
Merco Recruitment Ltd.
Mild Professional Care Ltd.
Minutes Medical Staffing Ltd.
Mylocum Ltd.
Nationwide Locum Services Ltd.
Northwest Locums Ltd.
Orion Locums Ltd.
Pioneer Recruitment Ltd.
Pulse Healthcare Ltd. trading as Pulse Doctors
Reed Healthcare
Resuscitate Medical Services Ltd.
Richmond Medical Agency
RMR Recruitment Ltd.
Scanloc
Serving The Nation Locums Ltd.
Sonographers Medical Ltd.
Templars Medical Agency
Thames Medics (HCL)
The Anaesthetists Agency
The Consultants Agency Ltd.
Total Assist Recruitment Ltd.
United Medicare Ltd.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria a recruitment agency must meet in order to be approved by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency to supply the NHS with medical staff; and if he will make a statement. [286438]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: All recruitment agencies must meet the following criteria in order to enter the tendering process to supply the national health service with medical locums:

an initial pre-qualification check to assess the ability to supply medical staff and to obtain full details of the company requesting inclusion in the tender process;

financial check from Dun and Bradstreet or similar;

reference check from NHS customers;

an audit to check that the policies and procedures are in place to meet NHS Employers standards for recruitment into the NHS covering identity, right to work, qualification, employment history, Criminal Records Bureau and occupational health checks;

agreement with the NHS terms and conditions of contract; and

a pricing structure which offers value for money to the NHS.

NHS: ICT

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many NHS trusts the National Programme for IT is fully operational. [285830]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Programme for Information Technology (IT) is a long-term programme which presents an unprecedented opportunity to use IT to reform the way the national health service in England uses information, and to improve health services and patient care. As reported by the National Audit Office in May 2008, elements of the programme are already fully deployed across the NHS, some ahead of schedule. The NHS could not now function without the systems and services the programme has delivered.

In line with best practice, the new IT services are being implemented incrementally across the NHS throughout the duration of the programme, with increasingly richer functionality being provided in successive software releases. For example, it is likely to be 2014-15 before all trusts have fully deployed systems to support the NHS care records service, though some should receive final releases of the software much sooner.

National programme-delivered systems and services will continue to require upgrading over time in the light of new technology and the evolving requirements of the NHS.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 348-49W, on NHS: manpower, how many hours were supplied under each agreement in each financial year since the agreement came into effect. [286310]

Ann Keen: The information requested is as follows.

Number of hours supplied under each framework agreement

Framework agreement	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
AS/HSS/ AHP	—	—	13,3[illegible]	18,814,968
Nursing	—	—	5,707,076	5,951,471
Medical locums	1,024,361	1,962,028	2,522,698	2,624,202
Ancillary	—	—	911,153	1,116,599

Note:
AS = Administrative Services
HSS = Health Science staff
AHP = Allied Health Professionals

NHS: Mental Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received treatment from the NHS for mental health problems in each of the last 30 years. [285684]

Phil Hope: This information is not available. Most treatment for mental health problems occurs in primary care settings, where information on the number of patients treated for specific conditions is not collected.

Approximately one in six adults in England has a common mental illness, like anxiety or mild depression at any given time, with one in four adults experiencing mental ill heath at some stage in their lives. Approximately one in 100 people are thought to have a severe mental illness like schizophrenia or psychosis.

NHS: Waiting Lists

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 401W, on NHS: waiting lists, for what reasons data on the rate of patient deaths while on waiting lists for NHS operations are not held centrally. [285531]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Central data collections ensure that the Department has the ability to monitor performance against standards and targets without placing significant burden on the national health service. More detailed information, for example, on people who have died while on a waiting list will be held on local systems within NHS organisations.

Waiting times are now at the lowest levels since records began. In April 2009, the average patient waited 7.7 weeks from referral to admitted treatment and 4.2 weeks from referral to non-admitted treatment.

Chronic Pain: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have been diagnosed with chronic pain in each year since 1997. [285922]

Ann Keen: The information requested on the number of people diagnosed with chronic pain in the national health service is not collected centrally.

Primary Care Trusts: Dental Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the procedures to be followed in allocation of dental contracts by them; and what steps his Department is taking to monitor compliance with that guidance. [285203]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are expected to follow the same procedures when commissioning dental services—both in primary and secondary care—as in any other area of health service contracting. The Department published a "PCT Procurement Guide for Health Services" in May 2008, which supports National Health Service Commissioners in deciding whether and how to procure health services through formal tendering and market-testing exercises. It is one of the System Management tools and guidance documents and it is referenced in the Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition.

In addition, the Cooperation and Competition Panel (The Panel) has been established to advise the Secretary of State (and his delegated authorities) and Monitor (The independent regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) on alleged breaches of the Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition (PRCC) which apply to all PCT contracted/funded services.

Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

The Department has also published a large number of specific guidance documents and fact sheets on NHS primary care dental contracts which can be found on the Department's website. The most recent guidance was issued to PCTs on 29 May 2009 and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_099946

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Putney Hospital: Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was paid in business rates liabilities on buildings on the site of the former Putney Hospital in each year from 1998-99 to 2009-10; and how much he expects to be paid in such liabilities in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; [285115]

(2) what the rateable value of the former Putney Hospital site was in *(a)* 1995, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 2005; and what he expects that value to be in 2010. [285116]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

Skin Cancer

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of skin cancer were diagnosed in each year since 1997. [285458]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of skin cancers were diagnosed in each year since 1997. [285450]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of malignant melanoma of skin registered in England are for the year 2006. Figures for the years 1997 to 2006 are shown in the table below.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin,[1] England, 1997 to 2006

England	*Number*
1997	5,018
1998	5,138
1999	5,337
2000	5,996
2001	6,406
2002	6,661
2003	6,918
2004	7,596
2005	8,102
2006	8,658

[1] Malignant melanoma of skin is coded to C43 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Social Services: Applications

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 354W, on social services: applications, for what reasons data on refusal of social care and support services are not collected. [285533]

Phil Hope: Specific information on how many applications for health and social care support services were refused following a positive assessment of need by a specialist can not be isolated from the overall data that are collected on the known or anticipated sequel of assessment for new clients following a social care assessment.

Data included in 'No (new) services offered or intended to be provided' category, include those clients who are refused services, clients where the assessment has indicated that no (new) services are warranted and where the council with adult social services responsibilities is aware that services will be provided by another agency. In addition this category includes numbers relating to where services are warranted but no resources are available to provide them and where clients are fully funded and thus pay for their own service provision following assessment.

The data are not collected separately but under the one category heading only.

Tobacco: Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish *(a)* his Department's comprehensive tobacco control strategy, *(b)* draft regulations on tobacco displays and *(c)* draft regulations on tobacco vending machines. [285718]

Gillian Merron: The new tobacco control strategy will be published by the end of the year.

Draft regulations on tobacco displays and tobacco vending machines will be published during the summer recess.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the costs of removing point of sale displays of tobacco from shops in Canada. [285719]

Gillian Merron: The Department sourced cost estimates from a Canadian company responsible for about 85 per cent. of the covered tobacco display market in Canada. The Department published the details of relevant correspondence on the Department's website on 3 July 2009. The correspondence can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/FOIreleases/DH_101835

Transplant Surgery: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people waiting for organ transplants in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point had been waiting for longer than three weeks on the latest date for which figures are available. [285923]

Ann Keen: The following table shows people who are currently[1] actively waiting and have been listed on the UK Transplant waiting list for more than three weeks in identified postcodes for Essex[2]:

[1] As at 8 July 2009.

[2] Postcodes CB10, 11, CM (not 21, 23), CO (not 10), EN9, IG7, 9, 10, RM4, 15-20, SS (not 17).

Organ(s)	*Number of patients listed*
Kidney	95
Kidney/Pancreas	11
Liver	7
Pancreas	4
Heart	3
Lung(s)	3
Total	123

The following table shows patients who are currently[1] actively waiting and have been listed on the UK Transplant waiting list for more than three weeks in Castle Point[2]:

[1] As at 8 July 2009.

[2] Postcodes SS7, 8.

Organ(s)	*Number of patients listed*
Kidney	6
Pancreas	1
Total	7

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether all existing learners who started their training before 1 April 2009 on *(a)* apprenticeship programmes and *(b)* Train to Gain courses funded by the Learning and Skills Council will be funded to complete their existing training at the agreed rates. [282225]

Kevin Brennan: Learners legitimately starting their courses before 1 April 2009, whether Apprenticeships programmes or Train to Gain courses, will be funded to complete their training.

Funding rates are set by the Learning and Skills Council for each funding year (the funding year runs from 1 August to 31 July). Learners who started during the 2008-09 academic year would be funded at the published rates for the provision delivered during 2008-09. Train to Gain Funding rates will increase by 1.5 per cent. in 2009-10 and all learners, both those continuing from 2008-09 into 2009-10 and new starts in 2009-10 will be funded at this higher rate from the start of the academic year. The detailed rates for 2009-10 have been published in the LSC funding guidance.

Funding rates for Apprenticeships will also increase by 1.5 per cent. for 2009-10 but the funding rate for new 25+ Apprenticeship starts from 1 August 2009 will be funded at 90 per cent. of the 19-24 rate. Those learners that started a 25+ Apprenticeship during the 2008-09 academic year would continue to be funded at the full 19-24 rate.

Apprentices: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeship places that have been lost in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London as a result of the recession in the last 12 months. [283016]

Kevin Brennan: Data about the total number of apprentices made redundant are not currently held centrally. Arrangements are in place from 1 August 2009 onwards to record the number of apprentices who are made redundant. Working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) we have established a matching service to help apprentices at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment and to complete their apprenticeship. More generally, providers and the LSC have procedures to advise and relocate apprentices, in cases where providers or employers fail, to help ensure that they are able to continue in work and complete their apprenticeship. The £140 million package announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister for an additional 35,000 apprenticeship places will help fund new provision in both the public sector and private sector, and will extend the opportunities available to people facing redundancy.

Aspire Fund

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for funding have been made to the Aspire fund since its creation; and what proportion of *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful applications made to the fund were from female entrepreneurs. [253634]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since the launch of the Aspire Fund on 19 November the fund has received around 80 general enquiries and 57 specific approaches for investment.

The Aspire Investment Committee has made two offers, both accepted, which are expected to complete by the end of June and early July, totalling £850,000.

There are seven further deals under active consideration totalling around £3.4 million of investment.

All of the 57 approaches have related to businesses where the founder or co-founder is female or a significant proportion of the senior management team are female.

British Airways

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates the Secretary of State met representatives of British Airways since June 2007; what issues were discussed; who attended each meeting; whether a record of each meeting was kept; and if he will make a statement. [269842]

Mr. McFadden: The then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton), met with Willie Walsh (chief executive) and Maria De Cunha (director, Government Affairs), on 19 June 2008; and my noble Friend the Secretary of State met with them on 9 December 2008. They discussed a range of issues facing British Airways and the aviation industry.

Broadband

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likelihood of every home in Britain having access to 2MB broadband by 2012. [278699]

Mr. McFadden: It is the Government's intention that all households will be able to have access to a broadband connection capable of delivering at least 2 Mbps by 2012. The Digital Britain White Paper published on 16 June confirmed the Government's commitment to providing universal broadband access that can deliver at least 2 Mbps to virtually all UK homes and businesses by 2012.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps have been taken by the Government to help implement the Community Broadband Network's proposals for an umbrella body for local and community broadband networks. [279095]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The Government have held several discussions with the Community Broadband Network (CBN) and set out in the Digital Britain Report, published on 16 June, how they will take forward this action.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/broadcasting/6216.aspx

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department plans to raise from the private sector before 2012 to fund universal broadband commitment of two megabits per second. [282619]

Mr. McFadden: Government are committing an anticipated £200 million of public funds to deliver the Universal Service Commitment. It is envisaged that the remainder of the costs will be met from the private

sector through in-kind contributions, competitive commercial pricing through tender contract and design, and contributions from other public sector organisations. It is impossible at this stage to determine what the total cost may be. The finer details will be looked at by the proposed Network Design and Procurement Group.

Broadband: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of households without access to broadband in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [282845]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member.

Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of people living in remote rural areas of *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England who have access to broadband. [286234]

(2) what proportion of households in rural areas in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England have access to (i) a digital subscriber line (DSL) at speeds of at least 512 kBits/s and (ii) cable broadband services of at least 2Mbps. [286589]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Building Britain's Future

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 36 of Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654, which Department will sponsor the proposed new Infrastructure UK advisory body. [283955]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The development of Infrastructure UK will be led by Lord Davies of Abersoch, reporting to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the First Secretary of State. It will be supported by a joint HM Treasury/ Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills secretariat.

Business

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the cost to businesses of compliance with *(a)* EU and *(b)* UK regulations in 2009-10 to date. [281426]

Ian Lucas: The costs to business from new regulations are included in published Impact Assessments which can be accessed at:

www.ialibrary.berr.gov.uk

Developing robust estimates of the costs to business of complying with all existing regulations would involve disproportionate cost.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many applications for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved; [265951]

(2) how many successful applications for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme have been taken up by businesses. [265952]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since its launch on 14 January 2009 the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has over £573 million of eligible applications from 5,090 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed. 3,697 businesses have been offered loans totalling £364.33 million.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department has issued to lenders consequent upon the extension of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme to agricultural businesses. [270422]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Revised guidance was incorporated into the web portal used by lenders to determine eligibility and guidance issued to lenders via Capital for Enterprise Ltd (CfEL). Additionally, details are on the BIS website at

www.bis.gov.uk

and are shared with the regional development agencies and Business Link.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications have been made to the Capital for Enterprise Fund; and how many of these have met the eligibility criteria. [280005]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As from 11 June 2009, the Capital for Enterprise Fund has received 459 formal inquiries. From these 169 have been rejected on the basis of ineligibility. 278 of these applications fit broad eligibility criteria subject to further information and are under consideration. 12 of the applications meet all eligibility criteria and offers have been made totalling £12.4 million.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department is providing to small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [280226]

Ms Rosie Winterton: East of England Development Agency provides an integrated package of business support, accessible through Business Link; key examples for Essex and Castle Point are:

Regional Business Link service which includes the Train to Gain training brokerage service for businesses. In 2008/09, Business Link interacted with 28,223 businesses in Essex, of which over 1,088 are in Castle Point.

52 Essex businesses have received support for enhanced ICT through EEDA's TakeItOn programme totalling over £144,000 since December 2007.

Over the last 18 months Manufacturing Advisory Service East (MAS-East) has assisted 138 manufacturing businesses in Essex, and completed projects that have generated £2,553,100 estimated GVA.

659 Essex women are signed up to Enterprising Women, EEDA's specialist business support for women entrepreneurs.

Essex businesses have won nine contracts for Olympic opportunities through the CompeteFor programme out of 28 total awards to the region.

In the past year, six Essex businesses have received £95,100 from EEDA's Proof of Concept and Grants for Research and Development funding streams.

Since 2004, over 400 companies in Southend-on-Sea have received business support through the new Southend University Campus.

EEDA is also implementing the 'Solutions for Business' programme to make access to support easier and has recently launched the 'Understanding Finance for Businesses' product.

On 14 January 2009 we launched the Real Help Now for Business measures to support businesses in the current economic climate. These include useful information, advice and tools to help businesses with staff, cash flow and access finance measures, such as:

The £1.3 billion Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) scheme supports bank lending, up to £1 million, to viable small businesses which, due to the current economic downturn, are struggling to secure the finance they need through normal, commercial lending.

EFG data are available at district and county level and as at 24 June, Essex county offered 92 loans with a total value of £8.39 million of which 58 have been drawn with a total value of £5.81 million

Included in this total is Castle Point. Nine loans were offered with a total value of £977,000 of which six loans have been drawn with a total value of £899,000.

In addition to the above there are the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. These have an additional 20 loans offered with a value of 1.12million of which 13 loans have been drawn with a total value of £866,000.

Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEL) announced in PBR 2008 as a £50 million debt for equity fund, this now provides £75 million of equity, made up £50 million of Government funds and an additional £25 million from high street banks. The fund provides equity and quasi-equity of £250,000 to £2 million for companies under the EU SME definition, ie with turnover of up to €50 million, who have viable business models and growth potential in need of long term capital. Risk will be shared equally between government funds and those committed by the banks. Data for the CfEL are only available at regional level at present.

The Working Capital Scheme which (though not available to business to apply for) enables participating lenders to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses with a turnover of up to £500 million.

As part of the Real Help offered to businesses, they could undertake a "Health Check" (an impartial and objective assessment of business performance to identify; key strengths, prioritising areas for improvement and highlighting business opportunities) either on-line or with a Business Link adviser. Since the end of October 2008, over 57,000 businesses have undertaken a "Health Check" with more than 5,400 benefiting in the East of England.

Further details of the Real Help for Business finance measures and the wide range of information, advice and tools are available via

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to assist *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in Peterborough constituency. [281718]

Ms Rosie Winterton: East of England Development Agency supports businesses in Peterborough in a number of ways and has highlighted key examples as follows:

In 2008-09, Business Link interacted with 1,684 businesses in Peterborough through its Train to Gain training brokerage service for businesses.

In the past years seven Peterborough companies have received Take ITon grants totalling £25,220. These grants have focused on helping small and medium enterprises to improve use of IT.

Over the last 18 months Manufacturing Advisory Service East (MAS-East) has supported 20 businesses in Peterborough, having worked intensively with three businesses to generate an estimated Gross Value Added of £88,000.

140 Peterborough women are signed up to Enterprising Women, EEDA's specialist support for women entrepreneurs.

So far Peterborough has 150 businesses registered on CompeteFor, a web portal for promoting Olympic opportunities to businesses.

Two projects have been funded through Grant for Business Investment (to support companies in expanding their business through capital investment) with a total contribution of £144,000. This has levered in £823,000 in business investment.

Two projects are currently being funded to help companies increase their research and development (R&D) capability through Grant for Research.

Development (GRAD) with a total contribution of £258,000. This has levered in £742,000 in business investment.

£2.2 million has funded a regional response to redundancy programme which has supported companies across the region and in Peterborough.

EEDA is implementing the 'Solutions for Business' programme to make accessing support easier. A breakfast event will be held at the Peterborough Eco Centre in July with a larger business event organised in conjunction with Opportunity Peterborough for later in the year to target Peterborough businesses. EEDA has also recently launched the Understanding Finance for Businesses product, with the purpose of helping SMEs to be investment ready and signposting to relevant sources of funding.

EEDA funded £750,000 towards the Learning Centre at Perkins in Peterborough, to help create an expanded high-tech, world-class in-industry training facility in R&D, design and production available to local people, businesses, educational establishments and other organisations.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employers in *(a)* England and *(b)* Luton sought advice on redundancy issues from his Department and its predecessors in (i) the latest period for which figures are available and (ii) the same period 12 months previously. [282201]

Mr. McFadden: Employers are able to seek advice on redundancy issues from the Department via the Business Link helpline and website, the ACAS helpline and the redundancy payments service helpline. The available figures are set out in the following table, except for calls to the redundancy payments service helpline, which are not categorised or recorded by group.

	May	
	2008[1]	May 2009
ACAS Helpline		
Percentage of total calls from employers that were about redundancy issues	19.9	27.2

	March	
	2008	March 2009
Business Link (Luton)		
Calls to helpline	0	2
Response to redundancy project	No data available	[2]10

	March	
	2008	2009
Business Link (England)	No data available	No data available

	April	
	2008	2009
Business Link Website		
Guidance (visits)	28,050	68,740
Redundancy tool	2,487	4,004
Redundancy calculator	No data available	39,474

[1] Relates to two weeks only, due to the introduction of new technology.
[2] Project began in September 2008.
Note:
Although guidance was also available on the BIS (BERR) website in 2008, hits/visits were not categorised or recorded by group.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much financial assistance his Department and its predecessors have provided to companies in each year since 1990; under what budgetary headings such assistance was given in each year; which 10 companies received the most such funding in each year; and how much each such company received each year. [283373]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* The information requested is not held centrally and, where available, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills by what means businesses will be able to obtain funding from the *(a)* Strategic Investment Fund and *(b)* Innovation Fund. [284961]

Mr. McFadden: Although the Strategic Investment Fund is not a fund to which businesses can apply directly, BIS seeks and continues to engage with business to understand opportunities and challenges they face and use the Fund in areas in which Government action can have a bigger impact. The aim of £750 million Strategic Investment Fund—which was announced in Budget 2009—is to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance, of which £250 million has been ring fenced specifically for low carbon initiatives, a further £50 million for the Technology Strategy Board and £10 million to promote UK sector expertise through UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). The Fund will help to deliver the Government's strategy as set out in the 'Building Britain's Future—New Industry New Jobs' framework document, published on 20 April 2009, and will allow Government to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance to the UK's economic renewal and future growth.

The UK Innovation Investment Fund will operate on a Fund of Funds structure which means it will not invest directly in companies, but rather invest in a small number of specialist technology funds that have the expertise and track record to invest directly in companies. A Fund of Funds manager will be appointed over 2009 to manage the fund and make investments in underlying technology funds with the expertise and track record to invest directly in technology businesses.

Business: Overseas Trade

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment UK Trade and Investment has made of the UK's business competitiveness in international markets in each of the last three years; and against which competitors each assessment was made. [284037]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment has made two assessments of the UK's business competitiveness in the last three years, the first in 2007 and the second in 2009.

The 2007 study assessed UK competitiveness against that of France, Germany, the USA and Japan for the period 1996 to 2004. The study looked specifically at exports of goods from eight sectors to 12 emerging markets and compared UK performance in these sectors and markets with that of the four competitors. The study is entitled "Mapping the match between UK exports and demand in emerging markets" and is available on the UKTI website at URL:

https://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/fileDownload/UKTIUKexportsreportforwebamended291107.pdf?cid=409154

The 2009 study assessed UK competitiveness against that of Germany, the USA and Japan over the period 2002-07. It considered export of goods from 16 sectors to 11 destination markets and compared UK performance in these sectors and markets with that of the three competitors. The report of this work will be available on the UKTI website in due course.

Both pieces of research have been carried out by external contractors. International trade statistics take time to collate, hence, 2007 data was the latest available for the 2009 study.

BIS has two assessments of UK business competitiveness in 2008.

A study on green business and UK comparative advantage which compared the UK to other OECD member countries. The report is available at URL:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46793.pdf

A study of the design engineering sector compared the cost efficiency of the UK with the US and Europe. The report is available at URL:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44824.pdf

Conditions of Employment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what measures are in place on the use of local employment contracts in infrastructure expenditure by local and central government agencies. [285391]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Public procurers are required to seek value-for-money through fair and open competition. They must comply with EU treaty open market principles and the UK public procurement Regulations implementing the 2004 EU public procurement directives. These set out the value for money criteria to be used for the award of public contracts. Any preferential treatment for local companies or those offering local employment is not allowed.

Construction Clearing House

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has yet established its proposed construction clearing house. [283901]

Kevin Brennan: The Construction Clearing House (Apprenticeship Matching Service) was established in September 2008 by ConstructionSkills (the Sector Skills Council for the construction industry), the Learning and Skills Council and the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Its purpose is to ensure that construction apprentices, at risk of redundancy, are not lost to the industry.

Construction Task Force

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has yet established its proposed construction task force. [283900]

Kevin Brennan: The Construction Apprenticeships Task Force was established by the then Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, my right hon. Friend for Southampton Itchen (Mr. Denham) with Construction Skills (the Sector Skills Council for the construction sector), in November 2008 to review the approach to Apprenticeships within the construction sector and to make recommendations to Government.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department is negotiating to end the lease of any buildings leased by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. [282851]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills did not lease any buildings. There are no negotiations under way for any of the buildings previously occupied by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to be vacated, except (in the case of the buildings in Sheffield and Darlington) the plans to relocate jointly with DCSF to new premises in the same city. These plans were developed long before the creation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department and its predecessors in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280939]

Mr. McFadden: This Department and its predecessors recorded the following carbon dioxide emissions during the periods requested:

	Total CO_2 emissions	*Kgs Per FTE*
2006-07	9,252,827	2,279.6
2007-08	8,487,264	1,854.7

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's predecessors' estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280534]

Mr. McFadden: Due to changes in our operations and maintenance service providers, BIS can only provide data on spend on energy efficiency measures for its predecessors for the past two years. The amounts spent are as follows:

	£
2007-08	75, 000
2008-09	62, 000

BIS is continuing to work towards achieving the energy efficiency targets expressed in the Sustainable Operation of the Government Estate (SOGE) framework. Our main strategy has been to gain efficiencies through a reduction in the physical size of the estate and the number of buildings, occupied by the introduction of new ways of working, including flexible desking. As a result the size of the BIS estate has been reduced by 58 per cent. and its overall carbon footprint has been cut by 26 per cent. since the baseline year of 1999-2000. Energy consumption has reduced across the whole estate by 11.2 per cent. since 1999-2000.

The Department has recently undertaken energy audits across its estate. Projects identified to reduce carbon emissions include using lighting controls more effectively (e.g. £11,000 p.a. savings on improved lighting for the 1 Victoria Street underground car park), improved building management controls at our HQ buildings at 1 Victoria Street and Kingsgate House, piloting the use of LED technology in 1 Victoria Street and the installation of

Automated Metering and Targeting across the HQ estate. Although it is too early to evaluate the latter, it has already led to the identification of instances where plant has been running when not necessary.

So far as future plans are concerned, I refer the hon. Member to the August 2008 Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate Delivery plan

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Delivery-Plan.pdf

and the December 2008 Delivery Plan Update

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Delivery_Plan_Update_Dec08.pdf.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department and its predecessors in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280940]

Mr. McFadden: BIS and its predecessors have consumed the following amounts of energy per full-time equivalent member of staff during the periods requested:

		kWh
	Total energy (electricity and gas)	*Per FTE*
2006-07	20,102,208	4,953
2007-08	19,109,231	4,176

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285022]

Mr. McFadden: As part of its long term PFI Agreement with Fujitsu, the Department is currently reviewing its options for the technology refresh of software such as Internet Explorer 6.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what changes have been made to his Department's and its predecessor's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285320]

Mr. McFadden: No changes have been made during the last six months to this Department or its predecessors' purchasing policy for office equipment and stationery.

Departmental Waste

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department and its predecessors in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281017]

Mr. McFadden: BIS and its predecessors have produced the following amounts of waste arisings:

		Kgs
	Total waste arisings	*Per FTE*
2006-07	530,400	130.67
2007-08	640,800	140.03

The figures for 2007-08 are higher due to the rationalisation of BIS predecessors estate and the resultant staff movements between buildings.

Departmental Water

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the water consumption on the office estate of his Department and its predecessors in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280938]

Mr. McFadden: The BIS estate and its predecessors' water consumption was as follows:

	Total water consumption (m3)	*Per FTE (m3)*
2005-06	55,708	11.81
2006-07	29,302	7.22

BIS's predecessor rationalised its estate during 2006-07, which contributed to substantial reduction in water consumption.

Digital Broadcasting: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in Wales liable to pay the levy on fixed copper lines proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper. [281726]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has made no specific estimate of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in Wales liable to pay the proposed levy of 50p per month on each fixed copper line proposed in the Digital Britain report. The independent telecommunications regulator, Ofcom, however estimates that there are 1,380,941 fixed BT lines in Wales.

Under existing rules any individual in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, pensions credit (guaranteed credit) or employment and support allowance (income related) is entitled to social telephony. As set out in the Digital Britain White Paper published on 16 June 2009 the Government do not wish to see a widening digital divide. Therefore the Government expect that individuals entitled to social telephony packages would also be exempt from the broadband levy to fund the deployment of next generation networks.

Education: Standards

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Joint Education task force on establishments offering educational careers but not providing education to recognised standards. [285601]

Kevin Brennan: None.

The joint education taskforce (JET) is composed of representatives from across the education sector. It is not a ministerial group. The aim of the JET is to support partnership working across government and with all the key stakeholder groups on immigration issues affecting international students.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of implementing the EU Agency Workers Directive; and what his policy is on the application of the new burden doctrine to implementation of that Directive. [282781]

Mr. McFadden: The Impact Assessment accompanying the Consultation Paper published by the Department on 8 May 2009 (www.bis.gov.uk/files/file51197.pdf) set out the estimated costs and benefits of the directive. Figures are not available for the specific cost to local authorities, although costs were included for public sector hirers of agency workers. Under a 12-week qualifying period for equal treatment, as agreed under the TUC/CBI agreement of 20 May 2008, the cost to public sector hirers was estimated to be between £227 and £337 million a year.

Government policy for implementing the directive is to ensure appropriate protection for agency workers while maintaining a flexible labour market, by minimising administrative burdens. Implementation requirements will apply equally to private and public sector users of agency workers and will not therefore impose a disproportionate new burden on local authorities.

Greece

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which individuals *(a)* whose travel and *(b)* accommodation was paid for out of public funds accompanied the Secretary of State on his recent visit to Greece. [284711]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* My noble Friend the Secretary of State was accompanied by his Private Secretary, for the initial part of his visit to Greece.

Higher Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will assess systems for widening participation in higher education applied in other countries for the purposes of the development of best practice in England. [283914]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has funded research to identify relevant practice on widening participation in higher education in other countries, to help inform practice in this country. This research has yet to be published.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire were admitted to university in England in each of the last five years. [284565]

Mr. Lammy: The number of all-aged entrants to higher education institutions in England from Hemel Hempstead constituency and Hertfordshire local authority area are shown in the table. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in January 2010.

Higher Education: Palestinians

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to provide an exchange programme for Palestinian academics similar to the Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership scheme. [282227]

Mr. Lammy: The Government remain committed in principle to supporting a programme for Palestinian PhD students, as a counterpart to the Britain Israel Research and Academic Exchange partnership scheme. The British Council has meanwhile drawn up proposals to enable a small number of Palestinian students to undertake PhD courses in the United Kingdom. This will be reliant on securing private sector funding, which we are actively seeking.

Insolvency

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect contribution to the UK economy made by the insolvency sector. [285772]

Ian Lucas: No recent estimate has been made by my Department of the direct and indirect contribution to the UK economy made by the insolvency sector.

Insolvency Service: Finance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on average how much was held in the Insolvency Service's account in each month of the last three years. [286325]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service conducts its day to day business banking through the Office of the Paymaster General. We do not keep average monthly balance information. The following table shows the balance held on the last day of each month for the last three years:

				£000s
Month	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*
January	11,961	7,321	18,799	—
February	19,061	10,116	15,566	—
March	4,823	6,854	7,195	—
April	10,903	10,059	10,993	—
May	11,644	5,558	17,029	—

Month	2009	2008	2007	£000s 2006
June	5,838	8,398	10,891	—
July	—	5,251	13,656	15,255
August	—	10,855	8,498	16,420
September	—	6,013	4,934	19,344
October	—	11,793	9,525	13,587
November	—	10,910	11,255	19,456
December	—	10,604	10,103	17,257

These figures do not include moneys held on trust for insolvency estates which are held in the insolvency services account or the insolvency services investment account. The figures also do not include funds for the payment of statutory redundancy payments from the national insurance fund administered by the Insolvency Service.

Insolvency: Logistics

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many insolvencies in the logistical transport sector were recorded in Wales in each of the last five years. [285563]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Insolvency statistics are not currently available centrally broken down by both industry sector and region, below the published level of "England and Wales" as a whole. Further, the Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC 2003) currently in use does not identify "logistical transport" as a composite industry category.

Learning and Skills Council for England

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the paper on Managing Demand (LSC 21/2009) presented to the meeting of the Council of the Learning and Skills Council on 22 April 2009. [282850]

Kevin Brennan: The acting chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council has recently undertaken a review of its National Council minutes and has decided that he will make public the full minutes from these meetings, except for any sensitive or confidential information which is exempt under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. The minutes can be found at:

www.lsc.gov.uk

The LSC does not routinely publish papers for council meetings but we have asked its acting chief executive to review whether it would be appropriate to do so in this case, subject to the determining whether the paper contains any exempt information as defined in Freedom of Information Act, and to write to the hon. Member.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter of 6 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. D Healey. [283360]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to my right hon. Friend for the delay in responding. My right hon. Friend will receive a response shortly.

Minimum Wage: Gratuities

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of businesses in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the UK using tips as a means of ensuring their employees receive the national minimum wage; what estimate his Department has made of (i) the number of employees involved and (ii) the monetary value of such tips in the last 12 months; what steps his Department plans to take on the matter; and what assessment has been made of the effects of the practice on expenditure on benefits. [281647]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to provide an estimate of the number of businesses in *(a)* Peterborough constituency, and *(b)* in the UK, using tips as a means of ensuring their employees receive the national minimum wage as this data are not collected.

Using the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings we have estimated that (i) the number of employees who could be receiving tips to make up wages to the national minimum wage is around 60,000 and (ii) the monetary value of such tips to be £82 million per year.

The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for benefit payments. DWP has not made an assessment of the effects of the practice on expenditure on benefits as to do so could be done only at disproportionate cost.

From 1 October 2009 we will be amending National Minimum Wage regulations so that tips can no longer be used to pay national minimum wage.

National Skills Academies: Finance

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the next funding round for national skills academies to take place. [284440]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* An announcement will be made as soon as is practicable.

Network Design and Procurement Group

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Government plans to establish the Network Design and Procurement Group proposed in the Digital Britain Report; what estimate he has made of the annual running costs of the group; and from which of his Department's budgets he expects such costs to be met. [282615]

Mr. McFadden: The Government plan to establish the Network Design and Procurement Group with the appointment of a CEO in October this year. We expect the group to be small, containing approximately four to five people. The running costs of the group have yet to be agreed but we expect to be in the region of £500,000 to £1 million per year, and will be funded from the overall budget for the delivery of the Universal Service Commitment and Next Generation proposals.

Postal Services

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Royal Mail post boxes there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [284458]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive, Adam Crozier, to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the South West Regional Economic Task Group has met; what timetable that group has set for future meetings; and whether the agendas and minutes of such meetings are published. [284703]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The South West Regional Economic Task Group has met on eight occasions since its establishment in November 2008. The group's next meeting will take place on Monday 20 July. Dates for future meetings are currently being arranged.

Agendas, papers and minutes of all meeting are published on the Regional Economic Task Group website www.swretg.org.uk.

Rural Network Subsidy

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria are used by the Post Office to allocate funds from the Rural Network Subsidy. [286573]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Skillfast UK

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect on small and medium-sized businesses of the closure of Skillfast UK. [280870]

Kevin Brennan: Skillfast UK has been assessed by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills against the standards set out in the Relicensing Framework for Sector Skills Councils. The UK Commission recommendation to Government that Skillfast UK has not met the standard required of an SSC is now the subject of an appeal by Skillfast UK. The UK Commission will provide further advice to Government on the outcome of the Skillfast UK appeal. In the event that an SSC did not have its licence renewed, it would be asked to work with the UK Commission to ensure that the skills needs of the sector in question continue to be met, including the needs of small and medium sized businesses. This would include access for employers to high quality labour market information about skills, and the continued development of national occupational standards that underpin qualifications that meet both employer and individual needs.

Strategic Investment Fund

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when funding first became available under the Strategic Investment Fund; which Government bodies will administer the fund; what guidelines apply to the allocation of grants from the fund; how much has been allocated under the fund; and which organisations have received funding. [278320]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* In the Budget 2009, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the £750 million Strategic Investment Fund to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance, of which £250 million has been ring fenced specifically for low carbon initiatives, a further £50 million for the Technology Strategy Board and £10 million to promote UK sector expertise through UK Trade and Investment (UKTI).

The Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills (BIS) will administer this fund; however the £250 million low carbon element will be allocated only to those initiatives that have been jointly agreed between BIS and the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

The aim of the fund is to help ensure that the UK remains well positioned to emerge from the economic downturn in a globally competitive position. All proposals will be appraised in line with Green Book principles, particularly to ensure that they provide good value for money in delivering longer term benefits to the UK economy, as well as ensuring there are clear delivery mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation procedures in place.

Work is moving at pace to agree how the money will be allocated. Investments will be prioritised on where there are economic opportunities for UK-based businesses and where government action can make a real and beneficial impact.

There are a number of proposals currently being considered to help deliver the Government's strategy as set out in the 'Building Britain's Future—New Industry New Jobs' document published on 20 April 2009. Within the context of that document the Government will be bringing forward more detailed statements of policy in the weeks and months ahead. A number of these may draw on the Strategic Investment Fund. Naturally, as these are strategic investment opportunities there will be a time lag between agreement of proposals and funds being spent.

Students: Finance

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time students in receipt of student awards will experience a reduction in disposable income from the combined effects of the freeze in the level of awards and the annual uplift in tuition charges in the next academic year; and what his estimate is of the maximum amount of this reduction. [284758]

Mr. Lammy: The uplift in tuition charges in the 2010-11 academic year will have no impact on disposable income for students in receipt of student support. The maximum tuition fee is set to increase by 2.04 per cent. in 2010-11 and the maximum tuition fee loan will increase by the same amount to reflect this rise. Therefore all students will continue to have the full cost of their tuition fees covered in the form of a tuition fee loan.

Students: Loans

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much money collected by HM Revenue and Customs for the Student Loans Company (SLC) has not been allocated by the SLC against individual accounts. [284609]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* HMRC has collected £1.623 billion in student loan repayments since income-contingent loans were introduced in 1998. As at 1 June 2009, the Student Loans Company (SLC) held £1.4 million which had not been applied to customers' accounts due to data matching issues. This figure covers the whole UK. SLC actively addresses this through managed processes to reconcile the repayments against the customers' accounts.

SLC does not record the subject of complaints in sufficient detail to provide the data requested in relation to complaints. SLC aims to respond to all letters of complaint within 10 working days of receipt.

Telecommunications

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the Government-led strategy group on next generation access networks has met. [279094]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The strategy group has been a working group rather than a formal committee. It has held regular discussions with stakeholders. The conclusions of the group are published in the final Digital Britain Report, published on 16 June 2009 at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/broadcasting/6216.aspx

Telephones: Fees and Charges

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of households on social telephony tariffs; and whether such households will be exempt from the proposed levy on fixed copper lines. [282622]

Mr. McFadden: Under existing rules any individual in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, pensions credit (guaranteed credit) or employment and support allowance (income related) is entitled to social telephony. As set out in the Digital Britain White Paper published on 16 June 2009 the Government do not wish to see a widening digital divide. Therefore the Government expect that individuals entitled to social telephony packages would also be exempt from the broadband levy to fund the deployment of next generation networks.

Under current records maintained by the independent telecoms regulator Ofcom, there are currently approximately 850,000 households on social telephony tariffs. The social telephony schemes from BT are available to those on income support, income-based job seeker's allowance, employment support allowance (income-rated) or guaranteed pensions credit.

Train to Gain Programme: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency have successfully completed a Train to Gain course. [283895]

Kevin Brennan: In 2007/08, there were 280 Train to Gain achievements for learners living in Castle Point, and 4,300 Train to Gain achievements for learners living in Essex.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency who have registered for Train to Gain courses have not yet commenced their training. [283896]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) delivers the Train to Gain programme on behalf of the Department. It counts the number of learners who register for Train to Gain at the point where they formally start on programmes. However, there is no formal registration process before a learner starts and therefore no central mechanism is in place to measure the number of people registering an interest.

The LSC is working closely with providers to support ongoing new starts for the remainder of the 2008/09 academic year where providers are within their maximum contract value. Maximum contract values for 2009/10 academic year were finalised in June.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to provide a substantive answer to question 278968 tabled on 8 June 2009 by the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire, on the role of the Enterprise Champion; what the reasons for the time taken are; and if he will make a statement. [283444]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 596W. The Department endeavours to answer parliamentary questions as quickly as possible and apologises for the delay on this occasion.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 14 July 2009

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much in *(a)* rent, *(b)* service charges and *(c)* business rates has been paid in respect of each of the premises occupied by his Department in each year since 2005. [284862]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office spend on rent, service charges and business rates since 2005 is as follows:

£

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Rent	182,704	224,301	209,767	210,923
Service charges[1]	185,398	207,753	171,090	194,773
Rates	185,051	187,005	203,130	183,379

[1] Gas, electricity, water and cleaning.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Divisions

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House what information she holds on the number of hon. Members taking part in divisions in the House. [286952]

Barbara Keeley: The number of hon. Members taking part in each division in the House, including deferred divisions, is published in both the Votes and Proceedings and the *Official Report*.

East of England Regional Grand Committee

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Leader of the House what factors *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministerial colleagues took into account, and what consultations she held, before proposing 8 September 2009 to the House for the first meeting of the East of England Regional Grand Committee; and if she will make a statement. [285863]

Barbara Keeley: The Government proposed that the majority of Regional Grand Committees meet during the summer recess in order to minimise any clash with other business of the House.

The decision to hold the meeting of the East of England Regional Grand Committee on 8 September was approved by the House.

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

Tony Baldry: To ask the Leader of the House what the working relationship will be between the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and *(a)* the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, *(b)* the Committee on Standards in Public Life and *(c)* the Committee of Standards and Privileges. [286632]

Barbara Keeley: The Parliamentary Standards Bill which will create and define the role of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is still being considered by Parliament.

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Leader of the House what estimate she has made of the size of the annual budget of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [285966]

Barbara Keeley: The Parliamentary Standards Bill which will create and define the role of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is still being considered by Parliament. The budget for the authority therefore has not been finalised. It will be made public as soon as possible.

Legislation: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Tony Baldry: To ask the Leader of the House what provisions she plans to make for time on the Floor of the House for debate on the Government's draft legislative programme for 2009-10. [285656]

Barbara Keeley: The Government hope to make time available on the Floor of the House for a debate on Building Britain's Future, including the Draft Legislative Programme, before the end of the current Session.

My right hon. and learned Friend has also invited the Liaison Committee to consider the Draft Legislative Programme.

Legislation: Public Consultation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to page 113 of the Building Britain's Future document, what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* locations are of each regional event in which Ministers will be taking part to highlight the publication of the Government's Draft Legislative Programme and the Building Britain's Future White Paper; which Ministers will participate in each such event; and what estimate she has made of the cost of each such event. [285967]

Barbara Keeley: Since the launch of Building Britain's Future by the Prime Minister on 29 June, regional events have already taken place in Oxfordshire (30 June), Brighton (2 July), Plymouth (6 July), Cambridge (9 July) and Portsmouth (10 July). Participating Ministers included the relevant Regional Ministers, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretaries of State for Justice, Communities and Local Government, and Culture, Media and Sport.

Further events are currently being arranged and they will be detailed on the website at:

www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingbritainsfuture/roadshow.aspx

The costs of these events are being collated as they happen and they are being kept to a minimum. They will be published once all events have taken place.

Legislatures: EU Countries

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House what information she holds on the sitting dates of the Parliaments of other EU member states. [286716]

Barbara Keeley: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons does not hold any information on the sitting dates of the Parliaments of other EU member states.

Members: Visits Abroad

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how much the House has spent on foreign travel for hon. Members in 2008-09. [286443]

Barbara Keeley: A total of £1.88 million was spent on foreign travel for hon. Members in 2008-09.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Security

Tom Brake: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many security officers of each category were working on the Parliamentary estate in each year since 2000. [286437]

Nick Harvey: It is not the policy of the House authorities to answer questions on security matters.

Tony Blair: Allowances

David T.C. Davies: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether records of additional costs allowance claims made by the right hon. Tony Blair when he was Prime Minister have been destroyed; and if he will make a statement. [284608]

Nick Harvey: Original claims made by Tony Blair for additional costs allowance in 2003-04 and previous years have been destroyed in line with the House service's records disposal policy. However, copies of Mr. Blair's additional costs allowance claims in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, which have been released under the Freedom of Information Act, have been retained in line with our policy of retaining records which have been the subject of FOI requests.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 170W, on bus services: concessions, if he will seek the consent of the local authorities listed for their written representations to be placed in the Library. [283969]

Mr. Khan: Department for Transport officials are contacting the relevant authorities seeking consent to place their written representations in the Library of the House.

Crossrail Line

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects Crossrail passenger services to commence. [286059]

Mr. Khan: The first Crossrail services are expected to commence in 2017. Services are expected to be introduced on a phased basis with full operation due in 2018.

Crossrail Line: Finance

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to review the level of his Department's contribution to the cost of constructing Crossrail. [286057]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has no current plans to change the level of contribution to the Crossrail funding package. However, the Crossrail project governance arrangements do make provision for the project sponsors (Department for Transport and Transport for London) to review costs and funding at agreed points in the programme.

Driver Information Systems

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the number of vehicles on the road in the UK which use satellite navigation devices. [285837]

Paul Clark: This information is not currently available. However, a question on the presence of satellite navigation devices in vehicles was added to the National Travel Survey with effect from January 2008. Results from the 2008 National Travel Survey are planned for release later in the year.

Driving: Licensing

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has withdrawn driving licences after receiving notification that the licence holder was medically unfit to drive from *(a)* the licence holders and *(b)* a general practitioner in each year since 1997. [286839]

Paul Clark: The information as requested is not available; however, while the separate figures are not available, the combined figures for the total number of driving licences revoked following a medical notification since 2004 are shown in the following table.

	Number
2008	32,011
2007	33,083
2006	26,912
2005	23,388
2004	25,334

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the procedure for withdrawal of driving licences as a result of persons being medically unfit to drive; and if he will make a statement. [286840]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is currently reviewing the system in place in Great Britain for ensuring that only those drivers who are fit to drive are licensed to do so. We are in the process of considering the complex issues raised in this review and intend to consult on how we can improve the service offered to all drivers.

East Coast Railway Line: Franchises

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the statement of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 424-27, on National Express East Coast franchise, what recent assessment he has made of the viability of other franchises held by National Express. [284817]

Chris Mole: All rail franchises are formally regularly monitored through the monthly and quarterly franchise performance meetings. Both National Express East Anglia and National Express c2c are monitored in this way and are currently meeting their obligations under their franchise agreements.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to Chart 5 of his Department's publication, Franchise Evaluation Process Charts, May 2008, Selection of Winning Bid, whether the difference between the risk-adjusted net present value of the National Express East Coast bid for the Intercity East Coast Franchise and the risk-adjusted net prevent value of the next best bidder for the same franchise was greater than the materiality threshold, after an assessment of the affordability, compliance and deliverability of the bid had been completed. [285882]

Chris Mole: The Intercity East Coast Franchise was let on 13 August 2007. A January 2007 version of the Franchise Evaluation Process Charts was used in the evaluation process.

The lead bidder's risk adjusted net present value and National Express East Coast risk-adjusted net present value were both within the materiality threshold as stated in the Franchise Evaluation Process Charts. The risk adjusted net present values included risk adjusted elements for specification compliance, deliverability and affordability.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to chart 4 of his Department's publication, Franchise Evaluation Process Charts, May 2008, categorisation of financial risk, whether his Department ascertained from National Express Group plc whether they were prepared to provide an additional unfettered facility or an on-demand loan to National Express East Coast; and whether the schedule 12 ratio fell below 1.05 per cent. at any time during the franchise. [285883]

Chris Mole: The Intercity East Coast Franchise was let on 13 August 2007. A January 2007 version of the Franchise Evaluation Process Charts was used in the evaluation process.

As part of their submission, National Express Group committed a loan facility of £40 million that was sufficient to maintain the bid in the medium financial risk category and the schedule 12 ratio above 1.05 at any point during the franchise.

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) whether the new franchise on the East Coast Main Line will be required to provide rail services to Glasgow; [286055]

(2) if he will require the specification for the new East Coast Main Line franchise in preparation by the Department to maintain services at or above the level of service in the franchise awarded to National Express East Coast. [286056]

Chris Mole: Work has now started to develop proposals for the specification of the replacement franchise. This will include looking at service patterns and destinations. The draft specification will be consulted on with stakeholders, including passenger groups, parliamentarians and the Scottish Executive.

Hazardous Waste

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what hazardous waste cargoes have been reported as having been lost overboard in UK waters since 1997 but have not been recovered; what packages containing hazardous goods were reported found in UK waters since 1 January 1997; what the *(a)* date of finding, *(b)* origin of the goods, *(c)* nature of the incident giving rise to the deposit of the package and *(d)* location of the find was in each case; and what reporting requirements apply in respect of such losses overboard (i) in UK waters and (ii) on UK-registered vessels carrying hazardous cargo. [286300]

Paul Clark: Details of hazardous cargoes lost overboard from ships in the UK pollution control zone are given in annual reports produced by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS). ACOPS reports for 2001-07 are available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website—under the Emergency Response menu—at:

http://www.mcga.gov.uk

To provide the specific details as requested would incur disproportionate costs.

Reporting requirements for loss of cargo overboard are contained in the Statutory Instrument 1995 No. 2498—The Merchant Shipping (Reporting Requirements for Ships Carrying Dangerous or Polluting Goods) Regulations 1995. This can be found on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website at:

http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga-mnotice.htm?nexiobjid=466274775289B019

Local Government Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) which *(a)* specific and *(b)* area-based grants are distributed to local authorities by each division of his Department; [285113]

(2) what estimate has been made of the annual cost to *(a)* his Department of distributing each grant made by it to local authorities and *(b)* local authorities of administering each such grant; [285114]

(3) what *(a)* eligibility conditions and *(b)* compliance measures are in place in respect of the expenditure by local authorities of each grant distributed by his Department; and what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to his Department of monitoring the compliance by local authorities with such measures in respect of each such grant. [285122]

Mr. Khan: The Government believe in giving local authorities greater flexibility to take decisions on local priorities. The introduction of the area-based grant has reduced ring-fencing, giving councils increased flexibility to manage their budgets. Alongside this, the new local performance framework has provided a simplified and more effective structure for priority setting and performance measurement.

The following specific revenue grants are being paid by the Department for Transport direct to local authorities in 2009-10:

Urban and rural bus challenge, and Kick start

Concessionary Travel

Cycling and walking funding

Urban congestion performance fund

Pump-priming for the Transport Innovation Fund

area-based grant is paid by Communities and Local Government on behalf of the Government as a whole. Funding streams from the Department which are being paid through area-based grant in 2009-10 are:

revenue funding for detrunked roads

revenue funding for road safety

rural bus subsidy.

The Department does not routinely estimate the costs of distributing grant each year, although it does consider the cost effectiveness of proposals as part of the policy development process. It also assesses whether there will be any new burdens on local authorities, and ensures that these are fully funded when a policy is implemented.

As area-based grant is not ring-fenced, it comes with no specific conditions or compliance requirements.

Eligibility conditions and compliance measures vary with each specific revenue grant. I am placing in the House of Commons Library a copy of all Grant Determinations for 2009-10 made by the Department. These set out the purpose of the grant and grant conditions.

The Department is also making available substantial capital support to local authorities in 2009-10. Information on grant arrangements for such support is on the Department's website.

Motorcycles: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what percentage of motorcyclists were driving on a provisional licence in each year since 1997. [284807]

Paul Clark: The following statistics reflect the number of drivers held on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database holding motorcycle entitlement. Percentages are shown for both full and provisional motorcycle licence holders in Great Britain:

	Full/ provisional	*Provisional*	*Percentage provisional*	*Percentage full*
1997	22,832,732	21,368,520	94	6
1998	23,760,048	22,302,028	94	6
1999	24,639,737	23,203,452	94	6
2000	25,403,909	23,996,248	94	6
2001	26,288,998	24,879,335	95	5
2002	27,667,609	26,268,281	95	5
2003	29,169,100	27,806,069	95	5
2004	30,759,591	29,446,216	96	4
2005	32,404,429	31,180,161	96	4
2006	34,589,872	33,362,453	96	4
2007	37,382,194	36,179,419	97	3
2008	40,073,283	39,104,336	98	2
2009	41,246,796	40,771,889	99	1

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles of motorway will be subject to road works in each region on England in August 2009; and what estimate he has made of the number of days on which traffic flow is likely to be affected by each such roadwork. [285779]

Chris Mole: The number of miles of motorway that will be subject to road works in each region in England in August 2009 are detailed in the following table:

Region	*Total number of miles of motorway that will be subject to road works in August 2009*	*Approximate estimate of the number of road works schemes taking place on the motorway in August 2009*
East	35.8	11
East Midlands	15	1
North West	303.1	190
South East	22.5	9
South West	34	8
West Midlands	288	52
Yorkshire and North East	209.3	69

The number of days on which traffic flow is likely to be affected varies considerably according to the type of road works being undertaken in each region.

Railways

Ms Barlow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to require train operating companies to abide by their contractual obligations to increase paper waste recycling and reduce electricity usage; and what recent representations he has received from train operating companies on the matter. [285796]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is committed to including environmental objectives such as reducing energy consumption and increasing recycling in all franchises. Once these are agreed, they are monitored by the Department as part of the normal franchise management process. Earlier this month, officials discussed with train operators how to embed a wide range of sustainability issues, such as recycling and energy consumption in future franchises.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proposals his Department is considering in relation to changes to the regime governing regulation of rail fares. [286113]

Chris Mole: My noble Friend, the then Minister of State for Transport announced in February that the increase in the cap for regulated fares (usually the retail prices index + 1 per cent.) will, in general, be applied to individual regulated fares next year as well as to baskets of fares. We also intend to regulate the rail Oyster Pay as You Go fares when these are introduced.

Railways: Finance

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much capital funding the Government has allocated to the rail network in *(a)* West Derbyshire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [286407]

Chris Mole: The information is not available in the form requested. A breakdown of annual expenditure by mode and region is available in the Department for Transport's Annual Report. Details of total historic expenditure are available in National Rail Trends which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation. Copies of these documents are available in the Library of the House.

Railways: Floods

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department has taken to ensure the continued operation of the rail network in the North East in the event of flooding. [285225]

Chris Mole: Network Rail has contingency plans in place to deal with such incidents. In addition, the review into the 2007 floods conducted by Sir Michael Pitt provided a recommended action for the rail industry to develop plans to provide emergency welfare support to passengers stranded on the rail network. As a result, the Department for Transport has worked with Network Rail to review the current practice in relation to the recommendation.

Railways: Franchises

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether train operating companies which hold more than one franchise and default on the conditions for one franchise may retain the remaining franchises. [286832]

Chris Mole: There are cross-default provisions in all franchise agreements. The Secretary of State will consider the individual circumstances of the case in reaching a decision as to whether to apply them. The decision whether to cross-default can only be taken once one of the franchises has been terminated.

Road Traffic Act 1988

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions inquiries into road accidents under section 180 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 have been held. [286838]

Paul Clark: No inquiries have been held under section 180 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent progress has been made on introducing facilities for payment of Severn crossing tolls by credit and debit card. [285959]

Mr. Khan: Detailed discussions are currently taking place with the Severn Crossings Concessionaire to resolve both technical and financial issues. This will then permit payment of tolls by credit and debit cards.

We recognise the importance of implementing card payments for the Severn crossings and are working to introduce this as soon as possible.

Transport: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have given to the Campaign for Better Transport in each of the last three years; and for what purpose. [286517]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 639W.

Transport: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much local transport grant his Department has allocated to City of York Unitary Council in each year since its creation; and what criteria are used to determine the amount of grant allocated to each local authority. [285707]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport provides integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities to support capital investment in transport, which may be used for a range of purposes as the authorities see fit. Funding allocated to the City of York is as follows:

£ million

	Integrated Transport	*Highways Maintenance*	*Total pre-LTP Funding[1]*
2008-09	3.737	1.379	—
2007-08	4.141	1.419	—
2006-07	4.478	1.386	—
2005-06	4.9	1.325	—
2004-05	4.84	1.462	—
2003-04	4.7	1.281	—
2002-03	4.4	1.155	—
2001-02	4.9	1.095	—
2000-01	1.55	0.712	—
1999-2000	—	—	1.983
1998-99	—	—	1.127

£ million

	Integrated Transport	Highways Maintenance	Total pre-LTP Funding[1]
1997-98	—	—	2,212

[1] Since 2000 the allocations comprise integrated transport block grant and highways maintenance. Prior to 2000 the allocations are in the form of gross approved spending.

Details on the allocation of funding to local authorities can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Shows

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to support *(a)* the Royal agricultural show, *(b)* the Lancashire show and *(c)* other agricultural shows. [283607]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA does not financially support agricultural shows but instead ensures that there is a departmental presence at a number of agricultural shows over the summer months.

At this year's Royal Show DEFRA has its own bespoke stand as well as a trailer, based in the livestock and agriculture area. The Secretary of State and other Ministers visited the show throughout its duration. The chief veterinary officer, deputy veterinary officer and director general for farming also attended.

The Lancashire show is not taking place in 2009. However DEFRA did attend the 2008 Show.

DEFRA Ministers or officials are attending an additional 13 other agricultural shows—a mix of regional and sector events—during June to September 2009. DEFRA has a bespoke trailer at the majority of these shows.

Agriculture: Regulation

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans there are to reduce the regulatory burden on farmers. [283613]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our plans for reducing burdens on the farming industry and progress so far is set out in 'Better Regulation, Better Business' our Simplification Plan published in December 2008, which includes measures that contribute to reducing the administrative (red tape) burden on farmers by 25 per cent. by 2010.

Burdens on farmers can be reduced in many ways. These include matching regulatory requirements to business practice, and reducing duplication of effort, for example by co-ordinating inspections so that a single visit covers multiple activities. DEFRA is working in partnership with its agencies, especially RPA, to develop online transactional services of which Whole Farm Approach is the leading example. Fast and easy access to advice and guidance is also available online, via the farming theme on BusinessLink.

We are engaging farmers' representatives in identifying more things that might be done to reduce burdens, and responding to suggestions submitted via the 90-day portal, hosted on the BIS website at:

http://www.betterregulation.gov.uk

which allows anyone to submit their ideas for simplification.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many payments under the single payment scheme in relation to farms in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley constituency were outstanding on the latest date for which figures are available. [285006]

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many payments under the single payment scheme in relation to farms in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire were outstanding on the latest date for which figures are available. [285244]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The rural payments agency does not record information on payments to farmers on a regional basis. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Animal Health Agency: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Animal Health Agency spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [285537]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Animal Health employ a range of consultants such as project managers, systems implementation specialists, systems testers, business/requirements analysts, planning and delivery consultants, benefits realisation managers, change management and trainers (IT specialists).

The following table shows the amount that Animal Health spent on consultants in each of the last four years. Unfortunately, figures cannot be obtained for years prior to Animal Health being formed.

	Total spend on consultancy[1] (£ million)
2005-06	1.852
2006-07	3.333
2007-08	3.708
2008-09	3.555

[1] Data were taken from Animal Health's published annual accounts.

Birds: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which countries outside the EU birds of species *(a)* listed and *(b)* not listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species have been imported into the UK in each of the last five years; and for what purposes they have been imported. [284512]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) database, which holds information on imports into the UK, does not distinguish between species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and species not so listed, and does not hold information on the purpose of imports.

Table 1 shows the data obtained from the TRACES database for all bird species (for non-EU imports).

Table 2 shows the data on CITES species held by the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service in Animal Health (for non-EU imports).

Notes:

1. Only the commodity code (birds of prey/parrots/other birds) is recorded on TRACES rather than the full species name.

2. The TRACES system was not in operation prior to 2004.

Table 1: Imports of all birds as recorded on TRACES

	Exporting countries
2004	UAE, Australia, Barbados, Bahrain, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Switzerland, Ivory Coast, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hong Kong, Heard and McDonald Islands, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mali, Malaysia, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Singapore, Senegal, Suriname, El Salvador, Thailand, Turkey, Tanzania, Ukraine, Uganda, United States, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, South Africa
2005	UAE, Australia, Barbados, Bahrain, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Switzerland, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Singapore, Senegal, Suriname, Chad, Togo, Taiwan, Tanzania, Ukraine, Uganda, United States, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia
2006	Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Switzerland, Cameroon, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Guyana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malaysia, Philippines, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Suriname, El Salvador, Turkey, Tanzania, Ukraine, Uganda, United States, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, South Africa, Zambia
2007	UAE, Australia, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Switzerland, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Macedonia, Malaysia, Philippines, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, Seychelles, Sudan, Singapore, Suriname, Turkey, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, South Africa, Zambia
2008	UAE, Barbados, Bahrain, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Gibraltar, Guyana, Indonesia, Israel, India, Japan, Madagascar, Macedonia, Mauritius, Malaysia, Nigeria, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sudan, Senegal, Suriname, Turkey, Taiwan, Tanzania, Ukraine, United states, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Table 2: Imports of CITES listed birds for the last five years (information supplied by Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service in Animal Health)—recorded countries of export and purpose of import

	Exporting country	*Recorded purposes of imports*
2004	Australia	Personal
	Canada	Personal; trade
	Czech Republic	Trade
	Egypt	Personal
	Guinea	Trade
	Guyana	Trade
	Ivory Coast	Trade
	Japan	Trade
	Jersey	Breeding in captivity; travelling exhibition and circuses; trade; zoos
	Kazakhstan	Breeding in captivity; trade
	Kenya	Personal
	Kuwait	Personal
	Namibia	Trade
	Peru	Trade
	Philippines	Breeding in captivity
	Qatar	Personal; trade
	Russian Federation	Breeding in captivity
	Solomon Islands	Trade
	South Africa	Breeding in captivity; personal; trade
	Suriname	Personal
	Switzerland	Zoo
	Tanzania, United Republic of	Zoo
	United Arab Emirates	Breeding in captivity
	United States of America	Breeding in captivity; personal
	Venezuela	Trade
	Zambia	Personal
	Zimbabwe	Personal
2005	Australia	Personal
	Bahrain	Breeding in captivity; trade
	Cameroon	Trade
	Canada	Personal
	Chad	Trade
	Egypt	Personal
	Guinea	Trade
	Guyana	Trade
	Isle of Man	Personal
	Ivory Coast	Trade
	Jersey	Breeding in captivity; personal; trade; scientific; zoos
	Kazakhstan	Trade
	Namibia	Trade
	Philippines	Breeding in captivity
	Qatar	Personal
	Russian Federation	Reintroduction or introduction into the wild
	Singapore	Personal
	South Africa	Personal
	Suriname	Trade
	Switzerland	Zoos
	Taiwan	Trade
	Tanzania, United Republic of	Zoos
	Trinidad and Tobago	Personal
	United Arab Emirates	Personal; zoos
	United States of America	Personal; zoos
	Zimbabwe	Trade
2006	Australia	Personal
	Canada	Personal
	Gambia	Personal
	Guernsey	Trade
	Philippines	Breeding in captivity
	Russian Federation	Reintroduction or introduction into the wild
	South Africa	Personal
	Switzerland	Zoos
	United Arab Emirates	Personal
	United States of America	Breeding in captivity; personal

Table 2: Imports of CITES listed birds for the last five years (information supplied by Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service in Animal Health)—recorded countries of export and purpose of import

	Exporting country	*Recorded purposes of imports*
	Zimbabwe	Personal
2007	Alderney	Personal
	Bahrain	Personal
	Canada	Breeding in captivity
	Ghana	Personal
	Guatemala	Personal
	Guernsey	Personal
	Israel	Personal
	Jersey	Zoos
	Kuwait	Personal
	Norway	Reintroduction or introduction into the wild
	Philippines	Breeding in captivity
	Russian Federation	Reintroduction or introduction into the wild
	South Africa	Personal
	Switzerland	Zoos
	United Arab Emirates	Breeding in captivity; personal
	United States of America	Breeding in captivity; educational; personal; zoos
	Zimbabwe	Personal
2008	Bahrain	Personal
	Canada	Personal
	China	Personal
	Cuba	Zoos
	Democratic Republic of Congo	Breeding in captivity
	Ghana	Personal
	Israel	Zoos
	Jersey	Zoos
	Kenya	Personal
	Norway	Reintroduction or introduction into the wild
	Russian Federation	Personal; reintroduction or introduction into the wild
	South Africa	Personal
	Tanzania, United Republic of	Personal
	United Arab Emirates	Breeding in captivity
	United States of America	Breeding in captivity; personal; zoos

CITES species listed on appendix III do not require CITES permits to be issued to enable their import to take place. They do however require import notifications to be made. The country of export is recorded on import notifications, but not the purpose of the import.

The table shows details of exporting countries for which import notifications were issued (for imports into the UK).

	Exporting countries
2004	Mali; South Africa
2005	Chad; Ghana; Guinea; Jersey; Senegal; United States of America
2006	One notification made but 'exporting country' not entered
2007	Japan
2008	Jersey

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many birds of each species *(a)* listed and *(b)* not listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species were recorded as being imported into the (i) EU and (ii) UK on the Trade Control and Expert System database in each year since 2000; and of those recorded as being imported into the UK how many in each category were imported from countries (A) within and (B) not part of the EU in each year. [284514]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) database does not distinguish between species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and species not so listed. It is therefore not possible to make the distinction requested at items *(a)* and *(b)* of the question.

It is not possible to supply the information requested at item (i) since we do not have access to EU-wide statistics: each member state would need to advise on numbers imported separately.

The information we hold on the numbers of birds imported into the UK from within and outside the EU according to the TRACES database for each year since 2000 is shown in the tables.

Notes:

1. Only the commodity code (birds of prey/parrots/other birds) is recorded on TRACES rather than the full species name.

2. The TRACES system was not in operation prior to 2004.

3. 'Other Birds' imported from within the EU will include pheasant/partridge day-old chicks incorrectly entered under the 'Other Birds' code by other member states (this will have therefore increased figures).

Birds recorded on TRACES as having been imported into the UK from within the EU

	TRACES Commodity code	*Number*
2004	Birds of Prey	7
	Parrots	24,458
	Other Birds	24,260
	Total	48,725
2005	Birds of Prey	38
	Parrots	57,885
	Other Birds	2,991,995
	Total	3,049,918
2006	Birds of Prey	27
	Parrots	159,396
	Other Birds	3,168,705
	Total	3,328,128
2007	Birds of Prey	32
	Parrots	243,006
	Other Birds	4,130,388
	Total	4,373,426
2008	Birds of Prey	52
	Parrots	24,593
	Other Birds	6,186,499
	Total	6,211,144

Birds recorded on TRACES as having been imported into the UK from within the EU

	TRACES Commodity code	*Number*
2009 (1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009)	Birds of Prey	9
	Parrots	14,224
	Other Birds	4,850,244
	Total	4,864,477
	Grand total	21,875,818

Birds recorded on TRACES as having been imported into the UK from outside the EU

	TRACES Commodity code	*Number*
2004	Birds of Prey	4
	Parrots	17,539
	Other Birds	31,644
	Total	49,187
2005	Birds of Prey	162
	Parrots	17,838
	Other Birds	53,898
	Total	71,898
2006	Birds of Prey	17
	Parrots	234
	Other Birds	40
	Total	291
2007	Birds of Prey	192
	Parrots	31
	Other Birds	67
	Total	290
2008	Birds of Prey	28
	Parrots	30
	Other Birds	31
	Total	89
2009 (1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009)	Birds of Prey	26
	Parrots	8
	Other Birds	186
	Total	220
	Grand total	121,975

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* dog exclusion orders and *(b)* dogs on leads orders introduced by local authorities under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; what proportion of such orders in each category have affected land classified as open access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; and how many such orders in each category affect access to land of which Natural England has been notified. [285605]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We do not hold figures on the number of dog exclusion orders and dogs on leads orders introduced by local authorities under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 or the proportion of such orders that have affected land classified as open access land. However, I am aware that Natural England has been consulted by local authorities on five Dog Control Orders where a proposal to make an Order would affect open access land mapped under the Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000.

Compost

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on research by the Environment Agency and Cranfield University on bioaerosol emissions from composting sites; what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's waste and recycling policies of the findings of that research; and if he will make a statement. [284137]

Dan Norris: I have placed a copy of the report in question in the Library.

The research leading to the report was commissioned by the Environment Agency in order to review and assess aspects of the risk assessment of open-air composting facilities, in particular in relation to bioaerosols. Although the work has helped to improve the Agency's monitoring and evaluation of the risks posed by bioaerosols it did not support a change to the current 250m risk assessment limit for the proximity of residential or commercial properties. As further research emerges it will be carefully reviewed by DEFRA and the Environment Agency.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285311]

Dan Norris: There have been no changes to the Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. DEFRA's policy remains the acquisition of sustainable goods, based on best value for money.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to local authorities on alternate weekly waste collections since its establishment. [285347]

Dan Norris: The Waste and Resources Action Programme published the report 'Alternate Weekly Collections Guidance' in July 2007. This document replaced a previous guidance document published in 2005.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will direct the Waste and Resources Action Programme to

assess the effect on recycling rates of household waste of the use of wheeled refuse containers. [286528]

Dan Norris: The DEFRA funded Waste and Resources Action Programme has an ongoing programme of research to assess the effectiveness of different collection systems and to provide advice to local authorities. This will include consideration of the different kerbside containers available as part of the overall collection system.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on the subsidies granted by the European Commission to EU member states in each of the last five years; and what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the criteria applied to applications for such subsidies. [285572]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Commission list direct aids to farmers as presented in Table 1. Producers must comply with a number of criteria in order to qualify, with the most significant being that production is required for receipt of coupled direct aids, but not decoupled aids.

Table 1: EU direct aids for Budget years 2004-08

€million

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Decoupled direct aids					
Single Payment Scheme	28,234	28,119	14,226	0	0
Single Area Payment Scheme	2,974	2,083	1,721	1,449	0
Separate sugar payment	206	167	0	0	0
Separate fruit and vegetables payment	0	0	0	0	0
Other direct aids					
Arable Crops	1,781	1,853	7,951	17,158	17,095
Beef	1,641	1,697	2,637	7,730	7,312
Sheep and Goats	314	330	907	1,837	1,471
Dairy	0	0	1,454	1,370	0
POSEI	410	81	81	185	110
Fruit and Vegetables[1]	104	202	255	483	595
Sugar	25	17	0	0	0
Rice	168	173	261	427	110
Olive groves	99	119	2,312	2,240	2,302
Tobacco	301	336	811	918	924
Silkworms	1	1	0	0	0
Cotton	248	254	0	0	0
Payments for specific types of farming and quality production	435	420	199	0	0
Other (direct aids)	—	761	958	75	0
Additional amounts of aid	563	434	316	0	0
Ancillary direct aids, small producers, agrimonetary aids, etc.)	0	0	0	4	1
Recoveries	0	0	-39	-21	-12
Total	37,505	37,046	34,051	33,856	29,908

[1] Includes starch potatoes and grain legumes.

Source:
Provisional Draft Budget 2010 and previous budgets, EC.

The UK has argued forcefully for further decoupling of aid payments from production in order to reduce market distortions, and the 2008 Health Check made a step in this direction, decoupling approximately a further €3 billion of direct payments. This increases the level of decoupled support from around 89 per cent. of all direct farm payments to around 96 per cent. The payments currently scheduled for decoupling and the relevant dates are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Direct aids scheduled to be decoupled

Sector	*Current situation*	*When/how to be phased out*
Fruit and vegetables	The EU Processed Fruit and Vegetables Regime was subject to major reform in 2007, with agreement reached on a phased approach to full decoupling:	Tomatoes for processing—1 January 2012
	Tomatoes for processing—member states may allow a maximum four year transitional period provided that the coupled element of the payment does not exceed 50 per cent. of the corresponding component of the national ceiling	
	Other processing aids—member states may allow a maximum five year transitional period until at the latest 31 December 2012, provided that after 31 December 2010, the coupled proportion of the payment does not exceed 75 per cent. of the corresponding component of the national ceiling in 2011 and 2012 respectively.	Other processing aids—1 January 2013

Table 2: Direct aids scheduled to be decoupled

Sector	*Current situation*	*When/how to be phased out*
Sugar	There are no direct aids in the sugar sector, but there is a transitional fund to help the sugar sector restructure. There are also separate sugar payments as part of the Single Payment Scheme.	The transitional aid is due to end in 2010
Tobacco	Progressive reduction in coupled support from 2006 to 2010.	2010
Crops	Member states may retain partial coupled payments in: Arable Crops Payments (up to 25 per cent.) Durum Wheat Quality Supplement (up to 40 per cent.) Hops (up to 25 per cent.)	Full decoupling from 2010 and integration into Single Payment Scheme (SPS)
Olive oil	Aid for olive groves could remain up to 40 per cent. coupled.	Full decoupling in 2010 and integration in SPS
Livestock	Member states may retain coupled payments in: Suckler Cow Premium (up to 100 per cent.) Special beef premium (up to 75 per cent.), Slaughter Premium (up to 40 per cent. for adults and 100 per cent. for calves) Sheep and Goats (up to 50 per cent.).	Slaughter premium for young animals, slaughter premium for adult animals and Special beef premium: Full decoupling from 2012 onwards and integration into SPS. No change in suckler cow and sheep and goatmeat.
Flax and Hemp	Option of 25 per cent. partial coupling as arable crops area payment. Short fibre flax to be phased out in 2008-09. Long fibre flax to be increased to €40/tonne in 2009-10.	Decouple long fibre flax processing aid and integrate into SPS from 2012.
Dried Fodder	Retain processing aid (per tonne, uniform for dehydrated and dried fodder)	Decouple processing aid and integrate into SPS in 2012
Starch potato	Aid for starch producers (60 per cent. of pre-2003 level) paid per tonne of starch delivered. A transformation aid is granted to the manufacturers per tonne of potato starch with guaranteed minimum prices within the quota limit. Finally, production refunds for starch are granted when using starch for the production of certain goods.	Decouple aid to growers and integrate into SPS from 2012 at the latest; decouple processing aid and integrate into SPS in 2012
Energy crop premium	Aid of EUR 45 per hectare for energy crops for the production of biofuels and electric and thermal energy produced from biomass	Abolish in 2010
Durum Wheat	Aid of EUR 40 per hectare, granted subject to the use of certain quantities of certified seeds of varieties recognised as being of high quality for the production of semolina or pasta.	Full decoupling and integration into SPS in 2010.
Protein crops	Aid of EUR 55.57 per hectare of protein crops (peas, field beans, lupins).	Decouple and integrate into SPS in 2012 at the latest.
Specific payment for rice	Aid per hectare, the value set according to the yields in the member states concerned	Decouple and integrate into SPS in 2012 at the latest.
Nuts	Aid per hectare granted to farmers producing nuts, with a possibility of granting additional national aid.	Decouple and integrate into SPS in 2012 at the latest.

It is a condition of all direct payments that claimants both keep their land in 'good agricultural and environmental condition' (GAEC), as defined by member states in accordance with a set EU framework, and comply with 18 statutory management requirements (existing EU regulatory environmental, public, animal and plant health and animal welfare requirements).

The UK "Vision for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)" is clear that by 2015 to 2020, CAP Pillar 1 should be phased out completely. Instead, payments to farmers should be targeted at delivering public benefits, including environmental benefits, through a re-shaped Pillar 2.

Eggs: Labelling

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take

steps to ensure that eggs are labelled clearly to indicate the method by which the chickens which produced the eggs are farmed. [285584]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All eggs sold at retail and to catering (i.e. class A eggs) must already be labelled with the method of production and the eggs must be stamped on their shells with a code which must be explained on the labelling.

This code identifies the method of production, country of origin and the establishment. The code will start with a number to distinguish production method, this should be '0' = Organic, '1' = Free Range, '2' = Barn, '3' = Eggs from Caged Hens. This will be followed by two letters denoting country of origin (e.g. 'UK') followed by a code (numbers sometimes with letters) identifying the registered production site.

Environment Agency: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Environment Agency in each of the last five years. [285539]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows performance-related pay paid by the Environment Agency over the last five years.

These payments are awarded to reflect success for performance across a range of objectives which are set and agreed with Government. The Environment Agency's annual report details its overall performance against its objectives and gives details of directors' remuneration, including performance-related pay.

These payments are only made to directors and senior managers. The Environment Agency currently has 155 senior managers and directors.

Total value of performance-related pay over last five years

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Director (9)	92,178	95,883	101,970	113,715	127,396
Senior Manager (av. 133)	655,546	739,625	843,141	870,264	1,222,480
Manager	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Specialist	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Executive Support and Administration Staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	747,724	835,508	945,112	983,979	1,349,876

The average percentage paid as performance-related pay per eligible employee over the last five years has been 10 per cent. For 2008-09, the Environment Agency has decided to cap performance-related pay in line with civil service practice.

Environment Protection: Prosecutions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions resulted in *(a)* convictions and *(b)* custodial sentences for offences related to (i) water resources, (ii) flood defences, (iii) fisheries, (iv) navigation, (v) process industry regulation, (vi) radioactive substances, (vii) waste and (viii) water quality as recorded in the National Enforcement Database in each year since 1997. [286467]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The table shows the number of convictions (1) and custodial sentences (2) for environmental offences recorded in the National Enforcement Database in each financial year from 1999 to 2008.

The national enforcement database came online in April 1999. Data are therefore not available for 1997, 1998 and the first three months of 1999.

	Fisheries[1]	Flood defence	Navigation	Process industry regulation	Radioactive substances	Waste	Water quality	Water resources
1999 (April-December)								
Convictions	1	4	3	6	3	314	220	10
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
2000								
Convictions	29	1	6	12	3	409	229	21
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
2001								
Convictions	22	2	3	8	11	472	223	10
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0
2002								
Convictions	50	1	14	3	1	516	232	11

	Fisheries[1]	Flood defence	Navigation	Process industry regulation	Radioactive substances	Waste	Water quality	Water resources
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
2003								
Convictions	44	5	34	5	3	424	170	6
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
2004								
Convictions	40	9	38	1	2	434	184	19
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0
2005								
Convictions	78	8	35	4	1	507	227	10
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
2006								
Convictions	51	4	37	1	1	427	190	5
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
2007								
Convictions	74	6	31	0	0	486	184	17
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
2008								
Convictions	72	8	33	1	3	444	138	9
Custodial sentences	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0

[1] Figures given for fisheries cover only freshwater/inland fisheries and non-rod and line fishing offences.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 380W, on fluoride: drinking water, what assessment the Drinking Water Inspectorate made of the adequacy of the remedial action taken by Hartlepool Water following the addition of excessive levels of fluoride to the water supply in 2000. [285954]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The failure of a sample taken by Hartlepool Water to meet the prescribed standard for fluoride arose in 2004 when two boreholes containing water having naturally occurring fluoride in excess of the standard were pumped simultaneously. This was not a situation where fluoride was being added to the water. Normally water from these boreholes would have been blended with water from other boreholes with a lower natural fluoride concentration. The Inspectorate was satisfied that the change in pumping arrangements put in place by the company after the incident was effective in preventing a recurrence of excessive levels of fluoride. Since this time, all further tests by Hartlepool Water for fluoride have met the required standard.

Food: Labelling

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department provides *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support to the RSPCA in respect of its Freedom Food Initiative. [284313]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has not provided ongoing financial support to RSPCA for its Freedom Foods initiative but did award a grant of £139,000 in February 2002 under the Agriculture Development Scheme to support the development of the scheme.

Food: Prices

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average farm gate price of lamb was in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [285067]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In June 2009 the average farm gate price of UK lambs was 383 pence per kilogram deadweight. This was 25 pence per kilogram higher than the average for June 2008. Monthly average prices from January 2008 onwards are shown in the following table. The seasonal nature of lamb prices can been seen in the 2008 figures.

Average UK farm gate lamb price (pence per kilogram deadweight)

	2008	2009
January	226	335
February	265	368
March	288	372
April	329	415
May	337	415
June	358	383
July	296	—
August	280	—
September	290	—
October	276	—

Average UK farm gate lamb price (pence per kilogram deadweight)

	2008	2009
November	268	–
December	280	–

Source:
AHDB Meat Services (EU Market Report, sheep meat reference prices).

Futuresource Conference

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts delivered by representatives of *(a)* the Environment Agency, *(b)* Waste and Resources Action Programme and *(c)* his Department on (i) municipal waste issues and policy, (ii) household waste prevention and (iii) principles of a good collection service at the Futuresource Conference held in London between 9 to 11 June 2009. [284930]

Dan Norris: I am arranging for copies of the presentations and the handout delivered at the Futuresource Conference by representatives of the Waste and Resources Action Programme and DEFRA to be placed in the Library of the House. The Chairman of the Environment Agency delivered his speech from bullet points and as such, there is no copy of his presentation.

Landfill

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2152W, on the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, if he will introduce a mechanism to determine the amount of waste diverted by home composting in order to allow such composting to count towards the landfill allowance trading scheme. [286520]

Dan Norris: DEFRA is working with the Environment Agency and the DEFRA funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to consider whether a robust mechanism for calculating the amount of waste diverted by home composting can be developed. This work is ongoing.

In response to the operational review of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, DEFRA agreed to review again the position of home composting in relation to the scheme after the first target year in 2010.

Marine and Coastal Access Bill

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an estimate of the likely amount of compensation payable if the provisions of Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill relating to the English coastal route were given effect under existing legislation. [284632]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are no provisions in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill to pay compensation. The Bill requires Natural England and the Secretary of State to aim to strike a fair balance between the interests of landowners and the interests of the general public. The careful and considered identification of the route in consultation with landowners and others will allow Natural England to avoid creating situations where compensation would be required and will mean that any impacts on business and property will be minimised.

The Bill was amended during its passage through the House of Lords to introduce a procedure for an appointed person to review objections to a proposal in a report by Natural England. This will provide additional safeguards for landowners and occupiers.

Natural England will also consult with landowners when deciding any conditions or restrictions on access, for example for land management purposes. Natural England will also be able to revisit decisions about alignment and the need for restrictions in the light of experience of actual impacts or changes to the situation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his contribution of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 700, on the Marine and Coastal Access Bill *[Lords]*, what criteria he plans to use in deciding whether to approve changes to terms and conditions for staff of the Marine and Fisheries Agency. [284775]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Staff transferring to the Marine Management Organisation from the Marine and Fisheries Agency will do so under the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice, following the principles contained in the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006. There will be no detriment to them in relation to pay or terms and conditions of employment at the point of transfer. Any future changes to terms and conditions would only happen following proper consultation with the relevant trade unions and would be on the condition that there would not be any detriment to their current terms and conditions.

Marine and Fisheries Agency: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the monthly *(a)* staffing, *(b)* travel and *(c)* accommodation costs for the operation of the Marine and Fisheries Agency offices in London and Tyneside. [284777]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Broad estimates of the costs of a coastal location as opposed to a London headquarters formed part of the business case for relocation. Cost savings are not the primary driver for locating the Marine and Fisheries Agency at a coastal location. However, operating in Tyneside as opposed to London will offer savings on staff costs, by virtue of paying national rather than London rates for new staff recruited there, and accommodation costs by virtue of lower rental costs outside London. Travel costs are not expected to differ significantly.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations proposed that the Marine Management Organisation should be a non-departmental public body in their responses to his Department's consultation on the creation of that body. [284776]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine Bill consultation in 2006 set out options for the status of the Marine Management Organisation. The 'Summary of Responses' to that consultation, which is available on the departmental website, states that only a few responses made specific comments on the status that would be appropriate for the Marine Management Organisation. However, a large number of responses took the general opportunity to insist that the Marine Management Organisation should be neutral and independent from Government.

Careful consideration was given to the most appropriate status for the MMO, and responses to that consultation were taken into account. Final agreement on non-departmental public body status for the MMO was reached at a cross-departmental meeting in January 2007.

Non-departmental public body status was considered to be the most appropriate given the functions that the Marine Management Organisation is designed to deliver, together with the fact that those services will be delivered by the Marine Management Organisation on behalf of a number of Government Departments.

Pollution: Fines

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been levied in fines by the Environment Agency against *(a)* companies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* individuals with regard to incidences of each type of pollution (i) in total and (ii) in each region in each year since 1997; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of fines so levied in preventing further incidences of pollution by (A) those upon whom such fines have been levied and (B) others; and if he will make a statement. [286534]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* This matter falls within the remit of the Environment Agency; the Health and Safety Executive does not levy pollution-related fines.

The relevant Environment Agency national enforcement database reports have been placed in the Library of the House. The national enforcement database came online in April 1999. Data are therefore not available for 1997, 1998 and the first three months of 1999.

The national enforcement database has categories for individuals and companies, but local authorities are classified with "other legal entities". The reports provided here titled "other" therefore include local authorities along with other non-commercial corporate entities.

The Environment Agency will prosecute a serious pollution offence only when prosecution is considered to be in the public interest. The level of fine imposed is a matter for the sentencing court. All aggravating and mitigating factors and the defendant's ability to pay will be taken into account.

Prosecution is only one of a number of interventions that the Environment Agency employs and other enforcement tools will also have some effect. The Environment Agency publishes an annual Spotlight report which provides the relevant enforcement action taken. The 2008 report can be viewed at:

http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO0708BOFX-E-E.pdf?lang=_e

Rats: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 399W, on rats: Greater London, whether the further report on rodent presence in domestic premises has been completed. [286694]

Dan Norris: The latest report on rodent presence in domestic properties as revealed by the English House Condition Survey data for 2002-03 and 2003-04 is available on DEFRA's website. The next report covering the period up to 2006 should be available this year, although at present there is no set date for publication.

Reptiles: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reptiles of each species *(a)* listed and *(b)* not listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species were recorded as being imported into the EU on the Trade Control and Expert System database in each year since 2000. [284507]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We do not have access to EU-wide statistics which would enable us to answer this question.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reptiles of each species *(a)* listed and *(b)* not listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species were recorded on the Trade Control and Expert System as being imported into the UK from (i) EU member states and (ii) other countries in each year since 2000. [284508]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information available regarding numbers of reptiles in each species in each category listed has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reptiles were seized by HM Revenue and Customs under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in each year since 2000. [284509]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The following table provides data, from HM Revenue and Customs central records.

Reptiles	*Number of specimens seized*
2005-06	1,333
2006-07	1,311
2007-08	347

These reptiles were seized using customs enforcement powers in relation to live animals listed as endangered species under Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora.

For the year's 2000 to 2004-05 information on all CITES specimens seized by the former HM Customs and Excise can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/trade-crime/cites/action-uk.htm#enforcement

Further breakdown of the 2000 to 2004-05 figures can be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

Rural Areas: Employment

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Youth Hostel Association on the effectiveness of its steps taken with his Department to increase levels of *(a)* rural employment and *(b)* access to the countryside. [286723]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have had no such discussions with the Youth Hostel Association but would be willing to consider doing so should they request a meeting.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to bring forward proposals for a free fruit scheme under the provisions of EC Commission Regulation No. 288/2009. [283339]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

There are a number of pilots and evaluation projects currently under way that are looking at the school fruit and vegetable scheme and wider on free school meals in England. A decision will be made about whether to bring forward proposals once the results have been received and considered.

Soil

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on soil value guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [285865]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA officials have been in regular contact with the Environment Agency (EA) regarding the publication of new soil guideline values. The EA is working closely with partners including the Health Protection Agency and the Food Standards Agency to produce new soil guideline values for a range of the most common contaminants. Values for the first eight contaminants were published earlier this year. The EA has stated that it will publish the remaining values as they are developed.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department plans to publish the Soil Guideline Value and Toxicological reports for *(a)* naphthalene, *(b)* benzo(a)pyrene and *(c)* carbon fractions (i) aromatic C12-C16 and (ii) aromatic C21-C35. [285879]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency's (EA) plans to publish Soil Guideline Values (SGV) and Toxicological (TOX) reports for naphthalene and benzo(a)pyrene have been delayed. I am informed that the EA is working on these reports with other Government agencies to resolve some outstanding technical issues, and intends to publish them as soon as possible.

The EA has, at present, no plans to publish SGV or TOX reports for carbon fractions (i) aromatic C12-C16 and (ii) aromatic C21-C35. Its approach for these hydrocarbons was published in 2005 and is available on the EA website at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Sustainable Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken in relation to its sustainable consumption and production priority area for action; and if he will make a statement. [285814]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's work in this priority area aims to make production and consumption patterns associated with the UK economy compatible with sustainable living. Action is being taken to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and inputs of non-renewable resources, energy and water.

DEFRA and its partners are working with businesses, consumers and the public sector to help them understand and reduce their impacts. Overall, this work aims to create better products and services, with lower environmental impacts across their lifecycle, which minimise waste and the use of landfill. DEFRA is working to achieve this in three key ways:

Encouraging best practice through the provision of tools, guidance, and information to help businesses and consumers choose the most sustainable behaviours. For example, we are working with industry to pilot ten roadmaps to improve the sustainability of products that have significant environmental and/or social impacts.

Leading by example by setting policies and ensuring that the Government act in a sustainable way.

Setting standards to ensure that minimum requirements are implemented in the design, production, use and disposal of particular products. This includes raising the sustainability of energy-using products, including through EU minimum standards. The minimum standards agreed so far are expected to save £900 million per year from people's energy bills and help save around 7Mt CO_2 per annum by 2020.

An important aspect of more sustainable consumption and production is the impact of products at their end of life as waste. Following the Waste Strategy for England 2007, DEFRA is working to:

secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste;

secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste; and

meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020.

Further information about DEFRA's work in this priority area can be found in the Departmental Report which is available on DEFRA's website.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1006W, on domestic wastes, which local authorities have sought the advice of the Waste and Resources Action Programme on available options for waste incentive schemes in the last 12 months. [285234]

Dan Norris: WRAP has not provided specific advice on operating a waste charging scheme to individual authorities within the last 12 months. They have dealt with a number of general enquiries from local authority officers and members, seeking clarification on the legislation

and draft guidelines for the Waste Incentive Programme, but these did not result in an application being developed for a pilot scheme.

Water Charges

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* water companies, *(b)* consumer groups and *(c)* others on simplifying the format of domestic water bills. [284681]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has held no recent discussions with water companies, consumer groups or others on simplifying the format of domestic water rates bills. However, the independent Walker Review of charging for household water and sewerage services is looking at this, among other issues, and published an interim report on 29 June.

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much in *(a)* rent, *(b)* service charges and *(c)* business rates has been paid in respect of each of the premises occupied by his Department in each year since 2005. [284861]

Mr. Hain: My Department occupies two buildings, one in London and the other in Cardiff. My Department has paid the following for each building in:

(a & b) Rent and Service Charges

The London office is owned by the Wales Office and no rent or service charges are payable. The service charges are not recorded separately from the rent and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

	Cardiff Office (£)
2005-06	140,272.92
2006-07	163,079.46
2007-08	178,601.80
2008-09	194,638.24

(c) Business Rates

	London Office (£)	*Cardiff Office (£)*
2005-06	48,168.00	39,784.50
2006-07	48,168.00	40,669.00
2007-08	50,616.00	42,112.00
2008-09	52,668.00	43,431.20

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each of his Department's and its agency's databases expected to become operational in the next five years; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286699]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has no plans for databases holding personal information on members of the public to become operational within the next five years.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286539]

Mr. Hain: As a small Department, the Wales Office does not run its own ICT systems, instead using services provided by the Ministry of Justice. My Department runs two databases, which have not suffered from attempts to gain unauthorised access during the last five years.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286163]

Mr. Hain: The number of photocopiers, scanning devices and fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, currently used in the Wales Office and over the past three years are given in the table:

	Photocopiers	*Scanning devices*	*Fax machines*
Current	6	2	16
2008-09	7	2	16
2007-08	7	2	16
2006-07	7	2	16

Departmental Internet

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the maintenance and development costs of his Department's website were in each year since 2005. [285411]

Mr. Hain: My Department has spent the following on maintaining and developing our website:

	£
2005-06	5,875.00
2006-07	6,227.50
2007-08	27,581.96
2008-09	6,054.55

The 2007-08 figure includes the cost of designing and establishing the new Wales Office website in 2007-08 and the provision of a new server.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to which *(a)* magazines, *(b)* journals and *(c)* newspapers his Department subscribes; and what the cost of such subscriptions has been in each of the last three years. [280766]

Joan Ruddock: Since the Department's formation in October 2008, Ministers and the Communications director have received the following publications:

Ministers

Monday to Friday: 4 x *Financial Times*, 3 x *The Times*, 3 x *Telegraph*, 4 x *Independent*, 4 x *Guardian* 2 x *Mail*, 2 x *Express*, 3 x *The Sun*, 3 x *The Mirror*, 2 x *The Star*, 4 x *Evening Standard* and weekly *Observer*, *Spectator*, 2 x *Economist*, *New Scientist*. The total cost to the Department as of 31 May 2009 was £4,270.05.

Communications

Monday to Saturday: *Financial Times*, *Times*, *Telegraph*, *Independent*, *Guardian*, *Mail*, *Express*, *Sun*, *Mirror*, *Star* and weekly *Sunday Times*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Independent on Sunday*, *Observer*, *Mail on Sunday*, *Sunday Express*, *News of the World*, *People*, *Sunday Mirror*, *Daily Star Sunday*, *The Economist*, *Spectator*, *PR Week*, *Private Eye*, *New Statesman*. The total cost to the Department as of 31 May 2009 was £2,025.73.

The Department does not keep central records of all the remaining publications that it receives and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Environment Protection: Education

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated towards the development of environmental education initiatives in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [278844]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not allocate funding directly to support environmental education initiatives in specific areas. Environmental education is one of the key concepts for the study of geography in the new secondary curriculum and the Action Plan for Geography supports this by providing professional development opportunities for teachers in the regions to help them embed sustainable development and environmental education in their classroom practice. We are also working with stakeholders, including the Government Office East of England and local authorities, to engage and support schools work towards the DCSF's Sustainable Schools strategy which aims for all schools to be sustainable by 2020. The strategy is guided by a commitment to care for the environment both locally and nationally and a national framework has been established to help schools identify areas on which they can focus to develop their sustainability practices.

Fuel Poverty

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department are working on the review of its strategy for tackling fuel poverty. [285094]

Mr. Kidney: DECC is currently undertaking a review of its fuel poverty policies. Initial findings of this review are expected in the summer of 2009. Until the review has delivered its findings it would be inappropriate to consider whether to revise the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy.

The Fuel Poverty Review project team currently consists of the following officials by pay band:

	Number
SCS	1
Grade 7	4
HEO	2
EO	1

In addition the project team has recently recruited a short-term secondee.

Warm Front Scheme: Pensioners

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applicants for a Warm Front grant aged *(a)* under 60 years old and *(b)* 60 years old and over who were informed that they would need to pay a contribution (i) took up the grant and (ii) did not proceed with their applications in 2008-09. [285080]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the requested information:

		Households asked to contribute			
Scheme year 2008-09	Assisted households	Number	Percentage	Paid	Did not proceed
Under 60s	102,317	19,693	19.2	17,379	2,314
Over 60s	133,277	29,571	22.2	26,031	3,540
Total	235,594	49,264	20.9	43,410	5,854

The grant maxima for the period reported on were £2,700 or £4,000 where an oil measure was required. On 23 April 2009 we announced our intention to raise the grant maxima to £3,500 or £6,000 for oil and other low carbon and renewable heating measures.

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Surveillance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister whether the application of the Wilson Doctrine on interception of hon. Members' telephone calls has been amended since September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [286618]

The Prime Minister: No. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism to my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, South and Finsbury (Emily Thornberry) on 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1133-4.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Employment

Alistair Burt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what percentage of the construction workers at the Olympic Park are residents of the London Borough of *(a)* Hackney, *(b)* Newham, *(c)* Tower Hamlets, *(d)* Waltham Forest and *(e)* Greenwich. [285108]

Tessa Jowell: The latest figures published by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) in April 2009 showed that at that time there were 4,101 people working on the

Olympic Park, of which 20 per cent. (826) stated that they are a resident in the five host boroughs. This equates to approximately one in five individuals working on the Olympic site.

The table provides a snap shot of people from each of the host boroughs working on site as at April 2009.

Borough	Contractor workforce number	Representation of contractor workforce (percentage)	BAME (percentage)
Hackney	104	3	32
Newham	308	8	27
Tower Hamlets	101	2	28
Waltham Forest	187	5	25
Greenwich	126	3	34

The ODA publishes its employment and skills statistics on a quarterly basis and will be releasing the next set of quarterly figures later this month, in the publications sections of the London 2012 website.

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will publish all reports relevant to the consideration of the National Shooting Centre, Bisley as a location for target shooting at the London 2012 Olympics. [280694]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* A redacted summary version of the KPMG report that informed the Olympic Board's decision was published and placed in the House Library. Because of the continuing commercial sensitivity of information contained within the report, I am unable to publish a full copy at this time.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and the Olympic Delivery Authority have also held several briefing sessions with a number of MPs and Peers and are happy to undertake further meetings to explain the rationale behind the Olympic Board's decision as are the British Olympic Association and British Shooting. British Shooting has accepted that Bisley is not a viable option for the 2012 events and will work with London 2012 on legacy for the sport.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been provided from the public purse to parish councils to tackle antisocial behaviour in the last 12 months. [285390]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not provide direct funding to parish councils to tackle antisocial behaviour. Funding to tackle antisocial behaviour now forms part of the general Area Based Grant (ABG) paid by the Department of Communities and Local Government to Unitary and upper tier authorities. It is for local partnerships to agree how the grants received should be allocated against locally determined priorities, including tackling antisocial behaviour.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Young People

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W, on anti-social behaviour orders: young people, who is responsible for monitoring the effects of media reporting on antisocial behaviour orders imposed on children between the ages of 10 and 17 years on levels of compliance with such orders. [285322]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has issued guidance on publicising antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) which emphasises that a case by case approach should be adopted and that a test should be applied which balances the purpose of publicity against the impact it will have on the individual involved, especially in cases involving young people. It is up to the applicant agency to determine the outcome of this test and determine what publicity is appropriate and proportionate. In addition courts retain the right to impose reporting restrictions where they believe it necessary to do so.

ASBO publicity does not always have to be negative. In cases where ASBOs have worked and perpetrators have turned their lives around, the media may wish to follow up ASBO successes with good news stories.

Crime: Detection Rates

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate for North Yorkshire police force was in each year since 2002-03. [285708]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested has been given in the following table.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates in England and Wales.

Detection rates are a ratio of crime detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Detection rates for offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire

	Detection rate (percentage)
2002-03	26
2003-04	28
2004-05	35
2005-06	35
2006-07	33
2007-08	33

Crime: Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were reported in York in each of the last four years. [285711]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the table.

Offences recorded by the police in York

	Number
2004-05	23,080
2005-06	22,784
2006-07	20,935
2007-08	19,055

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* violent crimes and *(b)* crimes were recorded in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) City of York in each year since 1996-97. [285712]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the tables.

A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire and York, 1996 and 1997

Area and offence	1996	Number 1997
North Yorkshire		
Violence against the person	2,333	2,425
Total recorded crime	56,919	50,252

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire and York, 1996 and 1997

Area and offence	1996	Number 1997
York		
Violence against the person	n/a	n/a
Total recorded crime	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire and York, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1,2]

Area and offence	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	Number 2001-02
North Yorkshire				
Violence against the person	4,827	5,101	4,898	5,624
Total recorded crime	55,309	53,554	51,551	59,125
York				
Violence against the person	n/a	1,650	1,504	1,656
Total recorded crime	n/a	n/a	19,291	22,890

n/a = Not available

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

[2] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire and York, 2002-03 to 2007-08[1]

Area and offence	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Number 2007-08
North Yorkshire						
Violence against the person	8,108	9,610	12,043	11,473	10,087	9,538
Total recorded crime	67,239	71,473	61,615	58,850	54,526	50,265
York						
Violence against the person	2,575	3,459	4,000	3,810	3,285	3,219
Total recorded crime	25,630	29,347	23,080	22,784	20,935	19,055

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of changes in levels of reported domestic violence in each police force area since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [282200]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There were 674,756 domestic violence incidents reported in 2007-08. Data for 2008-09 are not yet available.

Forensic Science Service: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions staff of the Forensic Science Service have attended the scene of a violent crime in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [285728]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service are unable to determine those occasions when they have attended the scene of a violent crime in Castle Point. These are included here within the figures for Southend. The figures for the last five years for Southend and the rest of Essex are shown in the following table.

Actual finish dates

Location	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Southend	0	4	3	3	0	0
Rest of Essex	11	15	16	20	15	10

Human Trafficking

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding the Government has allocated for measures to tackle human trafficking in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the North East in each year since 1997. [285354]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Funding for the fight against human trafficking is not provided on a regional basis as the crime is one that affects all parts of the country and our response therefore has to be national and strategic in nature.

We have provided the UK Human Trafficking Centre with £5.7 million over the period 2006 to the end of the current financial year.

Additionally, we fund the Serious Organised Crime Agency to the tune of £400 million per annum. SOCA has organised immigration crime, including human trafficking as its second highest priority.

From 2004 to the start of the current financial year we had given £5.8 million to Eaves Housing for Women to manage the support provisions for adult female victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This has been further supported by a further £3.7 million over the next two financial years to Eaves Housing to continue these services on a wider geographical basis.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funds his Department has allocated to the Metropolitan Police's human trafficking team for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; what recent discussions he has had with the Metropolitan Police on (i) funding for and (ii) staff levels in the human trafficking team; and if he will make a statement. [280406]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 17 June 2009]:* Following negotiations with the Metropolitan Police, the Home Office agreed on an exceptional basis to provide an additional £435,000 for the current financial year.

Human trafficking is core police business. However, this money was granted in consideration of the fact that the Met, unlike the other forces, could not mainstream this work by the end of the last financial year and on the clear understanding that all anti-human trafficking work within the Met would be met from within their existing budget from 1 April 2010 onwards. The staffing levels are a matter for the Commissioner. The Metropolitan Police has developed a good relationship with the UK Human Trafficking Centre, which is the acknowledged centre of expertise on human trafficking issues and was established to co-ordinate the law enforcement response to this crime.

Identity Cards: Greater Manchester

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Harwich (Mr. Carswell) of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1463W, on identity cards: Greater Manchester, what national implementation strategy his Department will follow for the National Identity Service should take-up in the Manchester pilot be low. [279614]

Alan Johnson: We intend that lessons learned from the launch of identity cards to volunteers in Manchester will inform our subsequent delivery strategy.

The identity card roll out included Foreign National Identity Cards, Critical Workers Identity Cards, Voluntary Identity Cards (commensurate with EU Member State Identity Cards) and the establishment of an identity register to supplement and eventually replace existing identity registers. The lessons learned from Manchester will feed into this roll out.

Migrant Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated in respect of *(a)* translation services and *(b)* advertising in job centres in respect of schemes to encourage migrant workers to return home. [271366]

Mr. Woolas: The Department does not operate any schemes to encourage migrant workers to return home. It follows that the Department has allocated no funding to date in respect of *(a)* translation services and *(b)* advertising in job centres in respect of such schemes.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what disciplinary procedures apply in relation to *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* civilian police staff who are convicted of a criminal offence. [285792]

Alan Johnson: Discipline for police officers and staff convicted of a criminal offence is a matter for the chief officer of the force concerned. They would be dealt with under separate procedures.

Police officers are subject to disciplinary procedures set out in the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008 2864). In cases where the chief officer has determined that the conduct of an officer or police staff member amounts to gross misconduct, then the officer or police staff member may be dismissed from the service. There are alternative outcomes of a written warning or a final written warning.

Police community support officers and civilian police staff are not subject to police regulations, but are subject to procedures based on the terms and conditions of their employment with the force concerned.

Police: Protective Clothing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require chief constables to issue stab-proof vests to police community support officers. [285875]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans to bring forward legislation in this area at the present time.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage: Wiltshire

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people visited *(a)* Stonehenge, *(b)* Old Sarum and *(c)* Old Wardour Castle in (i) 2000, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2008. [286035]

Barbara Follett: Stonehenge, Old Sarum Castle and Wardour Castle are properties managed by English Heritage. The information set out in the following table has been provided by English Heritage. The table shows English Heritage's figures for the number of visitors to Stonehenge, Old Sarum Castle and Wardour Castle in financial years 2000-01, 2005-06 and 2008-09. The information is not recorded by calendar year.

	Stonehenge	Old Sarum Castle	Old Wardour Castle
2000-01	799,742	75,921	19,863
2005-06	834,318	48,637	26,470
2008-09	890,438	50,839	25,100

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the annual *(a)* running costs and *(b)* income from entrance charges, shop sales and other revenue at (i) Stonehenge, (ii) Old Sarum and (iii) Old Wardour Castle were in each of the last three years. [286036]

Barbara Follett: Stonehenge, Old Sarum Castle and Wardour Castle are properties managed by English Heritage. The information set out in the following table has been provided by English Heritage. The table shows the running costs incurred and income received by English Heritage for the management of Stonehenge, Old Sarum Castle and Wardour Castle in each of the last three years.

£

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Stonehenge			
Running costs	2,177,206	2,043,083	2,162,420
Total income	5,392,727	5,680,332	5,901,546
Admissions income	3,174,409	3,373,807	3,550,203
Retail and catering income	1,889,494	1,942,072	2,002,089
Other earned income	328,824	364,453	349,254
Old Sarum Castle			
Running costs	161,868	161,769	137,943
Total income	243,828	223,807	198,282
Admissions income	105,304	97,081	85,667
Retail and catering income	94,209	90,278	80,324
Other earned income	44,315	36,448	32,291
Wardour Castle			
Running costs	73,864	74,192	67,975
Total income	113,198	115,338	97,478
Admissions income	36,731	38,585	36,458
Retail and catering income	37,936	33,770	28,486
Other earned income	38,531	42,983	32,534

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database become operational; and if he will make a statement. [284908]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department outsources management of all databases. The databases it uses which contain personal information are:

Database	Operational
Finance	February 2006
Consultation—Audiovisual Media Services	October 2008
Consultation—BBC Charter Review	January 2004
Consultation—BBC White Paper	May 2006
Consultation—BBC Green Paper	June 2005
Consultation—Free to Air	April 2009
Consultation—Gambling Bill	March 2004
Consultation—Heritage Protection	April 2007
Consultation—McMaster Review	November 2007
Consultation—Museum of London Act (1965)	October 2003
Consultation—Ticket Touting	February 2009
Consultation—Television Without Frontiers	November 2006
Dome documents	November 2001
Freedom of Information Act Case Management	October 2004
Honours	2001
Information Centre Enquiry	March 2001
Lottery Grants	December 1996
Memorial—July 7th	July 2005
Memorial—Tsunami	March 2005
Records Centre	July 2003
Sponsored Bodies	July 1997

Databases managed by the Royal Parks Agency are:

Database	Operational
Estates Licencing	2000
Fund Raising	2001
Sports Booking	2005
Considerate Cycling Scheme	2007
What's On (visitor information)	2005

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each database expected to become operational in the next five years and which will be managed by his Department or its agency; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286139]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has no specific plans for databases in the future. However, they are used to capture views in consultations.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what databases which will be managed by his Department and which will contain personal information are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* expected to go live in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286502]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has no databases under construction. It has no specific plans for databases in the future. However, they are used to capture views in consultations.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings Ministers and officials of his Department have had with representatives of BT to discuss the Government's Digital Britain report in the last six months. [285040]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* Lord Carter, joint Minister for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has met representatives of BT four times to discuss the Digital Britain White Paper in the last six months. Officials of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have met with representatives of BT once in this time.

Hampton Court

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many grace and favour residences there are at *(a)* Hampton Court and *(b)* Kensington Palace; and how much income has been received from the residences in the last five years. [284401]

Barbara Follett: There are currently three grace and favour residences at Hampton Court and one at Hampton Court Mews occupied rent-free and there are no grace and favour residents at Kensington Palace. Grace and favour residences are by definition occupied rent-free and therefore no income has been received in the last five years.

Religious Buildings: Conservation

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated for the conservation of *(a)* cathedrals, *(b)* parish churches and *(c)* other places of worship in England in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 and (iii) 2009. [286037]

Barbara Follett: In the years requested, the funding made available by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport was as set out in the following tables.

DCMS funding for churches conservation trust

	£
1997-98	2,480,000
2001-02	3,000,000
2008-09	3,161,000

DCMS funding for listed places of worship scheme[1]

	£
1997-98	[2]—
2001-02	931,452
2008-09	13,411,061

[1] It is not possible to segregate the grants disbursed between cathedrals, parish churches and other places of worship.
[2] Scheme not in place.

In addition, English Heritage made funding available for the conservation of cathedrals and other places of worship in England as set out in the following table. English Heritage does not distinguish between parish churches and places of worship in terms of funding.

£

	English Heritage funding offered to cathedrals	*English Heritage funding offered to places of worship*
1997-98	3,020,500	9,195,000
2001-02	2,519,000	2,524,200
2008-09	1,292,000	9,569,800

Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* ethnic group participated in each sporting activity for which his Department records figures in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [272980]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has provided figures for sports currently in receipt of funding, where sample sizes are sufficient. These are drawn from Active People Survey 1 (APS1), for the period 2005-06; and from Active People 2 (APS2), for the period 2007-08. Results are as follows:

APS1

Sport	*Male*	*Female*	*White*	*non-white*
Athletics	836,900	516,500	1,245,000	108,800
Badminton	290,300	226,300	455,500	61,200
Basketball	125,100	33,100	108,900	49,400
Bowls	203,100	136,300	335,000	4,500
Boxing	87,500	28,000	99,400	16,200
Canoeing and Kayaking	26,200	10,300	35,100	[1]—
Cricket	179,600	15,400	151,300	43,800
Cycling	1,159,900	474,200	1,539,300	95,600
Dance exercise	17,400	125,700	129,300	13,600
Fencing	10,400	[1]—	12,500	[1]—
Fishing	139,900	6,500	145,200	[1]—
Football	1,870,000	149,700	1,755,000	266,700
Golf	763,900	124,400	867,400	21,700
Gymnastics and Trampolining	13,300	45,600	54,400	4,500
Hockey-field	49,300	44,600	88,500	5,300
Horse riding	41,700	273,200	309,800	4,800
Judo	13,200	4,000	15,000	[1]—
Mountaineering	49,400	17,800	63,200	4,000
Netball	[1]—	110,100	102,900	8,800
Rounders	[1]—	14,000	15,300	[1]—
Rowing	27,600	11,700	36,900	[1]—
Rugby League	67,100	6,500	68,300	5,500
Rugby Union	176,400	8,900	176,400	9,200
Sailing	46,600	17,400	61,900	[1]—
Shooting	53,300	4,800	56,600	[1]—
Skiing and Snowboarding	76,700	50,600	123,200	4,200
Squash and Racquetball	248,900	50,700	283,200	16,500
Swimming	1,127,300	2,147,500	3,098,800	175,100
Table Tennis	50,000	19,200	61,900	7,400
Taekwondo	11,200	7,900	16,700	[1]—
Tennis	244,600	212,400	418,800	38,200
Volleyball	18,500	14,200	27,000	5,800
Weightlifting	95,300	12,400	90,800	17,000

APS2

Sport	*Male*	*Female*	*White*	*non-white*
Athletics	999,100	612,500	1,441,200	144,300
Badminton	307,500	228,100	453,800	86,100
Basketball	143,300	42,700	119,100	57,200
Bowls	205,000	152,300	361,000	[1]—
Boxing	87,700	19,100	85,000	19,900
Canoeing and Kayaking	36,100	7,400	40,800	[1]—
Cricket	187,600	17,100	135,000	58,200

		APS2		
Sport	*Male*	*Female*	*White*	*non-white*
Cycling	1,260,300	506,200	1,653,400	112,100
Dance exercise	11,000	138,400	130,800	20,600
Fencing	10,200	[1]—	13,900	[1]—
Fishing	124,800	7,500	135,100	[1]—
Football	1,996,400	146,600	1,880,700	295,400
Golf	805,300	142,400	935,100	23,300
Gymnastics and Trampolining	20,600	68,600	82,100	[1]—
Hockey-field	43,900	55,900	96,000	[1]—
Horse riding	43,300	298,600	344,800	[1]—
Judo	13,100	[1]—	17,100	[1]—
Mountaineering	63,600	22,500	76,300	[1]—
Netball	[1]—	116,800	108,400	14,000
Rounders	[1]—	23,000	22,700	[1]—
Rowing	39,000	15,900	52,900	[1]—
Rugby League	82,800	[1]—	84,600	[1]—
Rugby Union	212,900	17,200	217,800	13,000
Sailing	64,900	25,000	88,200	[1]—
Shooting	62,000	[1]—	64,400	[1]—
Skiing and Snowboarding	70,800	49,700	109,900	[1]—
Squash and Racquetball	243,400	50,300	270,600	23,300
Swimming	1,108,600	2,136,500	3,052,200	197,000
Table Tennis	53,500	22,100	65,300	9,800
Taekwondo	16,800	7,400	21,500	[1]—
Tennis	259,900	227,500	438,100	47,400
Volleyball	31,100	17,300	33,900	11,300
Weightlifting	108,900	9,400	93,300	18,600

[1] Denotes insufficient sample size.

Active People has now been commissioned on a rolling basis and further data will be available in due course. Further analysis of ethnicity and other demographics can be found on Sport England's Active People Diagnostic website at:

http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/research/active_people/active_people_diagnostic_intro.htm

Sport England has not provided data on each individual sport by each detailed ethnic group (below the 'white' and 'non-white' groups), as for some of the smaller participant sports, there is insufficient sample to analyse the individual sport on a detailed demographic sub-group basis.

Tourism

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of tourist information centres which have closed in the last two years; and what recent steps his Department has taken to support the tourism sector. [285916]

Barbara Follett: DCMS is aware of the following closures in 2008-09:

Regions	*2008*	*2009*
East Midlands	—	Lincoln
London	Hounslow	Croydon
	Hillingdon	—
	Southwark	—
North East	Addiston	Newcastle Airport
North West	Saddleworth	—
South East	Havant	—
	Herne Bay	—
	Whitstable	—
South West	Wadebridge	Stow on the Wold

Responsibility for tourist information centres falls to local authorities, for whom tourism support is a discretionary activity.

VisitEngland has worked with national, regional and local level tourism stakeholders to develop a national partnership model to increase the promotion of tourist information centres, to ensure that these are quality assured, and to improve their customer focus. A national implementation group will oversee the introduction of this new partnership.

The Government remain committed to supporting the tourism industry. At the national tourism summit in January, the Prime Minister called for a strengthened partnership between industry and Government through the recession and toward recovery. A t[redacted]visory group, composed of key industry repre[redacted]tives, is providing intelligence and guidance in this regard and an inter-ministerial group has been established to address fiscal and regulatory concerns as well as incentives and opportunities. VisitBritain and VisitEngland are also running a major, £6.5 million overseas and domestic marketing campaign, themed around destinations as "Value for Money".

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285012]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently runs Internet Explorer 7 as part of our standard PC build. We are evaluating Internet Explorer 8 for potential future release when we have assessed compatibility with existing applications.

JUSTICE

Court Orders

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court production orders for data from communications service providers were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* obtained in each year since 2000; and how many such orders were (i) sought and (ii) obtained by Government departments and agencies in each such year. [285415]

Bridget Prentice: The information about court production orders which is being sought is not held centrally.

Courts

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is issued to the courts on discretion to refer to presenting authorities for investigation instances of prima facie evidence of criminal activity contained in papers lodged with a court in the course of a civil action. [286721]

Bridget Prentice: The Judicial Studies Board issue guidance to the judiciary in section 1.7 of the Civil Bench Book on what to do when criminal conduct is discovered in civil proceedings. This can be viewed at the Judicial Studies Board website at:

www.jsboard.co.uk

Courts: Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many courts accept fine payments by *(a)* credit and *(b)* debit card. [285268]

Mr. Straw: By the end of July all magistrate courts and their associated payment offices will be able to accept both debit and credit card payments. In addition there is a national internet site and telephone pay line through which card payments can be taken.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the standard of service provided to his Department and its agencies by contractors appointed by reverse auction. [285221]

Claire Ward: Since the beginning to 2008 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) have undertaken three reverse auctions as detailed in the following table.

Supplier	*Auction title*	*Completed*
Hamilton and Pollock	Polythene bags and sacks—Lot 1	February 2008
Hamilton and Pollock	Polythene bags and sacks—Lot 2	February 2008
3663	Supply of frozen food stuffs	June 2009

All of the products provided by the two suppliers listed above are associated with food/catering services that are supplied for National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The polythene bags and sacks are supplied as light catering equipment for holding food stuff only.

The performance of both suppliers has been satisfactory with no disputes or reason to issue performance warnings during the post contact phase albeit the supply of frozen food is currently in implementation phase having only been awarded in the past four weeks.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the capital budget for his Department and each of its agencies is in the next four years. [285271]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has a capital DEL budget of £768 million this year, as published in the 2009-10 Main Supply Estimates. This reflects MOJ'S CSR settlement with HM Treasury. Capital DEL budgets for individual MOJ agencies are contained in the following table:

Executive agency	*To nearest £ million Published net capital DEL budget for 2009-10*
National Offender Management Service (NOMS)	375
Her Majesty's Courts Service	164
Office of Public Guardian	2
Tribunals Service	4
MOJ other (includes NDPBs)	59
Departmental Unallocated capital Provision (DUP)	[1]164
Total	768

[1] MOJ currently has an official DUP for capital DEL which it intends to draw down formally in the supplementary round and forms part of NOMS expenditure plan.

As published in the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review, the provisional capital DEL budget for 2010-11 is £733 million. This funding is yet to be allocated out across the Department and its agencies.

No capital budgets have been set beyond 2010-11 as this is dependent on the outcome of the next Spending Review.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285316]

Claire Ward: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) have not altered any purchasing policies for the supply of office equipment (includes printers, photocopiers, facsimile, etc.) in the last six months.

With regard to the provision of stationery suppliers, the MOJ has recently conducted a mini-competition between Government framework suppliers to supply the total stationery requirement for the whole of MOJ. The mini-competition brought together the supply requirements for HM Prison Service, HM Courts Service and Tribunals Service which was identified as an ideal opportunity to rationalise the stationery product base and increase volume leverage for the benefit of the Ministry and the taxpayer.

Fraud: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences related to fraud in connection with property leases there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [285473]

Claire Ward: There is no specific offence of 'lease-related fraud'. If detected, a person committing such an activity is likely to be charged with a general fraud offence—for example, dishonestly making a false representation for gain under section 2 of the Fraud Act 2006 or, prior to commencement of the Fraud Act in January 2007, obtaining property by deception under section 15 of the Theft Act 1968.

The number of defendants found guilty of offences under section 2 of the Fraud Act 2006 and section 15 of the Theft Act 1968 in Essex police force area, for the years 2003 to 2007, is shown in the table. Information held by the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database for the number of convictions for fraud offences cannot be broken down to constituency level. Nor is it possible to identify how many of those convicted of fraud were guilty of offences specifically relating to property leases.

These data are provided on a principal offence basis. This means that where a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty was imposed. Where the same sentence is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences of obtaining property by deception[1] or fraud by false representation[2], in Essex police force area, 2003-07[3,4]

	Found guilty
2003	156
2004	147
2005	127
2006	134
2007	156

[1] Includes the following statutes:
Theft Act 1968 Sec 15.
Fraud Act 2006 (repealed eight sections including S15 of the Theft Act 1968 and was implemented in January 2007).
[2] Fraud Act 2006 S.1(2a)(3)(4), and 2.
[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
OCJR—E&A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Further Offence Inquiries

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serious further offence inquiries were conducted in each year since 2001; and how many of those involved a person previously convicted of homicide. [285275]

Mr. Straw: The number of serious further offence reviews which were conducted in each year since 2001, together with the number of those involving a person under supervision for an index offence of homicide, is included in the following table. The table is based on cases that were recorded in the published annual Prison and Probation statistics and the Offender Management Caseload Statistics respectively.

The changes in serious further offence review numbers since 2001 are largely attributable to overall changes in the size and nature of the workload of the Probation Service over this period (from 145,000 in 2004 to 179,000 in 2008), action to address known under-reporting of serious further offences and the revisions to the serious further offence review procedures which took place in 2006. These revisions increased the number of cases requiring review by extending the number of stipulated offences that qualified for review. Prior to 2006, the review procedures stipulated nine named offences which qualified for review; thereafter, there were 74.

The data cover index offences of homicide only since 2006-07, as these are the data that NOMS holds on its electronic database, and obtaining further details would involve manual trawling of individual reviews which would incur delay and large cost.

Of the 16 offenders in the table with an index offence for a homicide offence, two were subsequently charged with and convicted of a homicide offence. 2 offenders died shortly after the serious further offence and prior to any charge being brought.

	Serious further offence reviews	Offenders with index offence-homicide
2001	341	—
2002	394	—
2003	294	—
2004-05	537	—
2005-06	581	—
2006-07	1,043	[1]7
2007-08	1,252	[2]9

[1] Four murders one manslaughter two deaths by dangerous driving
[2] Five murders three manslaughters one death by dangerous driving
Note:
Up until 2003, serious further offence statistics were compiled on a calendar year basis, and thereafter on a business year basis.

Legal Aid Scheme: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department incurred on *(a)* the legal aid 60 years exhibition and *(b)* other commemorative events associated with the 60th anniversary of legal aid. [285260]

Mr. Straw: The aim of the 60th anniversary of legal aid exhibition and related media work is to improve people's awareness and knowledge of legal aid services. The Ministry of Justice supported the launch of the 60th anniversary of legal aid exhibition at a cost of just under £900. The LSC has spent just under £40,000 on producing the material for the exhibition (in English and Welsh) and paying for the host venues across the country throughout 2009, including costs for transportation and hosting media events. To date (8 July 2009) the LSC has spent just under £4,000 on supporting other commemorative events associated with the 60th anniversary of legal aid.

Legal Aid: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department incurred in legal aid payments in respect of family proceedings in each year since 1997. [285267]

Mr. Straw: Gross payments in family proceedings are shown in the following table. Finalised figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

	Bills paid (£ million)
1996-97	392
1997-98	389
1998-99	423
1999-2000	420
2000-01	443
2001-02	399
2002-03	450
2003-04	493
2004-05	488
2005-06	536
2006-07	548
2007-08	582

Legal Aid: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many solicitors' offices provided legal aid to clients in each local authority area in the North West in relation to *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal cases in each of the last three years; [285371]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of firms of solicitors in the North West which have ceased providing legal services to clients who require legal aid for *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal cases in each of the last three years. [285372]

Bridget Prentice: The information is being collated by the Legal Services Commission. I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

Legal Services Commission: Research

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the research commissioned by the Legal Services Commission on legal visits to prisons. [285270]

Mr. Straw: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has not commissioned formal research into legal visits to prisons.

Nevertheless, the LSC does undertake online surveys from time to time to obtain information and views from legal aid providers on specific topics. In late 2008, it conducted an online survey inviting solicitors' firms to provide views on the application of good practice guidance on prison legal visits issued in 2007 by the Ministry of Justice and the LSC. The survey covered areas such as legal practitioners' experience of booking prison visits and use of video links for consultations with clients. This exercise has informed work by the LSC at a local level, including a project which aims to increase use of video links by criminal justice partners within the Northumbria area. The LSC has not published the survey results but intends to place a summary on its website by the end of July. A copy will be placed in the House Libraries.

In February 2009, the LSC published a consultation on reform of prison law work, including proposals to increase control on costs. The LSC will publish a consultation response shortly.

Non-molestation Orders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for a non-molestation order have been made in each court area in each year since their introduction; and how many such orders have been granted. [286608]

Bridget Prentice: The following tables show the number of non-molestation orders applied for, and the number of non-molestation orders granted, in each court area in each year since 2003. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan database and the applications figures do not include applications for arrest warrants.

Non-molestation orders applied for in England and Wales, by court area, 2003-08

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	509	459	456	499	438	487
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	864	761	774	689	719	859
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	543	565	458	441	471	497
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	875	789	728	674	564	657
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	582	600	580	524	565	566
Cheshire and Merseyside	608	571	512	500	437	519
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	1,319	1,221	1,198	1,343	1,233	1,285
Cumbria and Lancashire	585	570	588	592	575	555
Devon and Cornwall	689	562	501	479	483	445
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	658	581	497	445	411	534
Greater Manchester	592	545	531	545	431	404
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	544	545	529	518	502	462
Humber and South Yorkshire	1,084	924	911	868	806	751
Kent	503	482	424	341	364	472
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	404	451	411	395	411	471
London Civil and Family	4,580	4,624	4,825	4,647	4,316	4,791
Mid and West Wales	215	149	164	150	161	136
North and West Yorkshire	1,264	1,245	1,357	1,418	1,426	1,599
North Wales	199	160	157	125	110	148
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	395	332	309	317	316	342
South East Wales	262	251	184	170	195	183
Surrey and Sussex	748	635	705	691	610	695
Thames Valley	675	565	539	562	509	491
England and Wales	18,697	17,587	17,338	16,933	16,053	17,349

Non-molestation orders made in England and Wales, by court area, 2003-08

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	578	523	524	561	498	548
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	851	795	788	722	778	945
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	504	728	668	618	662	578
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	1,322	1,147	1,006	969	780	781
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	760	838	831	809	765	673
Cheshire and Merseyside	934	777	793	695	563	597
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	1,977	1,839	1,843	2,018	1,784	1,541
Cumbria and Lancashire	1,018	1,055	1,084	907	855	791
Devon and Cornwall	1,044	793	614	548	527	421
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	841	761	610	609	563	631
Greater Manchester	862	745	720	722	503	374
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	519	583	569	565	504	349
Humber and South Yorkshire	1,075	1,047	1,098	1,051	919	702
Kent	659	666	580	466	453	445

Non-molestation orders made in England and Wales, by court area, 2003-08

Area	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	510	579	567	574	534	321
London Civil and Family	6,785	6,290	6,057	5,785	5,303	5,737
Mid and West Wales	299	189	184	172	200	132
North and West Yorkshire	1,823	1,779	1,756	1,958	1,817	1,987
North Wales	333	264	261	140	125	134
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	506	406	390	434	422	415
South East Wales	305	301	198	205	189	156
Surrey and Sussex	983	813	882	796	635	655
Thames Valley	944	834	828	747	601	573
England and Wales	23,432	23,752	22,851	22,071	19,980	19,486

Area level figures are not available before 2003. However, the following table gives, for each year from 1998 to 2002, the most recently published national figures.

Non molestation orders applied for, and made, in England and Wales between 1998 and 2002

	Applications made	Orders made
1998	18,153	19,365
1999	16,908	18,485
2000	15,734	18,293
2001	17,590	20,968
2002	19,131	24,999

Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of purposeful activity were recorded on average by prisoners in each month in the last five years. [285261]

Mr. Straw: The average number of hours of purposeful activity by prisoners in each month in the last five years is set out in the following table.

Average hours of purposeful activity per prisoner per month

	Number
April 2004	23.2
May 2004	23.7
June 2004	24.9
July 2004	24.8
August 2004	23.9
September 2004	24.9
October 2004	25.0
November 2004	25.1
December 2004	22.6
January 2005	24.9
February 2005	25.1
March 2005	24.1
April 2005	23.7
May 2005	24.7
June 2005	26.0
July 2005	26.7
August 2005	24.6
September 2005	25.5
October 2005	25.2
November 2005	25.4
December 2005	23.4
January 2006	25.3
February 2006	25.6
March 2006	26.6
April 2006	24.5
May 2006	25.2
June 2006	25.7
July 2006	25.6
August 2006	25.0
September 2006	25.8
October 2006	25.7
November 2006	25.8
December 2006	23.2
January 2007	25.6
February 2007	25.4
March 2007	25.6
April 2007	25.0
May 2007	24.6
June 2007	25.8
July 2007	26.0
August 2007	24.3
September 2007	25.9
October 2007	25.9
November 2007	26.0
December 2007	23.3
January 2008	26.0
February 2008	25.9
March 2008	25.0
April 2008	25.5
May 2008	24.5
June 2008	25.4
July 2008	25.0
August 2008	24.5
September 2008	25.2
October 2008	25.2
November 2008	25.0
December 2008	22.2
January 2009	25.2
February 2009	24.8
March 2009	25.4

Probation: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average ratio of offenders to Probation Service staff in the Hemel Hempstead probation area was in each of the last five years. [284321]

Maria Eagle: The ratio of offenders supervised by Hertfordshire probation area to Hertfordshire probation staff (unfortunately the caseload is not broken down to constituency level) as at 31 December each year is as shown in the following table. The ratio for offender management staff has also been provided as this represents a full picture of the workload (it should also be noted that this includes trainee probation officers, who would have a low protected caseload).

	Total staff : offenders	Offender managers : offenders
2004	1:10	1:23
2005	1:12	1:30
2006	1:12	1:35
2007	1:13	1:36
2008	1:13	1:41

Probation Officers

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many trainee probation officers are expected to qualify in *(a)* Northumbria and *(b)* England and Wales in September 2009; how many in each category he estimates will be offered full-time employment as trained probation officers; and if he will make a statement. [285567]

Maria Eagle: In October 2009 24 trainee probation officers (TPOs) are due to qualify in Northumbria and a total of 518 are due to qualify in England and Wales. A recent survey of the 42 probation areas, who are the employers, has shown that it is too soon to accurately estimate how many TPOs will be offered permanent posts upon graduation.

Roads: Accidents

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many criminal convictions have resulted from hit and run incidents in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [285334]

Claire Ward: The available information on the findings of guilt at all courts for the offence of 'failing to stop after an accident' in Cleveland Police Force Area, and the North East Region for the years 1997 to 2007 is shown in the table.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Findings of guilt at all courts for the offence of 'failing to stop after an accident'[1,2,3] in Cleveland police force area, and the North East region[4], 1997 to 2007[5]

Number of offences

	Total findings of guilt	
	Cleveland	*North East region[4]*
1997	105	438
1998	96	435
1999	89	452
2000	75	428
2001	71	467
2002	77	515
2003	132	617
2004	76	486
2005	79	473
2006	81	495
2007	91	518

[1] Not all hit and run incidents are pursued through the courts—minor ones in particular may not involve police attendance and may not be reported to the police by the injured party.

[2] "Hit and run" usually refers to a collision in which someone was injured or killed. The offence of failure to stop is also committed if there has only been damage but such incidents cannot be distinguished from those involving injury or death.

[3] A person involved in a hit and run incident may be convicted of a more serious offence such as dangerous driving.

[4] North East region includes figures for Cleveland police force area.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:
OCJR E&A (Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit), Ministry of Justice

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's Prison In-Reach

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who were formerly members of the armed forces have been identified by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's Prison In-Reach programme in each *(a)* nation and *(b)* region in which they have been held in each year since the programme's inception. [286073]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The Veterans Prison In-Reach initiative aims to raise awareness among ex-service offenders and their families about the help and assistance that is available to them. The Ministry of Justice and the MOD are working together with the ex-service charities, including The Royal British Legion, SSAFA-Forces Help and Combat Stress, to publicise the initiative and to target better those who need assistance. I will arrange for copies of our new leaflet and poster publicising the Veterans Prison In-Reach initiative to be placed in the Library of the House.

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) Welfare Service has the capability to respond to referrals as part of their normal business. Consequently, no specific funding has been provided under this initiative.

On contacting the SPVA, prison authorities (welfare) and ex-service offenders are referred to the Veterans Welfare Service which has the capability to offer help and advice to them and to their families. The ex-service charities also provide support including financial assistance, help with rent as well as clothing, training, relocation, employment and welfare visits to veterans and to their families.

Statistics on the number of offenders who are ex-service, the number who contact the SPVA, and the prison establishments they come from are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We are working closely with the Ministry of Justice to produce up-to-date and authoritative data on the number of our veterans in prison.

Sexual Offences: Compensation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many awards have been made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in relation to serious sexual assaults committed on patients while in the care of the NHS in the last five years. [285204]

Claire Ward: In assessing criminal injuries compensation applications, the main information the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (the Authority) requires (in addition to an applicant's personal details) his incident reports from the police to determine whether a crime of violence has taken place; and reports from medical authorities to determine the nature and extent of an applicant's injuries. The Authority does not need details on whether an applicant was in the care of the NHS at the time of the assault, and therefore does not record that information.

Young Offender Institutions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 year olds in each young offender institution was detained within 20 miles or 45 minutes travel away from their homes on the latest date for which figures are available. [285053]

Maria Eagle: The tables show the percentage of 15-19 year-old male and female offenders in young offender institutions (YOIs) who were detained within 20 miles of their home area, as of September 2008. Home area is taken as a prisoner's home address. If no home address is recorded the court of first committal is used as a proxy. We do not hold reliable data for travel times between YOIs and home areas. Those aged 12 to 14 are not held in YOIs.

Percentage of 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 year-olds in each young offender institution detained within 20 miles or 45 minutes travel away from their homes on the latest date for which figures are available

Male YOI

	Percentage of 15 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area	*Percentage of 16 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area*	*Percentage of 17 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area*	*Percentage of 18 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area*	*Percentage of 19 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area*
Ashfield	15	8	10	10	0
Aylesbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1
Brinsford	83	81	74	64	69
Castington	0	0	6	5	0
Cookham Wood	0	13	19	50	n/a
Deerbolt	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	2
Feltham	67	46	58	68	68
Glen Parva	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	15
Hindley	71	70	68	44	52
Huntercombe	3	2	3	6	n/a
Lancaster Farms	0	0	1	4	5
Northallerton	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	2
Portland	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1
Reading	n/a	n/a	n/a	39	28
Rochester	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	8
Stoke Heath	10	9	2	12	10
Swinfen Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	24
Thorn Cross	n/a	n/a	0	25	17
Warren Hill	4	9	7	0	n/a
Werrington	0	5	1	0	n/a
Wetherby	23	26	23	15	n/a

Female YOI

	Percentage of 15 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area	*Percentage of 16 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area*	*Percentage of 17 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area*	*Percentage of 18 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area*	*Percentage of 19 year-olds held within 20 miles of home area*
Askham Grange	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Downview	n/a	100	53	n/a	0
Drake Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	33
Eastwood Park	n/a	n/a	0	18	5
Foston Hall	n/a	n/a	13	33	100
Holloway	n/a	n/a	n/a	72	39
Low Newton	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	17
New Hall	n/a	n/a	12	10	6
Styal	n/a	n/a	n/a	21	35

Young Offenders: Sports

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours on average a young offender in prison spent playing competitive sport in each of the last five years. [285264]

Mr. Straw: The average number of hours of recreational sport and educational physical education per offender per week in young offender institutions is:

	Average number of hours per offender per week
2004-05	3.5
2005-06	3.3
2006-07	3.2
2007-08	3.4
2008-09	3.5

DEFENCE

3 Squadron

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual operating costs for 3 Squadron based at RAF Coningsby are. [284596]

Bill Rammell: The annual operating costs for 3 Squadron for FY 2008-09 were £15 million excluding cost of capital charges.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 697W, whether his Department has procedures to *(a)* (i) minimise and (ii) record the risk to civilians from use of enhanced blast munitions and *(b)* investigate cases of injury and death caused to citizens by such munitions in Afghanistan. [286097]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We regret incidents where civilians are accidentally killed as a result of actions by international forces. Procedures are in place, and constantly updated in the light of experience, both to minimise the risk of these casualties occurring and to investigate any incidents that do happen. UK personnel operate at all times under rules of engagement which ensure that force is used in accordance with international humanitarian law. This ensures that civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure are minimised. Wherever possible, local populations are warned of impending operations. We should remember the insurgents are the real threat to the safety and security of the Afghan people by their indiscriminate use of violence. ISAF forces are not present on a permanent basis in many parts of Afghanistan, which makes it difficult to monitor atrocities against the civilian population by the Taliban. The UK Government do not collate or publish figures for civilian casualties in Afghanistan because of the immense difficulty and risks of collecting robust data, including the nature of any munitions involved.

All reports of civilian casualties are investigated promptly and thoroughly, in co-ordination with the Afghan authorities.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers of *(a)* the Welsh Guards and *(b)* the Royal Welsh Regiment deployed in Afghanistan have been (i) killed, (ii) injured, (iii) seriously injured and (iv) very seriously injured in each month of the deployment; and if he will make a statement. [286102]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between the commencement of operations in Afghanistan in 2001 and 8 July 2009, five members of the Welsh Guards and one member of the Royal Welsh Regiment have died while on deployment or as a result of injuries sustained on deployment, all were the result of hostile action. All six deaths happened in 2009, of which one occurred in each month from March to June and two in July.

Since operations began in Afghanistan in 2001 and 15 June 2009, the latest date for which casualty information is available, 13 members of the Welsh Guards and 18 members of the Royal Welsh Regiment have been injured whilst on deployment in Afghanistan. These figures are provided in the following table:

Regiment	*All*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009 (as at 15 June)*
All	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	17
Welsh Guards	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	12
Royal Welsh Regiment	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	5

The figures represent UK operational casualties in Afghanistan from 7 October 2001 to 15 June 2009. The figures include injuries as a result of hostile action and non-battle injuries, and exclude all casualties from natural causes.

The figures include all injury categories from the NOTICAS reporting system (Very Seriously Injured, Seriously Injured, Incapacitating Injury and Unlisted Condition).

Information on the breakdown of very seriously and seriously injured casualties by month is not released to protect individual identities.

Casualty statistics for UK Military and Civilian personnel in Afghanistan are routinely updated for each fortnight on the MOD website. The tables can be found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of its operations in Afghanistan in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [286536]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The estimated cost of operations in Afghanistan for this financial year is £3.5 billion as recently published for the first time in MOD's main estimates. The cost of military operations is dependent on a number of variable factors which are difficult to predict, including changes to operational tempo and the actual conditions in theatre at the time. We do not, therefore, attempt to project costs for subsequent years.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 899W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, how many British troops were required to serve in the Regional Command South Headquarters between May 2007 and February 2008. [284516]

Bill Rammell: Between May 2007 and February 2008, the UK was responsible for filling approximately 80 posts within Regional Command South Headquarters from a

total of some 400 posts. The actual number of UK personnel would have fluctuated over this period due to individual tour lengths.

Armed Forces

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on formal commemoration of the achievements of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes. [286720]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I can confirm that the Secretary of State for Defence has not received any recent representations regarding formal commemoration of the achievements of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI). I am however pleased to express my gratitude to NAAFI for their continued worldwide support to our Service personnel.

Armed Forces Day: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which Armed Forces Day 2009 events received funding from his Department; and if he will make a statement; [285421]

(2) how many applications for funding from his Department for events to commemorate Armed Forces Day 2009 were not granted; and if he will make a statement. [285200]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is one recorded case only of funding not being granted to an event. This related to an event where Ministry of Defence funding had already been given to the local council. The organisers were advised to join forces with the council to create one larger event.

The Ministry of Defence provided grants to 85 event organisers from across the United Kingdom. A list of the event locations is as follows:

Chatham
Cardiff
Blackpool
Plymouth
Southport
RAF Shawbery
Torbay
Perranporth
Rhyl
Trowbridge
Weymouth
Luton
Caernarfon
Southend
Swanage
Okehampton
Beverley
Carrickfergus
Hastings
Normanton
Portsmouth
Bridgewater
Shotton
The National Arboretum
Shipdham
Hull
Sleaford
Swindon
Liverpool
Isle of Man
Middle Wallop
Chepstow
Horley
Eastleigh
Eden Camp
Stirling
Andover
Nottingham
Kelso
Truro
Odiham, Hants
Ryde, Isle of Wight
Edinburgh
Crawley
Coppice Park, Notts
Sporle
Castle Point
Brighton
Manchester
Aberdeen
Leeds
Salford
Staveley
Elgin, Moray
Lowestoft
Bracknell
Bradford
Worthing
Dorchester
East Grinstead
South Gloucestershire
Halifax
Surrey (Royal British Legion)
Scarborough
Greater London Authority
Birmingham
Clevedon
Eastbourne
Reading
Salisbury
Durham
Glasgow
Greenford
Dudley
Barrow-in-Furness
Abingdon
East Barnet
Ellesmere Port
Dundee

Folkestone
Ealing
Barnet
Bourne, Lines
Wigan
Dover.

Armed Forces: Death

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what targets his Department has set for the timetable against which inquests into the deaths of members of the armed forces killed in action should be completed; and if he will make a statement. [285571]

Bill Rammell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my predecessor gave her on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6, where he stated that it has been one of his priorities to eliminate unnecessary delay and I am pleased that we continue to make progress on this.

The timing of individual inquests is a matter for the coroner to decide, taking into account all relevant circumstances, including in particular the availability of the bereaved family and demands for other, non-military inquests. So it would be inappropriate for MOD to set targets. But we have been working closely with families and coroners to provide them with all the information they operations need so that inquests into the deaths of Service personnel who die on operations can be held as quickly as possible. Some such inquests are now being held as little as seven months after the death and others within eight to 10 months. Some inquests have to await the outcome of complex technical or other investigations and it is right that they do so. I remain committed to doing all we can to reduce the timeframe in which such inquests are held so that families can get the answers to their questions and be helped in coming to terms with their tragic loss.

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds applied to join the armed forces in 2008. [285906]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In financial year 2008-09,759 people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds applied to join the naval service, 2,555 to join the Army and 657 to join the RAF. These figures do not include Ghurkha applications.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds successfully applied for a commission in the armed forces in 2008. [285907]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2008 1,810 out of a total of 21,810 successful applicants for the intake to UK regular forces were from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all flow statistics from financial year 2007-08 are provisional and subject to review.

Armed Forces: Females

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many women applied to join the armed forces in 2008. [285905]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In financial year 2008-09,1,830 women applied to join the naval service, 2,134 to join the Army and 3,351 to join the RAF.

Armed Forces: Males

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many men applied to join the armed forces in 2008. [285904]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In financial year 2008-09,12,641 men applied to join the naval service, 20,701 to join the Army and 14,276 to join the RAF.

Armed Forces: Minorities

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to increase applications for service in the armed forces from minority groups. [285908]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces are committed to becoming more representative of the society they serve and invest considerable resources to this end.

For details of our work to increase applications from ethnic minority groups, I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1876W.

The under representation of women in the armed forces is recognised and we continue to encourage women to join through recruitment campaigns which raise awareness of the benefits of a career in the armed forces. These campaigns concentrate on the opportunities for training and the acquisition of professional qualifications, and to dispel fears and myths about life in the services. The armed forces also offer a generous maternity scheme to provide supportive arrangements to enable servicewomen to accommodate pregnancy and maternity absence within their careers.

The armed forces are exempt from the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. However, we demonstrate our willingness to follow the spirit of disability legislation by recruiting people who may have some degree of impairment and by retaining a significant number of personnel who have become disabled in the course of their duties.

The armed forces are equal opportunity employers and therefore are only interested in the individual's qualities and abilities not in such issues as their background, religion or sexual orientation which are considered private matters and not relevant to an individual's suitability for a career in the armed forces. We aim to provide a working environment where individuals can freely practise their religious observances or where individuals are free to be open about their orientation should they wish. Recruitment strategies encourage lesbian, gay and bisexual people to consider a career in the armed forces. For example, representatives from all three services took part in uniform in a parade as part of the London Pride event in July 2009.

Armed Forces: Social Clubs

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of service personnel social clubs which have closed in each of the last 30 years. [286292]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what *(a)* type and *(b)* level of mine resistance tests the Navistar Defence Husky vehicle tactical support has been subjected; and if he will publish the results. [286441]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Husky has successfully passed stringent mine blast protection tests. I cannot, however, comment on the specific types and levels of mine resistant tests, as disclosure could prejudice the security of the armed forces.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 374W, on armoured fighting vehicles, what roles the 334 Panther vehicles not upgraded for deployment in Afghanistan will have. [286442]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Panther vehicles that have not been upgraded for deployment in Afghanistan will be used for pre-deployment training, individual and collective training, and trials and development.

BVT Shipyards

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the proposed terms of business agreement between his Department and BVT Shipyards includes provision for rationalisation of BVT facilities during its lifetime; [284825]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with BVT Shipyards on redundancies arising from shipyard rationalisation; and if he will make a statement; [284826]

(3) what discussions he has had with BVT Shipyards on their plans for shipyard rationalisation. [284827]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As stated in the 2005 Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS, Cmnd 6697), MOD is committed to sustaining key sovereign capabilities, particularly in high end design, systems engineering and combat systems integration, to support the needs of the Royal Navy today and well into the future. As well as securing future capability, the DIS also signalled the need for a sensible balance between supply and demand over time. MOD is working with industry to make best use of taxpayers' money in seeking opportunities for rationalisation and the delivery of efficiencies wherever possible.

As part of ongoing commercial negotiations on a 15-year Terms of Business Agreement with BVT Surface Fleet Limited (BVT), we are discussing the workload required to sustain these key skills and capability in the shipyards. In return, BVT will be expected to achieve efficiency targets. This will provide a sound, long-term basis for the future of naval shipbuilding.

It is quite normal in long-term industrial partnership agreements between the MOD and defence suppliers that provision should be made for redundancy costs to be met at customer expense in certain circumstances, but MOD has made no plans for redundancies in the shipyards.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281077]

Mr. Kevan Jones: During the four-year period ending 31 March 2008, 12 significant breaches of information security were centrally reported within the Ministry of Defence. Figures for 2008-09 are currently being compiled, audited and verified prior to laying before Parliament in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each of his Department's and its agency's databases expected to become operational in the next five years; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286495]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Ministry of Defence officials are currently collating and validating the data needed to answer these questions. I will write to the hon. Member before the summer recess.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286176]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what change in the number of jobs at his Department's bases in each *(a)* county in England and Wales and *(b)* local authority area in Scotland was in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [284591]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Data for the number of job losses at MOD bases are not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274210]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure on IT training must be necessary, appropriate, cost-effective and an admissible charge to public funds.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to provide pensions equal to those for UK soldiers for Gurkhas who retired from the armed forces prior to 1997. [286239]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Armed Forces on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 659W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Attercliffe (Mr. Betts)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Heywood and Middleton (Jim Dobbin) of 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 512W, on Gurkhas: pensions, what proportion of the £1.5 billion estimated cost to his Department he expects to be incurred in each of the next 20 years. [286347]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 512W, on Gurkhas: pensions, what methodology his Department used to calculate the figure of £1.5 billion; and what estimate he has made of how much of this expenditure would be incurred in each year over which such expenditure is planned. [286429]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 788W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew). A breakdown of the estimated cost could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Met Office

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department plan to meet private sector stakeholders as part of his Department's ongoing review of the Met Office. [286590]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) Met Office Review Group is comprised of officials from the Ministry of Defence, Shareholder Executive, HM Treasury and the Met Office and meets regularly in undertaking the review.

This group is responsible for taking forward all aspects of the Met Office review as set out in the OEP Final Report published April 2009. In exploring all options and opportunities, this has included initial discussions regarding opportunities for engaging with private sector partners, although to date the group has not met with private sector stakeholders. This aspect of the work is at an early stage, and more detailed work on this topic will be taking place over the coming months. A further update on progress of the review will be provided with the pre-Budget report.

The Secretary of State for Defence has no current plans to meet private sector stakeholders as part of the OEP Review of the Met Office.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he and officials of his Department will first meet the Operational Efficiency Programme project team to consider the future of the Met Office. [286591]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) Met Office Review Group is comprised of officials from the Ministry of Defence, Shareholder Executive, HM Treasury and the Met Office and meets regularly in undertaking the review. The group first met on 19 January 2009. The Secretary of State for Defence has no current plans to attend Review Group Meetings, but receives regular updates on the work of the Review Group.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the decision on the future of the Met Office to be announced. [286598]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Operational Efficiency Programme has taken a tailored approach to each of the studies in its remit, and carries out a rolling programme of work that reports at six-monthly intervals. Work is now under way on the next steps set out for the Met Office review in the OEP Final Report published April 2009, with the findings of this work dictating the timing of the study's recommendations. Progress will next be reported at the pre-Budget report 2009.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission research into international comparisons with public sector weather service providers as part of his consideration of the future of the Met Office. [286599]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Secretary of State for Defence has no current plans to commission research into international comparisons with public weather service providers as part of his consideration of the future of the Met Office.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assumption has been made for planning purposes of the service entry date for the Joint Strike Fighter. [284544]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support on 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 465W.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of pilots in the armed forces is for the MR2 aircraft. [284778]

Bill Rammell: As at 9 July 2009, the required and actual number of pilots in the armed forces for the Nimrod MR2 aircraft is provided in the table.

Aircraft type—Nimrod MR2

	Number
Required pilots	58
Actual pilots	46

The reason for the variation is that there is a temporary increase in the number of pilots required, as the MR2 Force transitions to MRA4, and as personnel are retrained and transferred to the MRA4.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of pilots in the armed forces is for the GR4 aircraft. [284779]

Bill Rammell: The required and actual number of pilots in the armed forces for the Tornado GR4 aircraft is given in the following table:

Aircraft type	*Required pilots*	*Actual pilots*
Tornado GR4	134	129

The variation is due to a number of factors such as promotion, assignment of pilots to other aircraft or ground posts, medical downgrading or leaving the Service.

RAF Chilmark: Finance

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much expenditure in each cost category was incurred in respect of the former RAF Chilmark site in 2008-09. [286240]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Those elements of the former RAF Chilmark Site that have not been sold are managed by Defence Estates (DE)—the Ministry of Defence organisation with responsibility for the defence estate.

In financial year 2008-09, DE incurred the following costs:

Cost Category	*Details*	*Cost incurred (£)*
Land Contamination	Hydrogeological Site investigation	5,000
Ecology/ Conservation	Installation of a bat grille across a mine entrance	15,000
Legal Fees	For work relating to parts of site previously sold	415

Raiding Craft: Navy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many raiding craft there have been in the Royal Navy in each year since 1997. [284533]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are currently 111 raiding craft in service with the Royal Navy. Detailed records for each year since 1997 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. From the limited information available, however, it is estimated that there have been between 111 and 120 boats in service in each year since 1997.

Reserve Forces

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contributions *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* local authorities have made to his Department's Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers campaign. [286566]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department for Communities and Local Government have endorsed SaBRE's (Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers) public statement of support.

To date, 222 local authorities have confirmed details of their supportive policies to SaBRE and endorsed SaBRE's public statement of support. A list of these 222 supportive authorities can be found at:

www.sabre.mod.uk

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: Prisoners

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what funding his Department has allocated to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's Prison In-Reach programme in each year since the programme's inception; [286067]

(2) how many prisoners have *(a)* participated in and *(b)* been otherwise assessed by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's Prison In-Reach programme in each prison in each year since the programme's inception; and what the (a) name and (b) location is of each prison which has participated. [286072]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Prison In-Reach initiative aims to raise awareness among ex-service offenders and their families about the help and assistance that is available to them. The Ministry of Justice and the MOD are working together with the ex-service charities, including The Royal British Legion, SSAFA-Forces Help and Combat Stress, to publicise the initiative and to target better those who need assistance. I will arrange for copies of our new leaflet and poster publicising the Veterans Prison In-Reach initiative to be placed in the Library of the House.

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) Welfare Service has the capability to respond to referrals as part of their normal business. Consequently, no specific funding has been provided under this initiative.

On contacting the SPVA, prison authorities (welfare) and ex-service offenders are referred to the Veterans Welfare Service which has the capability to offer help and advice to them and to their families. The ex-service charities also provide support including financial assistance, help with rent as well as clothing, training, relocation, employment and welfare visits to veterans and to their families.

Statistics on the number of offenders who are ex-service, the number who contact the SPVA, and the prison establishments they come from are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We are working closely with the Ministry of Justice to produce up-to-date and authoritative data on the number of our veterans in prison.

UK Health Departments Partnership Board: Meetings

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions his Department has been represented at a meeting of the UK Health Departments Partnership Board in each year since 2007; and which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have attended each such meeting. [283177]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The joint MOD/UK Health Departments Partnership Board meets three times a year. It is chaired alternately by senior officials from MOD and the Department of Health, and has a membership drawn from MOD, the UK Health Departments and the NHS. Government Ministers do not attend.

The Partnership Board has met on eight occasions since January 2007.

Attendees at individual meetings will include both standing board members as well as other departmental officials, who are invited on an individual basis for discussion of specific agenda items. The following table shows which individual posts have been present at each meeting, and includes both standing members and ad hoc attendees:

	2007			2008			2009	
	1 Feb	*12 Jun*	*29 Oct*	*18 Feb*	*3 Jun*	*7 Oct*	*10 Feb*	*16 Jun*
Joint Chairs								
DMSD—DCDS (Health)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
DH—Chief Executive Sheffield Teaching Hospitals	Present	—	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
MOD attendees								
DMSD—Surgeon General	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	—	—	—
DMSD—ACDS (Health)	—	—	—	—	Present	—	Present	Present
DMSD—Director Strategic Change	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present
Army Medical Directorate—Chief of Staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present
Army Primary Heath Care Service—Director	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present
Defence Dental Services—Chief of Staff	—	—	—	—	—	Present	Present	Present
Defence Dental Services—AD Clinical	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—
RN—Asst Chief of Staff—Medical	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present
RAF—Chief of Staff—Health	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present
DMETA—Chief Executive	—	—	Present	Present	Present	—	Present	—
DMETA—Director Change Programme	Present	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
DMSD—Asst Director Information Management	—	Present	Present	—	—	—	—	—
DMSD—Asst Director Nursing	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
DMSD—Asst Director	—	—	Present	—	Present	—	—	—
DMSD—Asst Director Armed Forces Pay	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—
DMSD—Asst Director Resource and Plans	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
DMSD— Asst Director Secretariat	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	—	—	Present
DMSD—Cross Government Lead (Health)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
DMSD—DMICP	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present	Present
DMSD—Director General Healthcare	Present	Present	—	Present	—	—	—	—
DMSD—Director Healthcare	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	—	Present	—
DMSD—Director Medical Finance and Secretariat	Present	Present	Present	Present	—	Present	—	Present
DMSD— DMICP Project Director	—	—	—	—	—	Present	Present	Present
DMSD-DMICP—CfH Project Manager	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DMSD—Secretariat 1	—	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—
DMSD—Secretariat Ib	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	—
DMSD—DCDS (Health)/MA	Present	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—
DMSD—Surgeon General/MA	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Land Command— S01 Org Plan	—	—	—	—	Present	—	—	—
National Employer Advisory Board—Chairman	—	—	—	Present	—	—	Present	—
Reserve Forces and Cadets Division—Capability Policy	—	—	—	—	Present	—	—	—
Reserve Forces and Cadets Division—Deputy Director Operations	Present	—	Present	Present	—	Present	Present	—
Service Personnel Command Paper—RN	—	—	—	—	—	Present	—	—

	2007			2008			2009	
	1 Feb	12 Jun	29 Oct	18 Feb	3 Jun	7 Oct	10 Feb	16 Jun
Service Personnel Command Paper—Team Leader	—	—	—	Present	Present	—	—	—
Service Personnel Policy—Medical	Present	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
SP Po-l—Service Community Support—Asst Director	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—
Veterans Policy Unit—Director	—	—	Present	Present	Present	Present	—	Present
Joint Medical Command—Commander Defence Medical Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present
UK Health Departments/NHS attendees								
DH—Assistant Senior Partnership Co-ordinator	Present	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
DH—Associate Chief Medical Officer	—	—	Present	Present	—	—	Present	—
DH—Cross Government Lead (Health)	—	—	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
DH—Deputy Director of Provider Development	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
DH—Director of Non-Medical Education, Pay and Pensions	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present	—
DH—Director General Policy and Strategy Directorate	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—	Present
DH—Head Emergency Preparedness	—	—	Present	Present	—	—	—	—
DH—Head of Darzi Review	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—
DH—Darzi Review Team	—	—	—	—	Present	—	—	—
DH—Head of Primary Dental Services	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—
DH—Head of Social Care (representative)	—	—	—	—	Present	—	—	—
DH—Head of Social Care Policy and Innovation	—	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—
DH—Liaison Home Counties (Connecting for Health)	Present	Present	Present	—	—	—	—	—
DH—Stakeholder and Partner Relationships	—	—	—	Present	Present	—	—	Present
DH—Senior Advisor on Mental Health Foundation Trust Policy and Implementation	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
DH—Senior Information Officer	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
DH—Senior Partnership Co-ordinator	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
DH—Senior Policy Adviser, Mental Health Programme	Present	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
Frimley Park NHS Hospital Trust—Chief Executive	Present	Present	Present	—	—	Present	Present	—
Frimley Park NHS Trust—Deputy Chief Executive	—	—	—	—	Present	—	Present	—
Hull Teaching PCT—Chief Executive	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	—	Present	—
National Assembly for Wales—Chief Nursing Officer	Present	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
National Assembly for Wales—Community, Primary Care and Health Services Policy Division	—	—	—	—	Present	—	—	—
National Assembly for Wales—Department of Health and Social Services	—	—	—	—	—	Present	Present	Present
National Assembly for Wales—Policy Manager	—	—	Present	Present	—	—	—	—
NHS Connecting for Health	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present	Present
NHS Connecting for Health—Group Programme Director	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present	—
Northern Ireland Assembly—Chief Medical Officer	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Ireland Assembly—Director Primary Care	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present
Regional Director of Public Health (South Central Strategic Health Authority)	Present	Present	—	—	—	—	—	—
Regional Director of Public Health (South West)	—	—	—	—	Present	Present	—	—
Scottish Executive—Armed Forces and Veterans Team Policy Adviser	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present	—
Scottish Executive—Deputy Chief Medical Officer	Present	Present	Present	Present	—	—	—	—

	2007			2008			2009	
	1 Feb	12 Jun	29 Oct	18 Feb	3 Jun	7 Oct	10 Feb	16 Jun
Scottish Executive—Senior Medical Officer	—	—	—	—	Present	Present	Present	—
Scottish Executive—Armed Forces and Veterans Team Leader	—	—	—	—	—	Present	—	—
Surrey PCT—Commissioning and Contract Lead	—	—	—	—	—	—	Present	—
University College London Hospital—Director Human Resources	—	Present	—	—	Present	—	Present	—
Wiltshire PCT—Director of Public Health	—	Present	Present	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire PCT—Public Health	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire PCT—Public Health	—	—	Present	—	—	—	—	—

Key:
DMSD = Defence Medical Services Department (now Surgeon General's Department)
DMETA = Defence Medical Education and Training Agency (now Joint Medical Command)
DMICP = Defence Medical Information Capability Programme
PCT = Primary Care Trust

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of medical assessments carried out by Atos Health on behalf of her Department from 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009. [284572]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions re-awarded Atos Origin IT Services Ltd., trading as Atos Healthcare, a new contract to perform medical services on behalf of the Department from 1 September 2005.

The total cost of these services from 1 March 2008 to February 2009 was £80,589,204. This figure not only covers the total number of examinations undertaken across all benefits, but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

The individual cost of medical assessments carried out by Atos Healthcare is commercially sensitive information. To disclose this information would prejudice the interest of Atos Healthcare and the Department's future dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers.

Carer's Allowance: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were receiving carer's allowance in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point on the latest date for which figures are available. [282063]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table:

Carer's allowance: Cases in payment in Essex local authority area and Castle Point parliamentary constituency, November 2008

	Number
Essex	9,140
Castle Point	710

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on how many and what proportion of applications for maintenance the Child Support Agency and its successor made decisions on the award of maintenance within three months of receipt in each year since 1993; [278258]

(2) how many applications for child support made to the Child Support Agency resulted in no maintenance calculation being made because one of the parents could not be identified in each year since 1993. [278458]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, on how many and what proportion of applications for maintenance the Child Support Agency and its successor made decisions on the award of maintenance within three months of receipt in each year since 1993. [278258]; and

You also asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many applications for child support made to the Child Support Agency resulted in no maintenance calculation being made because one of the parents could not be identified in each year since 1993. [278458]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission regularly publish information on the time taken to clear maintenance applications in Table 3 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library online and at:

www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

The latest figures show that 82% of applications received in December 2008 were cleared within 12 weeks, compared to just 30% cleared in 12 weeks by March 2005, the year before the Operational Improvement Plan was introduced.

However the additional information that you have requested is not regularly published and is therefore provided in the attached table. This shows the number and proportion of current scheme applications that were cleared in each financial year within 12 weeks

of receipt. This information is only available for current scheme cases and so can not be reported prior to 2003, when the current scheme was introduced.

It should be noted that since the beginning of the Operational Improvement Plan in 2006, the volume of uncleared new scheme applications has reduced from 220,600 to 49,200, a fall of 78%.

The information you also requested on the number of applications made to the Child Support Agency that resulted in no maintenance calculation being made because one of the parents could not be identified, is not available as this information is not recorded for management information purposes.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of applications cleared each year within 12 weeks and as a percentage of claims received

	Number cleared within 12 weeks	*Number cleared as a percentage of cases received in year*
2003-04	75,200	28
2004-05	88,600	32
2005-06	138,200	47
2006-07	161,000	60
2007-08	216,600	79
2008-09	143,300	84

Notes:
1. Only includes current scheme cases. Data not available prior to March 2003.
2. Cleared applications are those that have had a maintenance calculation carried out and a payment arrangement between the parent with care and non-resident parent put in place; a maintenance calculation carried out and nil liability established; a parent with care has been identified as claiming Good Cause or is subject to a Reduced Benefit Decision; the application is identified as being a change of circumstance on an existing case; or the application has been closed.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
4. Includes clerical cases.
5. Number of cases cleared within 12 weeks expressed as a percentage of applications received.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children are receiving maintenance payments calculated by the Child Support Agency; and in how many such cases the non-resident parent is in arrears. [280026]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many children are receiving maintenance payments calculated by the Child Support Agency; and in how many such cases the non-resident parent is in arrears. [280026]

It should be noted that the majority of child maintenance cases will have some arrears. In particular all new cases will accrue arrears unless the non-resident parent provides support while the liability is being assessed. The Agency estimates that around a quarter of all cases with arrears owe less than £170 which is less than two monthly maintenance payments.

As at March 2009, 593,100 cases were receiving maintenance, from which 779,800 children benefited. Of these 593,100 cases, there are approximately 436,600 cases where the non-resident parent has arrears outstanding.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission takes of shared custody arrangements in determining levels of child maintenance. [281842]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. The Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what account the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission takes of shared custody arrangements in determining levels of child maintenance. [281842]

Where an application for child maintenance is made, and care of the child or children subject to that application is shared between the parent with care and non-resident parent, the Child Support Agency may in some cases reduce the amount of child maintenance payable as a result.

Different rules apply to the calculation of child maintenance liabilities, dependent on whether the application for maintenance was effective before the 3rd of March 2003 (such cases are referred to as the "old scheme") or received on or after this date (and referred to as the "current scheme").

In the old scheme, the amount of maintenance that a non-resident parent should pay will be reduced if the child or children spends 104 nights or more (on average, throughout the year) in their care. In the current scheme, a non-resident parent's maintenance liability is reduced if the child or children spends an average of 52 nights or more in their care during the year.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Child Support Agency is taking to recalculate child maintenance liabilities for non resident parents whose income is reduced through loss of overtime, short time working or working without pay; how quickly such recalculations are performed on average; and if she will make a statement. [284231]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps the Child Support Agency is taking to recalculate child maintenance liabilities for non resident parents whose income is reduced through loss of overtime short time working or working without pay; how quickly such recalculations are performed; and if she will make a statement. [284231]

The Child Support Agency will reassess the maintenance liability from the point at which either parent informs the Agency that the non-resident parent's income has changed. Although the Agency

may require further information such as wage slips to complete the reassessment, the date from which the reassessment takes effect will remain the date that the Agency was notified of the change. Information on the time taken to reassess individual cases from the date of notification including gathering the required evidence is not available.

It should be noted that not all changes in income will result in a reassessment of the child maintenance due. In cases assessed under the current scheme the Agency may not change the amount of child maintenance if the non-resident parent's regular net weekly income changes by less than 5%. For cases assessed under the old scheme, the Agency may not make a change of less than £10 a week, or in cases where there is 'protected income' only where amount the non-resident parent would have to pay would increase by £5 a week or more, or reduce by £1 a week or more.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of council tax benefit was in each local authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [284096]

Helen Goodman: Estimates of eligibility for council tax benefit are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled to but not receiving council tax benefit are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08", copies of which are available in the Library.

Departmental Contracts

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 355W, on department pay, to which employers her Department's contracts have been *(a)* let and *(b)* sub-let where the location of employment is not exclusive to London in the last five years; what the nature of the work undertaken on each such contract is; what information her Department holds on the grade and location of employment of those working on such contracts; what the duration of each such contract is; and what agreements on union recognition have been reached in relation to each such contract. [285492]

Jim Knight: The DWP currently has over 1,000 contracts with external suppliers for a wide range of goods and internal and external services. The Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on her Department's estate and (ii) by her Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280523]

Helen Goodman: The following table shows energy consumption information for DWP and its agencies:

	Electricity (kWh)	*Gas (kWh)*
2004-05	328,376,312	363,437,092
2005-06	327,460,763	348,427,210
2006-07	328,992,384	316,398,341
2007-08	299,091,966	282,711,424

Final information for 2008-09 is not yet available.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes have been made to her Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285318]

Jim Knight: There have been no changes in DWP office equipment or stationery purchasing policy in the last six months.

Disability Living Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 541W, on disability living allowance, at what level information is recorded on the number of people claiming disability living allowance where the main disabling condition is recorded as obesity. [283621]

Jonathan Shaw: In October 2008 the set of codes used to record the disabling condition for disability living allowance changed. Primary and Secondary codes replaced codes for Care and Mobility and more fine detail was introduced with respect to disabling condition. Prior to October 2008, there were fewer than 50 categories for disabling condition, but now there are over 500. This information is available for statistical analysis from November 2008.

However, codes for existing disability living allowance claimants were not updated, so the number of cases with new codes is extremely small compared to the total numbers in receipt of disability living allowance. It is, therefore, not yet possible to produce an estimate of the total number of people claiming disability living allowance with a main disabling condition of obesity.

Future Jobs Fund

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding from the Future Jobs Fund has been allocated to each *(a)* regional development agency and *(b)* local authority; and what targets have been set for each such body in respect of the creation of new jobs. [286235]

Jim Knight: The Future Jobs Fund operates a competitive bidding process, with local authorities, partnerships and others able to bid to create jobs through the fund. We are not ring-fencing funding, or setting targets for any particular region or area. However greater emphasis will be given to bids from areas of high unemployment and with high populations of eligible young people.

Hazardous Substances: Storage

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* large-scale petrol storage depots and *(b)* onshore non-nuclear major hazard installations there are in (i) England and (ii) Essex. [280663]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The following table shows the number of large-scale petrol storage depots and the number of other major hazard sites subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (as amended) ('COMAH') in Essex and England respectively.

	Number
Large-scale petrol storage depots	
Essex	5
England	41
COMAH major hazard sites	
Essex	31
England	893

Tables listing the relevant sites have been placed in the Library.

Medical Assessors

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms her Department has in place to monitor the accuracy and quality of work carried out for her Department by medical assessors. [284573]

Jonathan Shaw: The contract between DWP and Atos Healthcare contains a number of quality targets to measure the performance of health care professionals (HCPs)[1] which are monitored on a monthly basis. Quality and accuracy is regularly monitored through a variety of other methods including monthly management information, customer satisfaction surveys and feedback from complaints. The work of all HCPs is subjected to quality audit which is conducted by experienced medical auditors within Atos Healthcare. The quality of Atos Healthcare's audit is validated by senior medical auditors from Atos Healthcare and doctors working for the Chief Medical Adviser to the DWP.

[1] The term health care professionals (HCP) covers both registered doctors and registered nurses who conduct medical assessments on behalf of the DWP.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what minimum qualifications are required of medical assessors working for her Department. [284574]

Jonathan Shaw: The contract between DWP and Atos Healthcare specifies minimum recruitment standards that all approved health care professionals (HCPs)[1] must be fully registered with the General Medical Council or Nursing and Midwifery Council without restrictions or conditions and complete a course of training in disability assessment medicine approved by the DWP Chief Medical Adviser (CMA). In addition they must have a minimum of three years post registration experience. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the CMA, the requirement that no conditions be attached to registration and the requirement that health care professionals have a minimum of three years post registration experience may be waived. In addition all HCPs must be approved by the CMA to the DWP.

[1] The term health care professionals (HCP) covers both registered doctors and registered nurses who conduct medical assessments on behalf of the DWP.

New Deal Schemes

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* average payment of the New Deal Allowance was to people who had reached the test trading phase of the New Deal in the most recent period for which figures are available. [274342]

Jim Knight: Test trading allows the customer to stay on benefits for a short period while they launch their business. This can last for a maximum of six months.

The amount of new deal allowance paid to individual customers is equivalent to their previous benefit rate (usually jobseeker's allowance) plus a new deal premium of £15.38 a week.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there have been for each of the Pathways to Work programme providers since inception of the contracts; how many of these *(a)* did not attend initial interview, *(b)* were referred back to a decision maker for consideration of a sanction and *(c)* were placed in sustained employment. [285521]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* Official statistics on the number of participants in Pathways to Work are available up to January 2009, these are published on the Department's website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/ib_ref_p2w.asp

Information is not available by provider. Breakdowns are available by district. Data on starts are available up to January 2009. Data on job entries are available up to October 2008 but no data are available to show sustained jobs. Starts and job entries in each Pathways district have been placed in the Library.

The Department does not hold official statistics on failed to attend interviews or referrals back to decision makers.

Pension Credit

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people aged *(a)* between 60 and 79 and *(b)* 80 years old and over who are eligible for pension credit. [285827]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the absolute value of the basic state pension for *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples has been in each year since 1997-98. [285777]

Angela Eagle: The information is in the table.

	Weekly basic state pension for single pensioner	*Weekly basic state pension for pensioner couple*
	£	£
1997-98	62.45	99.80
1998-99	64.70	103.40
1999-2000	66.75	106.70
2000-01	67.50	107.90

£

	Weekly basic state pension for single pensioner	Weekly basic state pension for pensioner couple
2001-02	72.50	115.90
2002-03	75.50	120.70
2003-04	77.45	123.80
2004-05	79.60	127.25
2005-06	82.05	131.20
2006-07	84.25	134.75
2007-08	87.30	139.60
2008-09	90.70	145.05
2009-10	95.25	152.30

Note:
There are no singles or couples rates as such, the basic state pension is an individual benefit. However, the maximum Category A rate is commonly referred to as the "singles rate", and the combination of the maximum Category A rate for a husband and a maximum Category B rate set at (60 per cent. of maximum Category A) for his wife is commonly referred to as the "couples rate".

Personal Accounts Scheme: Finance

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of establishing personal accounts schemes; and what proportion of such costs she expects to be recouped from scheme participants; [284123]

(2) how much grant-in-aid paid the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority has received from her Department in each financial year since its inception; [284124]

(3) what expenditure the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority has incurred in each financial year since its inception. [284038]

Angela Eagle: Revenues from membership charges are intended to cover the cost of personal accounts in the long run, including the cost of setting up the scheme.

All cost estimates are commercially sensitive until the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority has completed its procurement process. Publishing these estimates now could compromise the Authority's ability to get value for money.

The following table shows how much funding the Authority has received from the Department and its expenditure in each financial year since its inception.

£ million

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10[1]
Grant in aid funding—advice to Government on their pension reform programme	3.300	18.435	0.464
Loan funding—for setting up the scheme	—	5.623	5.836
PADA expenditure	1.996	30.958	5.504

[1] As at end of May 2009.

Notes:
1. Expenditure figures include capital expenditure plus non-cash depreciation costs.
2. Grant in aid and loan figures represent cash paid to the Authority from the Department within each year.
3. Expenditure figures are recorded on an accruals basis i.e. include costs that have been incurred but not yet paid and non-cash costs such as depreciation. Therefore expenditure figures do not equal the grant in aid and loan figures.
4. Expenditure for 2008-09 exceeded the funding PADA received in that year. The difference was, in the main, funded by cash balances carried forward from the previous year and movements in working capital.
5. Figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 represent pre-audited outturn and may change.

Remploy

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's role is in respect of *(a)* setting the levels of and *(b)* paying (i) salaries and (ii) bonuses at Remploy. [284769]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department is responsible for recruiting and setting the salaries for the chair, chief executive officer and non-executive directors of Remploy. The setting of salaries of all other employees is the responsibility of the company.

As with all non-departmental public bodies, the Department approves the annual pay remit for Remploy and the overall remuneration package must meet the Treasury civil service pay guidance.

The Department has approved the performance related pay schemes for the Remploy Executive where targets are now closely linked to achieving key objectives in the five-year modernisation plan. Performance related pay schemes for all other employees are set by the company.

Right to Bid Scheme

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Minister has lead responsibility for the Right to Bid scheme; what officials in her Department are working on the scheme; and how many applications to the scheme have been received to date. [284495]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* I have lead responsibility for Right to Bid. Alan Cave, DWP Employment Group Delivery Director, is the lead official for the Right to Bid scheme; he is supported by a central team which administer and manage Right to Bid.

The Right to Bid initiative was introduced on 1 January 2009 and we are pleased to say that we have had a significant amount of interest. As of 6 July 2009, 91 bids have been received.

Social Security Benefits

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason disability living allowance is disregarded for the purposes of calculating child maintenance; for what reason war pensions are assessed in calculating child maintenance; and if she will make a statement. [284228]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* Child maintenance is based on the financial circumstances of parents. State benefits which vary in accordance with a person's financial circumstances (such as war pensions) form part of their overall income and as such are therefore taken into account when the maintenance liability is calculated. However, the level of income required to qualify for a war pension is such that the maximum the vast majority of non-resident parents who are on a war pension would have to pay is £5. That is the case for all of those on the current child maintenance scheme.

Disability living allowance is a standard payment which, beside the qualifying criteria, i.e. the nature of the disability, takes no account of a person's financial circumstances; it is only the nature of the disability that

is a factor and it is specifically designed to enable someone to cope with the extra expense that disability imposes on them. It would not therefore be appropriate to include such payments within the child maintenance calculation.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* court cases and *(b)* convictions there have been for benefit fraud in each of the last five years. [272721]

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been *(a)* interviewed on suspicion, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of benefit fraud offences in each of the last five years. [273049]

Helen Goodman: Information relating to how many people have been *(a)* interviewed on suspicion and *(b)* charged with benefit fraud offences is not available.

The available information on the number of people interviewed under caution (for DWP administered benefits) and the number of people that DWP has presented to court for prosecution for benefit fraud offences is detailed in the following tables. Information on local authority prosecutions and convictions is not yet available for 2008-09.

DWP administered benefits

	Number of interviews held under caution	*Number prosecuted for benefit fraud*	*Number of convictions for benefit fraud offences*
2004-05	—	10,295	9,219
2005-06	—	10,262	8,740
2006-07	—	8,964	6,861
2007-08	—	10,276	7,343
2008-09	44,105	8,840	6,709

Notes:
1. 2008-09 is the first year in which interview under caution data have been collected.
2. The figure provided on the number of interviews held under caution may include the same person more than once. This is because the same person may have been interviewed under caution more than once.

Sources:
1. Interviews under caution data are taken from Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System (FRAIMS).
2. Prosecution and Conviction data for England and Wales are provided by DWP/DH Legal Group.
3. Prosecution and Conviction data for Scotland are taken from Fraud Information by Sector (FIBS) and FRAIMS.

Local authority administered benefits

	Number prosecuted for benefit fraud	*Number of convictions for benefit fraud offences*
2003-04	4,901	3,747
2004-05	5,508	4,608
2005-06	7,717	6,234
2006-07	6,023	5,060
2007-08	6,833	6,493

Notes:
1. The decision to prosecute is taken by the appropriate local authority.
2. Figures from HOBOD are subject to revision when new or revised data are received from local authorities and uploaded by the Department.
3. Data on the number of interviews held under caution have not been included in this table because 2008-09 is the first year in which interview under caution data have been collected and information on local authority prosecutions and convictions is not yet available for 2008-09.

Source:
Housing Benefits Operational Database (HOBOD) using local authority housing benefit administrative returns.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the amount wrongly paid in benefits to UK nationals resident abroad in the last 12 months. [276150]

Helen Goodman: Between October 2007 and September 2008 an estimated £45 million was wrongly paid to customers who continued to claim benefits to which they were not entitled while they were abroad.

In order to qualify for DWP means tested benefits, the customer must be habitually resident in the UK. The benefit rules, for some benefits, allow customers to travel abroad for a certain period of time without it affecting their benefit entitlement. The estimates used in this PQ relate to customers that have exceeded this period of time abroad.

We do not capture customer nationality as part of the claims process and are therefore unable to provide specific figures for UK nationals.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the amount of benefits wrongly claimed by UK nationals resident abroad in each of the last five years. [277039]

(2) how much was reclaimed from UK nationals resident abroad for benefits wrongly claimed in each of the last five years; [277039]

(3) what the administrative costs of reclaiming benefits wrongly claimed by UK nationals resident abroad were in each of the last five years. [277040]

Helen Goodman: We do not capture customer nationality as part of the claims process and are therefore unable to provide specific figures for UK nationals.

The only available information on the amounts wrongly paid to customers who continued to claim benefits to which they were not entitled while they were abroad is provided for each of the last five years in the following table.

	Amount wrongly paid (£ million)
April 2004 to March 2005	44
April 2005 to March 2006	40
April 2006 to March 2007	36
April 2007 to March 2008	43
October 2007 to September 2008	45

Notes:
In order to qualify for DWP means tested benefits, the customer must be habitually resident in the UK. The benefit rules, for some benefits, allow customers to travel abroad for a certain period of time without it affecting their benefit entitlement. The estimates used in this PQ relate to customers that have exceeded this period of time abroad. The information about how much was reclaimed from UK nationals resident abroad for benefits wrongly claimed in each of the last five years and the administrative costs of reclaiming these benefits is not available.

Source:
National Statistics

Social Security Benefits: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research her Department is undertaking into the effects of consumer debt on the benefits system. [284731]

Jim Knight: My Department part funds the Wealth and Assets Survey. The survey is a longitudinal survey that collects information about the economic well-being of households and individuals including their assets and debts, pension provision, how wealth is distributed and factors that may affect financial planning. The survey panel is made up of 32,000 households who are interviewed once every two years. The first full wave findings are due to be released at the end of 2009, with the second wave currently being undertaken.

In relation to debt, the Wealth and Assets Survey collects information on household non-mortgage debt and on respondents' attitudes to debt. The survey also collects information on the benefits and tax credits that respondents are in receipt of.

The Office for National Statistics is conducting the survey which is partly funded by my Department along with several other Government Departments such as BIS, HMT, HMRC, CLG, the Scottish Government and the Cabinet Office.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to announce the dates of the qualifying week for the Winter Fuel Payment; and if she will make a statement. [285201]

Angela Eagle: The qualifying week is set by regulations as the week beginning on the third Monday in September. So, for winter 2009-10, it is the week commencing 21 September 2009.

Pollution: Fines

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been levied in fines by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) against *(a)* companies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* individuals for offences committed in relation to pollution of each type (i) in total and (ii) in each region in each year since 1997; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of fines levied by the HSE on polluters in preventing further incidences of pollution on the part of (A) those upon whom fines have been imposed and (B) others. [286466]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 13 July 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

This matter falls within the remit of the Environment Agency; the Health and Safety Executive does not levy pollution-related fines.

The relevant Environment Agency national enforcement database reports have been placed in the Library of the House. The national enforcement database came online in April 1999. Data are therefore not available for 1997, 1998 and the first three months of 1999.

The national enforcement database has categories for individuals and companies, but local authorities are classified with "other legal entities". The reports provided here titled "other" therefore include local authorities along with other non-commercial corporate entities.

The Environment Agency will prosecute a serious pollution offence only where prosecution is considered to be in the public interest. The level of fine imposed is a matter for the sentencing court. All aggravating and mitigating factors and the defendant's ability to pay will be taken into account.

Prosecution is only one of a number of interventions that the Environment Agency employs and other enforcement tools will also have some effect. The Environment Agency publishes an annual Spotlight report which provides details of the performance of regulated industry sectors and the relevant enforcement action taken. The 2008 report can be viewed at:

http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO0708BOFX-E-E.pdf?lang=_e

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the evidential basis was for the statement that, Costs to existing recognised Awarding Bodies are expected to be neutral, on average, in the Impact Assessment of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill relating to the creation of the awarding body regulator, Ofqual and the QCDA. [285500]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provisions in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill to create Ofqual have been widely welcomed by awarding bodies and others. The costs of the reforms will depend in large part on how awarding bodies respond to the new regulatory regime. The move to a more strategic approach to regulation—so that Ofqual will not need to accredit every qualification—should reduce awarding body costs. But Ofqual's market regulation role, with its strong powers to ensure value for money in the provision of qualifications, may increase the demands on awarding bodies; and awarding bodies may also have to develop relationships with the new Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency, which will support the development of qualifications. Overall, our best assessment is therefore that the impact of the plans on existing awarding bodies will be cost-neutral.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childcare places for children under eight years old there were in Tamworth constituency in each year since 1997. [286335]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available below local authority level.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 819W, on children: day care, what his definition is of the term philosophical convictions contained in the Early Years Foundation Stage exemption document. [286841]

Dawn Primarolo: Parents may apply to their early years provider for an exemption in respect of their child, where they consider that the Early Years Foundation

Stage learning and development requirements, or some element of them, cannot be reconciled with their religious or philosophical convictions.

The term 'religious and philosophical convictions' is a concept that is understood in legal terms and appears in case law, such as that on the European convention on human rights. It refers to a cogent and serious belief-set or conviction worthy of respect in a democratic society.

Children: Protection

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to improve child protection services in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire. [284739]

Dawn Primarolo: Ofsted's 2007 Joint Area Review of Hertfordshire county council's children's services judged services for safeguarding and looked after children to be inadequate. An external support team worked with the council to improve performance management and safe staffing arrangements. The Department for Children, Schools and Families also part-funded an interim head of fieldwork services for a period of six months. After close monitoring, the council exited intervention following the 2008 annual performance assessment, in which Hertfordshire was judged to be adequate for 'Staying Safe'. The Government Office for the East of England is continuing to work closely with Hertfordshire county council, as Children's Safeguarding Authority, and partner organisations and agencies to strengthen child protection services in the area.

The Government have made clear its determination to make sure that child protection services in every area meet the needs of the vulnerable children they serve. That is why we asked Lord Laming to prepare an urgent report of progress across the country in implementing effective arrangements for safeguarding children.

The Government have accepted all of Lord Laming's recommendations and published a detailed action plan on 6 May 2009.

Children's Play: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided for the enhancement of public play facilities in the London Borough of *(a)* Redbridge and *(b)* Waltham Forest in the last 12 months. [284449]

Dawn Primarolo: Following the commitments made in the Children's Plan in 2007 and the national Play strategy in 2008, every top tier local authority in England will receive either play pathfinder or playbuilder funding between 2008-11 through the play capital investment programme.

On average all play pathfinder authorities will receive around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding, while playbuilder authorities will receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding. Play pathfinder authorities will use their allocated funding to deliver a minimum of 28 play areas plus a new staffed adventure playground, while playbuilder authorities will deliver a minimum of 22 play areas by 2011. The play areas that are delivered can be either completely new areas or existing areas which are significantly refurbished.

Redbridge is one of 43 playbuilder authorities across England who began receiving play funding from April 2008, as part of the first wave of the play capital investment.

Class Sizes: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pupil to teacher ratio in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in York was in each year since 1996-97. [285703]

Mr. Coaker: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1837W.

Local authority figures are not yet available for 2009, but will be published later this summer.

Connexions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of services provided through Connexions. [285424]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since April 2008 local authorities have been responsible for providing Connexions services. Under the Education and Skills Act 2008 they have a statutory duty to deliver Connexions, which places services within scope of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. Connexions services contribute to targets in local area agreements. We expect local authorities to assess the quality of their information, advice and guidance (IAG) provision, including that commissioned from Connexions services, against national IAG Quality Standards.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285021]

Mr. Coaker: The Department for Children, Schools and Families currently operates Microsoft Internet Explorer Version 6.0 Service Pack 2. The proposed DCSF Information Strategy (incorporating Systems and Technology) plans are to update the browser during 2010/11 financial year.

Pupils

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools have fewer than *(a)* 40, *(b)* 50, *(c)* 60, *(d)* 70, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 90 and *(g)* 100 pupils; and if he will make a statement. [281305]

Mr. Coaker: Local authorities are responsible for planning the pattern of school provision most appropriate to their area. They have to ensure that there are sufficient school places, the needs of the local community are served and good quality education is provided in a cost effective way. Virtually all small primary schools serve rural communities.

The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained nursery, primary, state-funded secondary and maintained special schools, size of school, as at January 2009 (provisional), England

	All schools	Schools with fewer than 40 pupils[1]	Schools with fewer than 50 pupils[1]	Schools with fewer than 60 pupils[1]	Schools with fewer than 70 pupils[1]	Schools with fewer than 80 pupils[1]	Schools with fewer than 90 pupils[1]	Schools with fewer than 100 pupils[1]
Maintained Nursery	437	15	35	80	135	204	270	313
Maintained Primary[2]	41	328	615	930	1,274	1,630	1,997	2,410
State-funded Secondary[2, 3]	3,347	0	0	1	2	3	3	5
Maintained Special[4]	983	114	194	294	397	504	594	654

[1] Includes solely registered pupils.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes CTCs and Academies.
[4] Includes General Hospital Schools.
Source:
School Census.

Pupils: Radiation Exposure

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effects on schoolchildren of potential radiation emissions from wireless local area networks in schools; and if he will direct local education authorities to adopt a precautionary approach to the approval of the *(a)* installation and *(b)* operation of wireless local area networks in schools. [285238]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) is the authoritative body on health issues relating to wireless technology. The HPA has consistently and clearly advised schools and local authorities that it does not consider there to be any problem with the safety of WiFi. Its current guidelines state there is no scientific evidence of any health risks from WiFi or that exposures exceed international guidelines and there is absolutely no reason schools should stop using them.

The HPA announced further research into the use of WiFi in October 2007, details at:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733726123?p=1171991026241

Becta is the Government Agency with responsibility for providing advice to schools and others on various technologies and their use, including their safe use.

Becta follows the HPA's latest guidance in the advice it produces for schools and other education providers. Becta's current guidance on the use of WiFi equipment in schools is that it provides a useful and flexible option to complement rather than replace hard wired systems. This advice will be reviewed and updated accordingly as and when new guidance is published by the HPA. Becta have engaged with the HPA on elements of the research programme and will monitor closely any emerging findings to ensure that children are offered the best education in a safe and secure environment.

Pupils: Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of children aged 16 years of age and under who *(a)* walked and *(b)* cycled to school in each year since 1997. [284809]

Mr. Coaker: Information on pupils' mode of travel to school has been collected only since 2007. The available information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1, 2] and special schools[1]: pupils[4, 5] 16 and under who walked or cycled to school, as at January each year, England

	Pupils who walk to school		Pupils who cycle to school		Pupils for whom travel data were supplied[6]	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2007	2,531,370	50.0	94,230	1.9	5,065,810	69.0
2008	3,100,510	50.2	120,190	1.9	6,172,180	84.8
2009[p]	3,502,890	50.9	131,300	1.9	6,887,060	95.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Pupils aged 16 and under as at 31 August in the previous year.
[5] Excludes boarders.
[6] Expressed as a percentage of those pupils for whom travel data were supplied.
[7] The collection of mode of travel to school data are only mandatory at pupil level for schools with an approved school travel plan.
[p] Provisional
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Schools: Bullying

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will require schools to record incidents of *(a)* bullying between pupils and *(b)* verbal and physical abuse of school staff by pupils. [285726]

Mr. Coaker: Yes. On 26 September 2008, my predecessor Jim Knight and his colleague Kevin Brennan announced the Government's plan to make it compulsory for schools to record incidents of bullying between pupils, and incidents of verbal or physical abuse against school staff. We plan to launch a full consultation on draft regulations in the autumn, and to lay the regulations next year with a view to them coming into force in September 2010.

Schools: Capital Investment

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what capital funding has been allocated by his Department to schools in the City of York in each year since 2003. [285782]

Mr. Coaker: Capital funding allocated by the Department to the City of York for schools in each year since 2003 is set out in the following table:

	£ million
2003-04	11.1
2004-05	11.4
2005-06	10.7
2006-07	23.0
2007-08	37.5
2008-09	6.8
2009-10	13.7

The allocations include £14.2 million for targeted capital funding in 2006-07, £28.5 million for a One School Pathfinder School in 2007-08, and £3.0 million for the new Primary School programme in 2009-10, together with an advance in 2009-10 of funding brought forward from 2010-11.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures his Department has in place to ensure the protection of children against sexual assault on school premises. [285331]

Dawn Primarolo: Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires governing bodies of maintained schools to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. In meeting this duty, schools must have regard to the guidance contained in "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education". This sets out the safeguarding responsibilities of all local authorities and schools, including recruitment best practice, designed to safeguard children from all forms of abuse including sexual abuse. To comply with the guidance, governing bodies of all maintained schools should ensure that;

the school has a child protection policy in place that is in accordance with local authority guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures;

the school operates safe recruitment procedures and carries out appropriate checks on staff and volunteers who work with children;

the school operates procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse that comply with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency procedures;

a senior member of the school's leadership team is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the local authority and working with other agencies;

in addition to basic child protection training the designated person undertakes training in inter-agency working to standards agreed by the local safeguarding children board, and refresher training at two yearly intervals;

all staff who work with children undertake training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively, and refresher training at three yearly intervals;

temporary staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the school's arrangement for child protection and their responsibilities;

they remedy without delay any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to child protection arrangements that are brought to their attention;

a member of the governing body is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LA in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the head teacher;

they review their policies and procedures annually and provide information to the local authority about them and about how the above duties have been discharged.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any elements of the Targeted Capital Fund have been subject to a moratorium on spending. [284377]

Mr. Coaker: No elements of the Targeted Capital Fund, where allocations to schools and local authorities have been confirmed, are subject to a moratorium on spending. However, the Standards and Diversity Targeted Capital Fund is currently closed for new applications. We have always been clear that further allocations would depend on the availability of funds, and these have now been committed.

Schools: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the school workforce census form. [286561]

Mr. Coaker: The school workforce census is an electronic data collection from schools and local authorities. The Census is being piloted during 2009 and will go live in 2010. As it is an electronic data collection there is no form as such but a copy of the technical specification for the collection is publicly available on the Department's TeacherNet pages

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datacollections/swfcpilot/

Science: Education

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of attainment in science subjects by children at secondary level of the proposal of the Rose Review to replace science as a core subject in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [284011]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We have not made a formal assessment of the implications for levels of attainment in science subjects for secondary pupils of the proposed revisions to the primary curriculum.

In the proposals for the new primary curriculum subjects will no longer be designated as core and foundation. The essential knowledge, skills and understanding of science are all included within the 'scientific and technological understanding' area of learning. The Rose Review Team worked closely with the science community to ensure that this area of learning contains the scientific knowledge, skills and understanding they consider is essential for children aged 5-11 to learn.

The Government remain committed to encouraging the take up of science subjects at GCSE and beyond. The new pupil guarantee in the White Paper will ensure that every pupil understands that they have, and are encouraged to take up, the opportunity to study at least two science GCSEs and those who would benefit from a more stretching science curriculum have the opportunity to study triple science GCSE (physics, chemistry and biology).

Secondary Education: Gifted Children

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in (i) each local authority area in the North West and (ii) England are on gifted and talented programmes. [285376]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect data on which pupils in schools are on gifted and talented programmes. Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the gifted and talented pupils they have identified. In the summer 2008 Census, 95 per cent. of secondary schools and 78 per cent. of primary schools nationally confirmed they were identifying gifted and talented pupils. The comparable figures for North West were 94 per cent. and 76 per cent. respectively.

The following table shows the number and proportion of gifted and talented pupils attending primary and secondary schools in the local authorities in the North West and England.

	Maintained primary schools[1]		*Maintained secondary schools*[1,5]	
	Number of gifted and talented pupils[2]	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*[4]	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*[2]	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*[4]
England[3]	347,400	8.4	454,770	14.2
North West[3]	48,610	8.3	56,590	12.9
Blackburn with Darwen	865	6.0	1,046	11.0
Blackpool	975	8.5	820	9.8
Bolton	1,424	5.6	2,410	12.7
Bury	279	1.7	1,503	13.2
Cheshire	4,484	8.5	6,827	15.2
Cumbria	2,462	6.3	3,594	10.4
Halton	536	5.3	1,109	14.4
Knowsley	1,086	7.3	670	8.0
Lancashire	11,896	13.1	10,668	15.0
Liverpool	2,586	7.0	3,753	12.9
Manchester	4,037	9.9	3,138	14.0
Oldham	868	3.7	1,616	10.1
Rochdale	1,185	6.0	1,110	8.8
Salford	869	4.6	1,156	10.8
Sefton	1,954	8.7	2,208	11.4
St. Helens	1,811	12.0	1,224	11.0
Stockport	1,556	6.9	1,677	11.4
Tameside	2,014	10.2	2,236	14.9
Trafford	873	4.5	1,985	12.2
Warrington	1,649	9.5	2,194	16.1
Wigan	2,461	9.6	2,550	12.7
Wirral	2,763	10.8	3,096	13.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed primary/secondary.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual (main) registration.
[3] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] The number of gifted and talented pupils expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils.
[5] Excludes academies.
Source:
School Census summer 2008.

Secondary Education: School Choice

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of parents in each local authority were offered *(a)* their fourth preference, *(b)* their fifth preference, *(c)* their sixth preference and *(d)* none of their preferences for secondary school in the last year for which data are available. [260867]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* The following table contains the information requested and is derived from data collected on National Offer day in March 2009.

Where parents did not receive an offer on National Offer day, this is likely to be because the local authority is giving them a further opportunity to express preferences for schools with vacant places or because they did not require an alternative offer if a place was not available at their preferred school e.g. in authorities with mixed two and three-tier schools systems, parents of children at middle schools may apply for a secondary school place, but choose to remain at the middle school if a place is not available at their preferred secondary school.

	Number		*Percentage*			
Local authority	*Applications received from parents of children resident in the local authority area*	*Preferences offered by the local authority*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their fourth preference school*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their fifth preference school*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their sixth preference school*	*Applicants without an offer corresponding to any preference*
England	546,744	—	0.9	0.4	0.3	3.8
North East	26,463	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Darlington	1,160	3	—	—	—	5.5
Durham	5,299	3	—	—	—	1.9
Gateshead	2,057	3	—	—	—	1.5
Hartlepool	1,094	3	—	—	—	0.6
Middlesbrough	1,669	3	—	—	—	2.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,215	6	0.5	0.3	0.0	2.8
North Tyneside	1,637	3	—	—	—	3.5
Northumberland	2,992	3	—	—	—	0.3
Redcar and Cleveland	1,570	3	—	—	—	1.5

	Number		Percentage			
Local authority	*Applications received from parents of children resident in the local authority area*	*Preferences offered by the local authority*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their fourth preference school*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their fifth preference school*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their sixth preference school*	*Applicants without an offer corresponding to any preference*
South Tyneside	1,632	3	—	—	—	4.8
Stockton-on-Tees	2,086	3	—	—	—	0.2
Sunderland	3,052	3	—	—	—	1.2
North West	78,101	—	0.3	0.1	0.1	2.9
Blackburn With Darwen	2,006	3	—	—	—	8.2
Blackpool	1,471	3	—	—	—	0.6
Bolton	3,403	3	—	—	—	3.8
Bury	2,203	3	—	—	—	3.8
Cheshire	7,615	3	—	—	—	2.9
Cumbria	5,310	3	—	—	—	0.8
Halton	1,514	3	—	—	—	3.1
Knowsley	1,885	3	—	—	—	3.4
Lancashire	12,540	3	—	—	—	1.9
Liverpool	4,679	3	—	—	—	3.7
Manchester	4,659	6	0.7	0.1	0.1	5.9
Oldham	2,932	6	1.1	0.5	0.1	4.9
Rochdale	2,643	4	0.3	—	—	1.3
Salford	2,313	6	0.7	0.1	0.0	3.7
Sefton	2,975	3	—	—	—	3.3
St. Helens	1,967	3	—	—	—	0.9
Stockport	3,375	3	—	—	—	2.7
Tameside	2,590	3	—	—	—	4.4
Trafford	2,593	6	3.4	1.6	1.2	5.6
Warrington	2,364	6	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.5
Wigan	3,445	3	—	—	—	0.9
Wirral	3,619	5	0.5	0.0	—	1.2
Yorks and the Humber	57,042	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
Barnsley	2,545	3	—	—	—	0.3
Bradford	6,524	3	—	—	—	5.5
Calderdale	2,490	3	—	—	—	3.7
Doncaster	3,363	3	—	—	—	0.5
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,481	3	—	—	—	0.5
Kingston upon Hull, City of	2,871	3	—	—	—	5.1
Kirklees	4,419	3	—	—	—	5.2
Leeds	7,643	3	—	—	—	3.4
North East Lincolnshire	1,744	3	—	—	—	3.3
North Lincolnshire	1,829	3	—	—	—	0.3
North Yorkshire	6,096	5	0.4	0.1	—	3.6
Rotherham	3,074	3	—	—	—	0.7
Sheffield	5,713	3	—	—	—	3.8
Wakefield	3,461	3	—	—	—	0.7
York	1,789	5	0.2	0.0	—	1.6
East Midlands	47,229	—	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.3
Derby	2,671	4	1.2	—	—	3.7
Derbyshire	8,555	3	—	—	—	2.0
Leicester	3,432	3	—	—	—	3.2
Leicestershire	5,803	3	—	—	—	1.4
Lincolnshire	7,822	3	—	—	—	2.7
Northamptonshire	7,607	3	—	—	—	2.7
Nottingham	2,875	4	1.2	—	—	4.1
Nottinghamshire	8,146	3	—	—	—	1.3
Rutland	318	3	—	—	—	0.3

	Number		Percentage			
Local authority	*Applications received from parents of children resident in the local authority area*	*Preferences offered by the local authority*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their fourth preference school*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their fifth preference school*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their sixth preference school*	*Applicants without an offer corresponding to any preference*
West Midlands	60,333	—	1.6	—	0.5	3.4
Birmingham	13,952	6	4.1	2.8	1.8	4.6
Coventry	3,522	6	0.1	0.0	0.0	6.2
Dudley	3,523	6	0.7	0.3	0.1	1.1
Herefordshire	1,864	3	—	—	—	1.7
Sandwell	3,731	6	2.1	1.2	1.0	4.7
Shropshire	3,045	3	—	—	—	1.0
Solihull	2,497	6	2.1	1.4	0.0	0.7
Staffordshire	7,850	6	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.2
Stoke-on-Trent	2,681	3	—	—	—	0.6
Telford and Wrekin	2,052	4	0.4	—	—	2.0
Walsall	3,324	5	2.1	0.8	—	5.1
Warwickshire	5,831	6	1.4	0.2	0.1	4.5
Wolverhampton	2,883	5	1.4	0.7	—	3.7
Worcestershire	3,578	3	—	—	—	5.1
East of England	59,135	—	0.5	—	0.0	3.6
Bedfordshire	4,454	4	0.1	—	—	0.5
Cambridgeshire	5,985	3	—	—	—	1.8
Essex	15,764	4	1.5	—	—	3.3
Hertfordshire	12,301	3	—	—	—	7.4
Luton	2,486	3	—	—	—	3.7
Norfolk	8,621	3	—	—	—	2.1
Peterborough	2,163	3	—	—	—	5.4
Southend-on-Sea	1,952	5	2.8	1.0	—	4.5
Suffolk	3,491	3	—	—	—	2.9
Thurrock	1,918	6	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.0
London	78,206	—	3.3	—	1.2	6.8
Inner London						
Camden	1,381	6	2.5	0.8	0.4	5.6
City of London	23	6	4.3	0.0	0.0	8.7
Hackney	2,238	6	3.8	1.9	1.0	11.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,129	6	4.2	1.9	1.2	10.6
Haringey	2,449	6	3.3	2.0	0.8	7.2
Islington	1,556	6	2.4	1.4	0.8	6.3
Kensington and Chelsea	675	6	2.8	0.7	0.1	11.9
Lambeth	2,440	6	4.6	2.8	6.5	4.0
Lewisham	2,746	6	4.8	2.8	1.1	6.2
Newham	3,679	6	1.3	0.5	0.3	4.5
Southwark	2,473	6	5.4	3.1	1.5	8.3
Tower Hamlets	2,653	6	2.0	0.7	0.1	7.5
Wandsworth	1,843	6	4.8	2.5	0.9	6.6
Westminster	1,127	6	2.9	1.0	0.4	8.4
Outer London						
Barking and Dagenham	2,445	6	3.1	1.3	0.7	9.4
Barnet	3,540	6	3.6	1.7	1.0	11.2
Bexley	2,759	6	2.0	0.7	0.3	4.8
Brent	2,887	6	3.1	1.8	1.0	5.9
Bromley	3,311	6	3.7	1.8	1.4	5.2
Croydon	3,979	6	4.5	2.4	1.2	10.9
Ealing	3,353	6	2.9	1.4	1.1	7.2
Enfield	3,785	6	4.7	2.9	1.2	6.4
Greenwich	2,664	6	2.4	1.4	0.5	5.5
Harrow	1,691	6	0.9	0.4	0.1	2.7
Havering	2,762	6	2.0	0.6	3.5	0.0
Hillingdon	3,158	6	2.8	1.6	1.0	4.9

	Number		Percentage			
Local authority	*Applications received from parents of children resident in the local authority area*	*Preferences offered by the local authority*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their fourth preference school*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their fifth preference school*	*Applicants receiving an offer for their sixth preference school*	*Applicants without an offer corresponding to any preference*
Hounslow	2,500	6	2.8	2.1	0.8	5.4
Kingston upon Thames	1,556	6	4.5	2.0	1.4	5.3
Merton	1,726	6	4.5	3.2	2.4	10.2
Redbridge	3,294	6	4.1	2.7	2.6	8.6
Richmond upon Thames	1,510	6	2.0	0.9	0.5	12.7
Sutton	2,193	6	4.5	2.2	1.0	6.7
Waltham Forest	2,681	6	1.6	0.9	0.6	3.6
South East	88,579	—	0.8	—	0.1	4.5
Bracknell Forest	1,284	3	—	—	—	11.6
Brighton and Hove	2,304	3	—	—	—	3.2
Buckinghamshire	5,954	6	4.5	1.4	0.8	7.4
East Sussex	5,306	3	—	—	—	5.6
Hampshire	13,973	3	—	—	—	1.8
Isle of Wight	1,380	3	—	—	—	0.0
Kent	16,277	4	1.5	—	—	4.7
Medway	3,004	6	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.7
Milton Keynes	2,853	3	—	—	—	2.5
Oxfordshire	6,180	3	—	—	—	3.1
Portsmouth	1,859	3	—	—	—	2.2
Reading	1,511	3	—	—	—	5.2
Slough	1,599	6	11.8	5.3	2.4	8.0
Southampton	2,124	3	—	—	—	3.4
Surrey	11,121	3	—	—	—	7.5
West Berkshire	1,662	3	—	—	—	1.8
West Sussex	7,257	6	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,119	3	—	—	—	8.4
Wokingham	1,812	3	—	—	—	4.1
South West	51,656	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
Bath and North East Somerset	1,690	3	—	—	—	4.3
Bournemouth	1,461	3	—	—	—	4.1
Bristol, City of	3,874	3	—	—	—	5.0
Cornwall	5,595	3	—	—	—	0.6
Devon	7,547	3	—	—	—	2.3
Dorset	2,826	3	—	—	—	5.7
Gloucestershire	6,536	4	0.0	—	—	5.3
North Somerset	2,158	3	—	—	—	4.3
Plymouth	2,677	3	—	—	—	2.2
Poole	1,189	3	—	—	—	12.4
Somerset	4,424	3	—	—	—	3.5
South Gloucestershire	3,081	3	—	—	—	2.1
Swindon	2,369	3	—	—	—	2.2
Torbay	1,388	3	—	—	—	2.6
Wiltshire	4,841	3	—	—	—	2.9

Social Workers: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time children's social workers there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [285476]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on all staff, including children's social workers, directly employed by social services departments is collected through the Personal Social Services Staff of Social Services Departments return (SSDS001) which was introduced in 1993 by the Department of Health. In 2004-05 responsibility for the collection of this data passed to the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care. These data are published on an annual basis with breakdown by local authority available in the supporting annexes.

Reports published from 2006 onwards are available on the NHS Information Centre website here:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/childrens-social-care

Reports published between 1996 and 2005 are available on the Department of Health website here:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalworkforce/DH_4000233

Sure Start Programme: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* children and *(b)* families in York have received support from his Department's Sure Start programme since the programme's inception. [285780]

Dawn Primarolo: The city of York currently has eight Sure Start children's centres offering access to services to over 6,000 children under five and their families. One further centre is planned by 2010 in order to provide universal coverage of children's centre services for children under five and their families in the local authority area. The Department does not hold information centrally on how many families have received support from the Sure Start programme in York since the programme's inception, but we would expect the local authority, as the body responsible for delivering children's centres, to hold data on usage of centres.

Teachers and Teaching Assistants: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers were employed in schools in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997; [285223]

(2) how many classroom assistants were employed in schools in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [285329]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent teachers and teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools in the North East Government office region, Tees Valley sub region and Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency in January 1997 to January 2008.

Full-time equivalent teachers and teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools[1]. Years: January 1997 to 2008. Coverage: North East Government office region, Tees Valley sub region and Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency

	Teachers[2]			Teaching assistants[3]		
	North East[4]	Tees Valley[4, 5]	Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland[6]	North East[6]	Tees Valley[5, 6]	Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland[6]
1997	22,200	5,170	760	2,870	670	100
1998	21,950	5,910	740	2,990	820	110
1999	22,020	5,860	730	3,130	830	100
2000	22,010	5,940	730	3,450	950	100
2001	22,540	5,900	730	4,280	1,180	130
2002	22,910	6,170	760	4,010	1,030	140
2003	22,670	6,080	780	5,060	1,390	200
2004	22,680	6,000	690	5,630	1,500	220
2005	22,710	5,990	670	6,430	1,730	200
2006	22,770	5,970	670	6,930	1,940	250
2007	22,720	5,940	670	7,450	2,030	260
2008	22,640	5,860	650	8,030	2,410	300

[1] Excludes academies.
[2] Qualified and unqualified teachers.
[3] Teaching assistants include teaching assistants, higher level teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.
[4] Source: Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, 618g.
[5] Tees Valley Sub Region is made up from local authorities Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton and Darlington. Darlington became a new authority in 1998 and is therefore not included in the 1997 figures.
[6] Source: School Census.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Teachers: Degrees

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of National Challenge schools have staff with a degree in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* physics, *(d)* chemistry and *(e)* biology. [286693]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Pay

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average full-time equivalent gross pay of teachers has been in schools in York in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1997. [285823]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the average salary of teacher is available only for full-time regular qualified teachers in service in local authority maintained schools. The following table provides this information for York local authority in both cash and real terms in each year, March 1997 to 2007, the latest year available.

Average salary of full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools, York local authority, March 1997 to 2007

	Gross average salary (£)[1]	
	Actual	Real terms[2]
1997	22,500	28,500
1998	23,200	28,600
1999	24,100	29,100
2000	24,900	29,500
2001	26,900	31,500
2002	27,800	31,800

Average salary of full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools, York local authority, March 1997 to 2007

	Gross average salary (£)[1]	
	Actual	Real terms[2]
2003	29,700	32,900
2004	30,600	33,000
2005	32,100	33,700
2006[3]	33,100	34,100
2007[3]	34,300	34,300

[1] Gross salary of teachers of all grades including allowances.
[2] Adjusted using HM Treasury GDP deflator.
[3] Provisional.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £100. *Source:* Database of Teacher records.

Teachers: South East

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers were employed in schools in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* the South East in each year since 1997. [285894]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent number of teachers in local authority maintained schools in Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency, Dacorum district, Hertfordshire local authority and the South East government office region, in January 1997 to January 2008.

Information for all the years requested for Dacorum district authority is available only at disproportionate cost.

Full-time equivalent teachers[1] in local authority maintained schools[2]. Years: January 1997 to 2008. Coverage: Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency, Dacorum district, Hertfordshire local authority and South East Government office region

	Hemel Hempstead[5]	Dacorum[3]	Hertfordshire[4]	South East[4]
1997	830	1,130	9,040	59,830
1998	850	n/a	8,970	59,820
1999	860	n/a	9,070	60,260
2000	850	n/a	9,030	61,480
2001	880	n/a	9,170	61,830
2002	890	1,220	9,550	63,510
2003	910	n/a	9,610	64,570
2004	900	n/a	9,820	65,490
2005	930	n/a	9,810	66,280
2006	940	n/a	10,180	67,030
2007	930	n/a	10,480	67,560
2008	920	1,280	10,350	67,590

n/a = Not available.
[1] Qualified and unqualified teachers.
[2] Excludes academies.
[3] Source: School Census.
[4] Source: Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, 618g.
[5] Hemel Hempstead, Dacorum and Hertfordshire do not fall within the South East Government office region.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Teachers: Yorkshire and The Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff there were in local education authority schools in (i) Yorkshire and the Humber and (ii) City of York in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest period for which figures are available. [285702]

Mr. Coaker: The number of full-time equivalent teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in each year since 1997 have been published in the Statistical First Release, "School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level Figures), January 2008 (Revised)". They are located in tables 19, 26 and 25 respectively in the following location:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

62 South Eaton Place

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at what sale price his Department's property at 62 South Eaton Place was marketed; for how long it was marketed; and whether the property has now been sold. [284478]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

62 South Eaton Place was placed on the market in September 2008 at an indicated guide price of £4 million. The property remains for sale and viewings are continuing.

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he issues to planning authorities on their consideration of potential health effects arising from the operation of proposed mobile telephone masts; what account he takes of the guidelines for protection from such radiation established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection in establishing such guidance; and if he will make a statement. [285240]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning policy guidance note 8: Telecommunications (PPG8) states that health considerations can be a material consideration in determining applications for planning permission and prior approval. Whether such matters are material in a particular case is ultimately a matter for the courts. It is for the decision maker to determine what weight to attach to such considerations in any particular case.

PPG8 goes on to say that if a proposed mobile phone mast base station meets the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public health it should not be necessary for a local planning authority to consider further the health aspects and concerns about them.

Airports: Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues on the permitted development rights which apply in respect of airports. [286531]

Mr. Ian Austin: No specific guidance has been issued concerning the permitted development rights at airports. However, general guidance on publicity for statutory undertakers, including airport operators, has been issued

in DOE circulars 15/92 and 9/95. This makes it clear that although statutory undertakers are not required to submit a planning application when carrying out permitted development, they should inform the local planning authority and the public if they consider that their proposal is likely to have a significant effect on amenity and environment before the proposals are finalised.

Allotments

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what applications each Government Office has *(a)* received, *(b)* approved and *(c)* not approved from each local authority in its region for disposal of statutory allotments between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2009; what the proposed alternative use of the allotments was in each case; and what the reason for (i) approval and (ii) refusal was in each case. [285487]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Secretary of State's consent will only be given if he is satisfied that:

the allotment in question is not necessary and is surplus to requirement;

adequate provision will be made for displaced plot holders, or that such provision is not necessary or is impracticable;

the number of people on the waiting list has been effectively taken into account;

the authority has actively promoted and publicised the availability of allotment sites and has consulted the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners: and

the implications of disposal for other relevant policies, in particular development plan policies, have been taken into account.

During the period 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2009 98 applications for consent to dispose of statutory allotment have been determined. This includes 56 applications which were approved, two applications which were refused, five applications which were withdrawn and for 35 applications consent was not required or the applications were taken no further. In addition to these 98 determined applications there remained four still under consideration.

Those applications that were approved or refused were judged by the Government offices, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as either satisfying or not satisfying the criteria on the basis of which the Secretary of State is to grant consent for the disposal of statutory allotment sites.

Since April 2008 Government office west midlands have been responsible for determining all statutory allotment consent to dispose applications, on behalf of Secretary of State.

Coastal Areas: Economic Situation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an assessment of the economic performance of seaside resorts in England. [285209]

Ms Rosie Winterton: "England's Seaside Towns—A Benchmarking Study", published by the Department in November 2008 presents findings on the socio-economic performance of England's 37 principal seaside resorts (over 10,000 population) and compares the figures with regional and national averages. The report is available on line at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/englishseasidetowns

The Department is about to commission a benchmarking study of smaller seaside towns (below 10,000 population) in England. This will complement the earlier benchmarking study and provide a range of data on socio-economic performance. It is being jointly funded with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Commission for Rural Communities. The final report will be published in the autumn.

Councillors

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he provides to local authorities on declarations by councillors who are freemasons; and whether that guidance has been amended since 1997. [285566]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Standards Board for England frequently issues guidance to local authorities about members' conduct. The last guidance that included freemasonry was issued in 2007. Prior to this in 2004 the Standards Board produced guidance about what councillors who are freemasons have to register and declare.

Eco-Towns: Public Consultation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses were received to his Department's consultation on the planning policy statement on eco-towns; and what the timetable is for publication of the Government response to the consultation. [286706]

John Healey: The consultation on the eco-towns programme, including the draft Planning Policy Statement closed on 30 April 2009. I intend to publish a Government response together with a consultation summary report of responses received, information requested, before the summer recess.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his answer on 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 958W, on home information packs, if he will assess performance of local authority weights and measures authorities in enforcing home information pack duties under the Housing Act 2004. [286621]

John Healey: It is for individual trading standards offices to decide on how to exercise their enforcement duties, including those that apply to home information packs, in the light of local priorities.

Housing: Armed Forces

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 369W, on housing: armed forces, for what reasons data on

applications for assistance under the New Build HomeBuy and intermediate rent schemes are not held centrally. [285532]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency does not collect data on the number of applications for each of the homebuy products. Households make applications for the scheme through their local homebuy agent. When applying for the homebuy scheme, applicants are not required to choose between the products at the application stage and often select a number of options. This information therefore does not give a reliable indication of the number of applications for a particular product.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many transactions have been completed under the HomeBuy Direct scheme to date; [283972]

(2) how many completed transactions there have been under the *(a)* Social HomeBuy and *(b)* HomeBuy Direct scheme. [284168]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett) to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 390-92W.

As at the end of June, 194 properties had been sold through HomeBuy Direct.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding has been *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent in the East of England under the MyChoice HomeBuy scheme in 2009-10; [285111]

(2) how much funding was allocated to the East of England under the MyChoice HomeBuy scheme in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [285112]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett) gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1540-42W, regarding funding for the MyChoice HomeBuy scheme in 2008-09.

In the first quarter of 2009-10 the Homes and Communities Agency spent approximately £7 million on the MyChoice HomeBuy scheme in the East of England.

The MyChoice HomeBuy scheme was launched in April 2008 and therefore no data are available for the 2006-07 or 2007-08 financial years.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeship places which have been created or safeguarded by social house-building projects to date. [286767]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government's biggest lever in terms of supporting apprenticeships in the home building sector is to maintain investment in and delivery of programmes for regeneration, new social housing and decent homes.

Since December 2008, these programmes have been delivered by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The HCA supports the Prime Minister's commitment to increase the number of apprenticeships by 35,000 by 2010. However, the HCA is now undertaking work to identify the baseline for what is currently being achieved, to set realistic targets for future funding and to monitor and measure improvement over time.

Industrial Estates: Planning Permission

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for the development of business sites in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England were (i) made and (ii) approved in each year since 1997. [286301]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is not available for constituency areas. Statistics are, however, available for the county of North Yorkshire. The following table shows the numbers of applications decided and granted by local planning authorities in North Yorkshire and in England

The figures shown are the totals of applications for commercial, retail and industrial developments.

Further information for individual local planning authorities is available Table 1.6 in the Annual Development Control Statistics publication at the following web link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/developmentcontrol200708

Planning decisions on business sites in North Yorkshire and England

	North Yorkshire		England	Business sites[1]
	Decisions	Granted	Decisions	Granted
1997-98	522	467	34,700	31,300
1998-99	522	454	33,400	30,100
1999-2000	496	447	30,300	27,600
2000-01	455	411	28,700	26,000
2001-02	478	430	28,500	25,600
2002-03	461	423	28,000	24,900
2003-04	382	330	26,600	23,400
2004-05	329	280	26,100	22,600
2005-06	322	271	25,400	21,900
2006-07	371	310	24,600	21,000
2007-08	341	284	23,700	21,900
2008-09[2]	344	293	21,300	18,500

[1] Includes offices, research and development, light industry, general industry, storage, warehousing, retail distribution and servicing.
[2] Provisional.
Source:
Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns, PS2/PSF

Local Government: Apprentices

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* graduate trainee places offered by local authorities in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08, (iv) 2008-09 and (v) 2009-10. [286766]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not hold centrally information about the number of apprenticeships or graduate trainees in local government.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligations local authorities *(a)* in and *(b)* outside London have in relation to providing scheme participants with information on deficits and surpluses in the Local Government Pension Scheme fund administered by their local authority. [286525]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under Regulation 34(1)(d) of The Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008, Scheme administering authorities in England and Wales are required to place in their Pension Fund Annual Report a statement of the level of funding based on the most recent actuarial valuation of their funds.

The first report for the period 2008-09 must be published by 1 December 2009.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme monitoring statistics at local authority level for May 2009. [285147]

John Healey: The mortgage rescue scheme figures for May 2009 as reported by local authorities have been provided in a table placed in the Library of the House.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 996-97W, on non-domestic rates, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the nine written representations in favour of a five-year transitional business rates relief scheme. [285125]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The responses have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 471W, on non-domestic rates, whether his Department takes account of rates of *(a)* council tax and *(b)* non-domestic rate collection in determining levels of future funding for (i) local authorities, (ii) police authorities and (iii) fire authorities. [286512]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No collection rates, whether of business rates or council tax, are assumed for the purposes of allocating formula grant.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 318W, on non-domestic rates: ports, how each port operator has been notified of the new business rate assessment in 2005; how many of the assessments for the 1,800 separate heriditaments were re-assessed before 2009; and for what reasons they were re-assessed. [285010]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ordnance Survey

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the study produced by Ordnance Survey on the cost of a free data model, with commercially confidential elements redacted as necessary. [284566]

Mr. Ian Austin: A redacted copy of "International Comparison of Geographical Information Trading Models: A report for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the outcomes of different trading models for Geographical Information" is available on the Ordnance Survey website at:

http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/aboutus/foi/icgitm.html

This redacted version is an interim release pending permission from overseas' contributors to release information which they contributed.

Planning and Energy Act 2008

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have used their powers under the Planning and Energy Act 2008 to date. [286725]

Mr. Ian Austin: In developing policies in local plans which set requirements for energy use and energy efficiency, local authorities will have regard to a number of factors including the legislative framework and the expectations placed on them by the planning policy statement on climate change. Local authorities have not been asked to explain the extent to which, in developing such policies, they have relied on the specific powers provided by the Planning and Energy Act 2008.

Planning Permission

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities are able to require the creation of apprenticeship or trainee places as a condition of *(a)* granting planning permission for new developments and *(b)* allocating funding to new developments. [286765]

Mr. Ian Austin: It will be for local authorities to decide whether or not it is appropriate to make any funding they provide conditional. Following the Prime Minister's announcement in January to increase the number of apprenticeships by 35,000 by 2010, the Local Government Association committed to double the number of apprentices employed, or managed via contract, by local government from 7,500 to 15,000.

Planning Permission: Fees and Charges

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what fees are payable by businesses seeking to renew a planning application in respect of which planning permission has already been given; and if he will make a statement. [286303]

Mr. Ian Austin: Under current legislation there is not a separate fee to renew a planning permission, the fee payable would be the same as a new planning application.

The Minister for Housing announced on 18 June 2009 the publication of a consultation document entitled 'Greater Flexibility for Planning Permissions' which includes proposals in respect of extensions to the time limits for existing planning permissions.

The document is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/flexibilitypermissions

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which decisions taken by him in relation to regional spatial strategies in the last 12 months have been the subject of applications for judicial review. [286519]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since May 2008, the Secretary of State has published six regional spatial strategies. High Court challenges have been lodged against the regional spatial strategies for the East of England and the South East of England.

Repossession Orders: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many people in each age group have had their home repossessed in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* Southampton in the last 12 months; [286322]

(2) how many domestic dwellings in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* Southampton were repossessed in each of the last 12 months. [286323]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However, neither source has data by age of borrower or data at the local level.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2262

The Financial Services Authority data is available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Social Rented Housing: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties he expects to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* purchased for social rent in Hemel Hempstead in each of the next five years. [283679]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Within Dacorum borough new social rented housing completions are currently projected as follows:

	Number of units
2008-09 (outturn)	93
2009-10 (planned)	50
2010-11 (proposed)	126

Source:

Dacorum Borough Council, Housing Supply Statistical Appendix Returns 2009. Information does not extend beyond 2010-11.)

(b) There were seven sales/transfers made through Right to Buy in Dacorum borough in 2008-09. Information on projected sales/transfers through Right to Buy and Right to Acquire is not available as it will depend on applications. Dacorum borough council does not currently purchase empty properties to offer for social rent.

Source:

Dacorum borough council, P1B Statistical Returns 2009.

Temporary Accommodation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were in temporary accommodation in the last quarter for which figures are available. [286431]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is published on a quarterly basis and can be found in the Library and also at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq12009

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Prisoners

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Afghan Government on the custodial sentence imposed on journalist Sayed Pervez Kambaksh; [285357]

(2) whether his Department has requested that Afghan President Hamid Karzai grant a presidential pardon to journalist Sayed Pervez Kambaksh. [285358]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We share the hon. Member's concern about the continuing imprisonment of journalism student Sayed Pervez Kambakhsh. We urge the Afghan state to honour the Afghan Constitution and comply with the international human rights standards, to which it is a party, including the right to a fair trial and freedom of expression.

We opposed the death sentence imposed upon Mr. Kambakhsh at his initial trial in January 2008 after his imprisonment in October 2007. While it is positive that he no longer faces the death penalty, we are disappointed by the 20 year prison sentence he received on the 21 October 2008, a decision sadly upheld by the Afghan Supreme Court in early February. We have serious concerns about the fairness of his trials.

In April 2009, as part of the EU, we asked President Karzai to carefully consider the legitimacy of Mr. Kambakhsh's trial. We continue to follow Mr. Kambakhsh's case closely and, in conjunction with our international partners, will continue to raise it with the relevant Afghan authorities, wherever appropriate.

Australia: Diplomatic Service

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the appointment of the next High Commissioner to Australia will be made. [286707]

Chris Bryant: My noble Friend Baroness Amos will take up her post in October 2009.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many non-career diplomats have been appointed to the post of High Commissioner to Australia since 1997. [286709]

Chris Bryant: Since 1997 three non-career diplomats have held the post of high commissioner to Australia.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the term of office of the present High Commissioner to Australia ends. [286830]

Chris Bryant: The current high commissioner to Australia, the right hon. Mrs. Helen Liddell, will leave post at the end of her appointment in September 2009.

My noble Friend Baroness Amos will take up her post in October 2009.

BBC External Services

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what involvement his Department has in the determination by the BBC World Service of the languages in which it broadcasts. [285458]

Chris Bryant: BBC World Service (BBCWS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) discuss where BBCWS can best operate and which language services are best served to do this.

The BBC Charter and Agreement, section 64 (3) (a) states as follows:

The World Service must be provided:

(a) to such users outside the UK, and in such languages, as are approved by the Foreign Secretary; and

(b) in accordance with any objectives, priorities and targets agreed with him.

This is also referred to in section 10 of the Broadcasting Agreement between the BBC and the FCO for the provision of the BBCWS.

The BBC and FCO discuss the opening or closure of a language service prior to a final decision being taken.

BBC External Services: Meetings

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he has met the Director of the BBC World Service in the last 12 months. [286817]

Chris Bryant: There have been no meetings between my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the director of the BBC World Service.

There are however, regular meetings between the Minister responsible for the BBC World Service and its director. Most recently, Peter Horrocks met my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint), the then Minister for Europe on 7 May 2009.

Colombia

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met representatives of Justice for Colombia. [286858]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met my hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Central (Tony Lloyd), Vice-Chair of Justice for Colombia (JFC), and representatives of the Unite and Amicus trade unions in July 2008 to discuss human rights in Colombia.

My ministerial colleagues and I regularly meet representatives of non-governmental organisations with an interest in Colombia, including JFC. Most recently, I met Colombian trade unionist Luis Alberto Vanegas and representatives of JFC on 2 July 2009.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to volume two of his Department's Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, page 39, for what reasons his Department's estimated expenditure on consultants has increased to £60 million in 2008-09. [286033]

Chris Bryant: The figures quoted in the annual report and resource accounts for 2008-09 included managed service provision.

The Office of Government Commerce defines managed services as being

"the provision to management of objective advice and assistance relating to strategy, structure, management or operations of an organisation in pursuit of its purposes and objectives. Such assistance will be provided outside the 'business as usual' environment when in-house skills are not available and will be of no essential consequence and time-limited. Services may include the identification of options with recommendations and/or assistance with (but not delivery of) the implementation of solutions."

The managed services included Hewlett-Packard Joint Service Delivery Team staff, Cap-Gemini staff working on Prism (the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) management tool), and Fujitsu staff working on FCONet (the FCO intranet).

Consequently, the figures for actual expenditure in 2007-08 and estimated expenditure in 2008-09 are not comparable. We do not believe the actual cost on consultancy has increased.

Departmental Contracts

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on departmental contracts, what the monetary value is of each contract entered into by his Department during financial year 2008-09 with *(a)* Alchemist Partnership Limited, *(b)* Avail Consulting, *(c)* Building Services Group Ltd., *(d)* Cambridge Econometrics, *(e)*

Concerto Consulting, *(f)* Coombs Consulting Ltd., *(g)* Corporate Value Associates, *(h)* Haig Consulting Ltd., *(i)* Hanover Aviation Consulting Ltd., *(j)* Hay Group Management Limited, *(k)* Intuity Consulting Ltd., *(l)* Jedi Systems Consulting Ltd., *(m)* KPMG LLP, *(n)* Methods Consulting, *(o)* Minimal Risk Consultancy Ltd., *(p)* Mott MacDonald, *(q)* Ove Arup, *(r)* Oxford Policy Management Ltd., *(s)* PA Consulting Group, *(t)* Projected Consulting Ltd., *(u)* Purcon Ltd., *(v)* Ridge and Partners, *(w)* RPS Health Safety, *(x)* TPS Consult, *(y)* Tribal Consulting, *(z)* UCT Ltd. and *(aa)* Venn Group Ltd. [285289]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) only has a static database of all of its contracts in the UK and overseas which was compiled in the latter part of 2008. Work is currently being undertaken to convert this to a real time database. To gather all of the contract information for 2008-09 would involve disproportionate cost so the attached response reflects records kept by the two contracts teams in the FCO and FCO Services for 2008-09 which will cover a high proportion of the contracts awarded by the FCO in the UK during the period.

		Monetary Value (£)	*Comment*
Alchemist Partnership Limited	Tristan da Cunha Sustainable Development Plan	53,200	—
Avail Consulting	Vetting Unit Programme	148,500.00	—
Building Services Group Ltd	Strategy and Business Consultancy Services	share of 4,000,000 framework	Framework awarded to four suppliers, total monetary value of £4m
	Dubai Gatehouse - engineering advice	41,425	Framework Consultant
Cambridge Econometrics	Consultancy Services: Impact of oil prices on global economic recovery	33,845	—
Concerto Consulting	Senior Facilities Management Advisor	174,000	—
Coombs Consulting Ltd	Management Services Internal Consultancy Support to FCOS ESG	70,000.00	—
Corporate Value Associates	Strategy and Business Consultancy Services	See Avail above	Framework awarded to four suppliers, total monetary value of £4m
Haig Consulting Ltd	Estates Related Project Management Services	511,000.00	—
Hanover Aviation Consulting Ltd	Framework Agreement for Air Brokerage Agent		DFID owned Framework. No FCO contract placed by FCO Contracts Team to date
Hay Group Management Ltd	Benchmarking for FCO Pay Grades in Asia-Pacific Region	17,000	—
Intuity Consulting Ltd	Consultancy Services for Programme and Project Mgt Services for PRISM Declassification	252,000	Annual Commitment
Jedi Systems Consulting Ltd	HMRC Support Contract	30,624.00	—
KMG LLP	Strategy and Business Consultancy Services	See Avail above	Framework awarded to four suppliers, total monetary value of £4m
Methods Consulting	Provision of Consultancy Services to FM Project	143,000	—
Minimal Risk Consultancy Ltd	Provision of Intelligence Staff in Afghanistan	387,935	—
Mott MacDonald	Basra: Hollyoaks - Additional Protection	142,082	—
Ove Arup	Kuala Lumpur - COW services	18,913	Framework Consultant
Oxford Policy Management Ltd	Provision of Economic Advice to Governments of up to five British OTs	51,000	—
PA Consulting Group	Strategy and Business Consultancy Services	See Avail above	Framework awarded to four suppliers, total monetary value of £4m
	Provision of Consultancy Services for Knowledge and Information Management Strategy	35,000.00	—
Projected Consulting Ltd	Projected Consulting Ltd	305,760.00	Configuration, Implementation and User Training for FCO Services Prism Software focusing on the Oracle Project Suites and modules and related applications
Purcon Ltd	PCMD Category Manager	47,838.00	—
Ridge and Partners	Podgorica New Embassy and Residence	90,000	Spend figure
RPS Health Safety	Madrid Asbestos Survey	7,000	Contract sum
TPS Consult	Khartoum Asbestos Survey	9,750	Contract sum
	Tbilisi - BREEAM assessment	11,462	Framework Consultant
	Staff Replacements	103,883	Framework Consultant
	Staff Replacements	131,684	Framework Consultant
	Mexico City - Facility review	6,095	Framework Consultant
	Stockholm -PerimeterWall	12,200	Framework Consultant
	Buenos Aries - Perimeter Wall	30,000	Framework Consultant

		Monetary Value (£)	Comment
	Chongqing - Post Quake Survey	14,500	Framework Consultant
	Minsk - Structural Review	6,600	Framework Consultant
	Tripoli-Blast Survey	12,000	Framework Consultant
	Kuala Lumpur - Blast Survey	25,000	Framework Consultant
	Rangoon - Feasibility study	7,800	Framework Consultant
	Tripoli - M and E survey	10,997	Framework Consultant
	Stockholm - blast glazing survey	4,240	Framework Consultant
	Brussels - Structural Survey	6,500	Framework Consultant
	Damascus - Delapidation Report	6,000	Framework Consultant
	Dubai - Gatehouse structural advise	19,200	Framework Consultant
	Pristina - Due diligence report	45,995	Framework Consultant
	Minsk - Structural Review	6,000	Framework Consultant
	Mexico city - Blast advice	16,532	Framework Consultant
	San Jose - Earthquake Report	17,800	Framework Consultant
	Khartoum - Structural Advice	5,713	Framework Consultant
	Boston - BREEAM Assessment	12,230	Framework Consultant
	Basra - Ad-hoc advice	1,000	Framework Consultant
	Tripoli - Survey report	28,540	Framework Consultant
Tribal Consulting	Provision of Strategic Partner to assist in Producing IT Training Strategy	99,000	—
UCT Ltd	Pyramid Software Development and Support IS Services and Management Information Systems	400,000.00	—
Vena Group Ltd	Provision of Security Guarding Procurement Lead	125,000	—

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on departmental contracts, what the monetary value is of each contract entered into by his Department during financial year 2008-09 with *(a)* Alfaplan Gradenje, *(b)* Asbestos Removals Logistics Ltd., *(c)* ATG Access Ltd., *(d)* Bymaro, *(e)* Controlled Building Services Ltd., *(f)* Gilbert Ash Fit-Out, *(g)* Gleeds (QS), *(h)* Gleeds Building Surveying, *(i)* GMW Architects, *(j)* HOK International, *(k)* Jordan + Bateman, *(l)* Knight Frank, *(m)* Mayfair Building Services, *(n)* Orostream International Contracts Ltd., *(o)* Ove Arup, *(p)* Ridge and Partners, *(q)* Toffco SDN BHD, *(r)* Windell Ltd. and *(s)* Zeal Interiors. [285290]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) only has a static database of all of its contracts in the UK and overseas which was compiled in the latter part of 2008. Work is currently being undertaken to convert this to a real time database. To gather all of the contract information for 2008-09 would involve disproportionate cost so the following response reflects records kept by the two contracts teams in the FCO and FCO Services for 2008-09 which will cover a high proportion of the contracts awarded by the FCO in the UK during the period.

		Monetary value (£)	Comment
Alfaplan Gradenje	Dubrovnik Consulate Fit-Out works	53,202.37	Contract sum
Asbestos Removals Logistics Ltd	Singapore Asbestos Removal	76,614.00	Contract sum
ATG Access Ltd	Athens Perimeter Security Works	435,515	Contract sum
Bymaro	Rabat—Fire and Flood reinstatement	1,205,102	—
Controlled Building Services Ltd	Addis Ababa Office Extension	370,479.00	Contract sum
Gilbert Ash Fit-Out	Ibiza re-model and Fit-Out (Stage 1)	25,928	Contract sum
	Prague Refurbishment of Offices	498,894	Contract sum
	Georgetown Office Modifications	447,568	—
Gleeds (QS)	(See various contracts for Gleeds listed under Gleeds Building Surveying following)	—	—
Gleeds Building Surveying	Tehran—Tender analysis	4,707	Framework Consultants
	Dubai—Gatehouse OS Commission	14,547	Framework Consultants
	Basra—Office Fit-Out	63,000	Framework Consultants
	New Delhi—Strategic Review of Compound	210,502	Framework Consultants
GMW Architects	Tripoli—New Offices	40,250	Framework Consultants

		Monetary value (£)	Comment
	Jeddah—architectural services	14,445	Framework Consultants
	Tripoli—Architectural services	7,759	Framework Consultants
HOK International	Mexico City—Multidisciplinary services	73,376	Framework Consultants
	Boston—Architectural Duties	168,703	Framework Consultants
Jordan + Bateman	Portimao Consular Fit-Out	254,439.67	Consultant to Sherman Projects & Services
	Architectural Design Services	34,560.00	Framework Consultants
	Baku—New Residence	557,506.00	Framework Consultants
	Dubai—Gatehouse architectural Commission	35,094.00	Framework Consultants
Knight Frank	American Property Evaluation	250,000	Contract sum
Mayfair Building Services	Caracas Safety and Rewire Works for Residential Properties	52,399.17	Contract sum
Overstream International Contracts Ltd	Kabul Internal Fit-out works	637,152.39	Contract sum
	Bogota 8th Floor Fit-Out	226,336.00	Contract sum
	Khartoum Replacement of Chillers	135,364.00	Contract sum
	Minsk Relocation of Classified Area	287,050.00	Contract sum
	Port Stanley Office Extension and Fire Precaution Works	198,010.35	Contract sum
	Podgorica New Embassy and Residence	778,000.00	Spend figure
Ove Arup	Kuala Lumpur COW services	18,913	Framework Consultant
	New Delhi—Strategic Review of Compound	13,500	Framework Consultant
	Canberra—Security works	84,116	Framework Consultant
Ridge and Partners	Podgorica New Embassy and Residence	90,000	Spend figure
	NW Europe Asbestos Surveys	77,785	Framework Consultant
	Tripoli—Asbestos Surveys	9,032	Framework Consultant
	Rabat—PM services	29,207	Framework Consultant
	Belgrade—Feasibility Study	25,000	Framework Consultant
	Ottawa Office—Upgrade	211,000	Framework Consultant
	Khartoum—Asbestos surveys	11,977	Framework Consultant
	Basra—Office fit-out	14,622	Framework Consultant
	Belgrade—Facade Repairs	22,752	Framework Consultant
	New Delhi—Asbestos Review	9,960	Framework Consultant
Tolliss SDN BHD	Kuala Lumpur Repairs to Residential Block and Staff Club	19,013.04	Contract sum
	Kuala Lumpur Car Park Waterproofing works	83,992.80	Contract sum
	Kuala Lumpur: Replacement of East Perimeter Wall	276,434.00	Contract sum
Windell Ltd	Singapore Blast Enhanced Glazing	570,466.00	Contract sum
Zeal Interiors	Wellington—Office Refurbishment	215,163	—

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on departmental contracts, what the monetary value is of each contract entered into by his Department during financial year 2008-09 with *(a)* Bramble.cc Ltd., *(b)* Business Objects (UK) Limited, *(c)* Computacenter, *(d)* Data Capture Solutions and *(e)* ODEC Ltd. [285291]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) only has a static database of all of its contracts in the UK and overseas which was compiled in the latter part of 2008. Work is currently being undertaken to convert this to a real time database. To gather all of the contract information for 2008-09 would involve disproportionate cost so the following response reflects records kept by the two contracts teams in the FCO and FCO Services for 2008-09 which will cover a high proportion of the contracts awarded by the FCO in the UK during the period.

		Monetary value (£)	Comment
Bramble CC Ltd	Provision of Consultancy Services of Taxonomy Specialists	44,750	—
Business Objects (UK) Ltd	07/08 Financial Model and Statutory Accounting System Support	337,000	—
Computacenter	Provision of Contractors through OGC Catalyst Framework	988,044.39	Spend figure
Data Capture solutions	Scanning of Treaty Texts	—	Price per page subject to usage
ODEC Ltd	Provision of Analyst for Joint Narcotics Analysists Centre	117,250	Contract sum

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on departmental contracts, what the monetary value is of each contract entered into by his Department during financial year 2008-09 with *(a)* Ambrose HR Ltd., *(b)* Capita Group plc, *(c)* LA International, *(d)* Morson Human Resources Ltd., *(e)* Morson International, *(f)* Spire Business Support Ltd., *(g)* TMP (UK) Ltd. and *(h)* Veredus. [285292]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) only has a static database of all of its contracts in the UK and overseas which was compiled in the latter part of 2008. Work is currently being undertaken to convert this to a real time database. To gather all of the contract information for 2008-09 would involve disproportionate cost so the following table reflects records kept by the two contracts teams in the FCO and FCO Services for 2008-09 which will cover a high proportion of the contracts awarded by the FCO in the UK during the period.

		Monetary value (£)	*Comment*
Ambrose HR Ltd.	Provision of consultancy services	37,484.00	Contract sum
Capita Group plc	Provision of contractors through OGC Catalist Framework	215,930.00	Spend figure
LA International	Provision of contractors through OGC Catalist Framework and FCO Services Framework	3,344,102.99	Spend figure
Morson Human Resources Ltd	See contract for Morson listed under Morson International below	—	—
Morson International	Provision of TWS staff	7,674,726	Contract sum
Spire Business Support Ltd.	Provision of consultancy services	121,000.00	Contract sum
Veredus	Provision of contractors through OGD Frameworks	694,188.38	Spend figure

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on departmental contracts, what contracts were entered into with *(a)* Coffey International Development Ltd., *(b)* CP Recoveries, *(c)* Crown Agents, *(d)* Ebla Translations, *(e)* DGSI, *(f)* Disposal Services Authority, *(g)* Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP, *(h)* Fugro Middle East, *(i)* GTZ, *(j)* Heathrow Airport Limited, *(k)* MCI UK Ltd., *(l)* RN Golds Associates, *(m)* SMA Ltd., *(n)* Thales UK Ltd. and *(o)* The Carbon Trust in 2008-09; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [285293]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) only has a static database of all of its contracts in the UK and overseas which was compiled in the latter part of 2008. Work is currently being undertaken to convert this to a real time database. To gather all of the contract information for 2008-09 would involve disproportionate cost so the following table reflects records kept by the two contracts teams in the FCO and FCO Services for 2008-09 which will cover a high proportion of the contracts awarded by the FCO in the UK during the period.

		Monetary value (£)	*Comment*
Coffey International Development Ltd.	Civilian support to Ministry of Interior and Iraqi Police Service	4,049,475	—
	Fiscal policy assistance for Government of Maldives	46,510	—
CP Recoveries	Consultancy services—construction project review and remediation	121,550.00	Contract sum
Crown Agents	Life support services in Afghanistan	1,189,090	—
	Provision of interpreter for BCG Basra	52,908	—
Ebla Translations	Translation for Arabic and Urdu websites	—	Price per 1,000 words translated -subject to usage
DGSI	Provision of IT software and hardware	1,194,797.16	Spend figure
Disposal Services Authority	Managed disposal service	5,000	—
Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP	Provision of legal advisers to major Telecommunications procurement	199,619	—
Fugro Middle East	Dubai—Soil Investigations	7,509	—
GTZ	Drug education, detoxification and rehabilitation services to Afghan National Police	500,000	—
Heathrow Airport Limited	Service agreement in relation to royal suite at Heathrow airport	686,100	—
MCI UK Ltd.	Event management services for FCO Leadership Conference 2009	207,104	—
RN Golds Associates	Consultancy services—services and construction phase audit/QS services	33,510	—
SMA Ltd	Worldwide Lift Consultancy Term Commission	1,634,457.23	Contract sum

		Monetary value (£)	Comment
Thales UK Ltd.	Provision of and secure destruction of security goods	643,839.00	Spend figure
The Carbon Trust	Carbon Trust consultancies	110,000.00	—

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each database expected to become operational in the next five years and which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286154]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s Data Protection Register entry with the Information Commissioner's Office is to be renewed in September this year. The general categories for which the Department processes personal data for its work will be similar to those listed now, for example, processing a range of personal data for providing consular assistance to British nationals overseas. However, the FCO will continue to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 and governmental data handling standards.

Departmental Manpower

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff his Department employed in *(a)* the Middle East and *(b)* South Asia (i) in 2007 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [285281]

Chris Bryant: On 1 April 2007 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employed 133 UK civil servants at posts in the middle east and 104 UK civil servants at posts in south Asia.

On 1 July 2009 the FCO employed 137 UK civil servants at posts in the middle east and 147 UK civil servants at posts in south Asia.

We do not hold figures centrally for the numbers of staff recruited locally to work at each post.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1420W, on departmental pay, who the employers are who are paying less than £7.45 an hour for work contracted out by his Department; what the nature of the work undertaken on each contract is; how many staff at each *(a)* payband and *(b)* location are working on each contract; what the duration of each contract is; and what union recognition agreements are in place with each contractor. [285513]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* Two contractors working within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pay some of their staff less than £7.45 per hour.

These contractors are Interserve and Compass. Both companies share responsibility for delivering different facilities management services to the FCO, including cleaning, porterage, grounds maintenance and catering. Neither company operates a payband structure.

In the case of Interserve, it employs 40 cleaners, and one porter based in London who are paid less than £7.45 per hour. It also employs 19 cleaners, three porters and one grounds maintenance operative based in our offices near Milton Keynes who are paid less than £7.45 per hour.

Compass employs 17 catering staff in London and 12 catering staff in our offices near Milton Keynes who are paid less than £7.45 per hour.

The contract the above companies deliver commenced on 1 December 2008 and is set to run for a minimum of seven years, with an option to extend for up to three further years.

Both companies recognise all UK unions and actively consult with them on issues which affect their members.

Departmental Policy

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what policy objectives he has set for the UK's economic and political cooperation with its international partners; and what his assessment is of his Department's performance against those objectives in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [285288]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s annual report for the financial year 2008-09 was laid before Parliament on 30 June 2009 and is also available at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/departmental-report/

as is the report for 2007-08. The report sets out how the FCO spends public funds to meet its policy and service delivery objectives.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285312]

Chris Bryant: In April 2009 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) introduced a policy change for its stationery and office equipment requirements. This ensures that an approved core-list of non-branded products is purchased rather than more expensive brand-name alternatives. The policy change will save the FCO approximately £32,000 in the current financial year.

Embassies: EU Countries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse of the British Embassy in each other European Union member state was in each of the last 10 years. [282838]

Chris Bryant: The information requested by the hon. Member is set out in the table. The information includes some current EU member states which were not members 10 years ago.

The apparent rise in costs in 2004-05 relate to a change in costing methodology. In 2006-07 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office reverted back to the previous methodology (and has continued to use this methodology since).

Net running costs for British embassies and high commissions in European Union countries

Net running costs in each year (all figures in GBP)

Country	*Embassy/high commission*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
Austria	Vienna	5,284,113	5,474,148	2,794,757	3,196,085	6,209,295
Belgium	Brussels	11,900,083	—	13,405,711	5,196,904	6,641,446
Bulgaria	Sofia	1,045,318	1,595,213	3,225,912	—	2,321,637
Cyprus	Nicosia	2,444,718	2,851,383	3,016,058	—	3,830,030
Czech Republic	Prague	2,277,065	2,815,881	2,719,503	—	3,440,671
Denmark	Copenhagen	2,855,888	3,286,808	3,558,954	4,300,612	4,507,265
Estonia	Tallinn	1,006,415	1,299,208	1,167,332	962,467	1,547,297
Finland	Helsinki	2,903,325	3,311,850	3,412,726	3,469,064	4,125,316
France	Paris	14,438,010	16,358,233	15,022,547	19,884,234	20,270,541
Germany	Berlin	10,078,569	12,055,033	12,976,590	14,214,571	12,641,292
Greece	Athens	3,787,077	4,741,176	5,190,764	6,622,480	7,488,108
Hungary	Budapest	3,908,898	4,183,592	3,796,268	4,501,150	4,941,115
Ireland	Dublin	2,941,175	3,298,197	3,671,490	4,964,419	4,748,141
Italy	Rome	8,818,516	9,693,033	7,888,783	10,747,995	10,166,167
Latvia	Riga	997,955	1,593,727	1,693,576	1,714,186	1,636,662
Lithuania	Vilnius	807,832	1,178,891	1,288,900	1,136,211	1,488,212
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	886,140	1,187,541	1,146,021	1,290,995	1,320,058
Malta	Valletta	973,582	1,552,250	1,779,689	1,960,630	2,348,864
Netherlands	The Hague	3,713,759	4,031,701	3,941,971	4,672,907	5,184,064
Poland	Warsaw	4,496,910	5,174,545	5,769,669	5,881,296	6,053,874
Portugal	Lisbon	3,022,647	3,590,121	3,455,653	4,029,547	4,991,692
Romania	Bucharest	1,756,690	2,476,491	2,423,329	2,842,576	2,592,479
Slovakia	Bratislava	806,180	1,220,522	1,546,586	1,539,024	1,773,036
Slovenia	Ljubljana	962,517	1,248,588	1,446,634	1,525,429	1,781,360
Spain	Madrid	7,273,486	7,474,979	7,396,430	9,099,869	10,773,854
Sweden	Stockholm	2,789,334	3,435,954	3,433,977	4,270,636	4,479,131

Net running costs in each year (all figures in GBP)

Country	*Embassy/high commission*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Austria	Vienna	7,901,171	7,091,980	5,154,578	5,928,659	6,781,395
Belgium	Brussels	8,795,892	—	4,182,219	4,144,313	4,168,378
Bulgaria	Sofia	3,580,902	3,917,076	3,909,167	3,156,833	4,067,144
Cyprus	Nicosia	6,171,753	5,336,535	4,551,733	4,974,961	5,648,812
Czech Republic	Prague	5,465,549	4,542,341	4,064,547	3,547,572	4,425,612
Denmark	Copenhagen	6,521,838	5,743,562	5,916,598	4,073,563	4,774,473
Estonia	Tallinn	2,178,864	1,871,677	2,119,125	2,093,100	1,391,670
Finland	Helsinki	5,681,332	3,743,114	5,329,138	3,745,381	4,208,696
France	Paris	26,849,816	18,452,952	18,575,183	16,086,714	20,739,467
Germany	Berlin	38,957,543	15,132,205	16,826,684	15,675,405	16,911,590
Greece	Athens	12,960,926	6,780,887	6,403,547	6,056,019	6,846,402
Hungary	Budapest	7,067,258	5,600,271	4,969,077	4,289,562	4,733,193
Ireland	Dublin	4,889,385	2,787,857	4,245,726	3,217,417	-3,176,461
Italy	Rome	14,516,880	9,492,625	9,590,323	9,601,594	10,907,234
Latvia	Riga	2,493,770	1,774,631	1,941,832	1,580,106	1,626,962
Lithuania	Vilnius	2,823,759	1,815,066	1,778,462	1,711,964	1,996,889
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	2,446,748	1,617,676	1,522,575	1,519,722	1,394,414
Malta	Valletta	3,760,902	2,849,295	2,649,137	2,275,026	2,141,074
Netherlands	The Hague	8,521,455	5,756,783	6,465,067	3,765,454	5,165,812
Poland	Warsaw	11,019,212	7,566,280	6,900,570	6,218,564	7,751,832
Portugal	Lisbon	6,606,631	3,937,855	5,029,238	-1,612,899	4,584,174
Romania	Bucharest	2,778,120	5,024,590	5,062,753	4,996,143	4,681,311

Country	Embassy/high commission	Net running costs in each year (all figures in GBP) 2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Slovakia	Bratislava	2,834,615	2,016,006	2,461,017	2,030,605	1,947,497
Slovenia	Ljubljana	2,955,471	2,128,466	1,813,669	1,906,867	1,834,833
Spain	Madrid	14,900,850	9,854,579	8,102,549	7,471,356	-32,584,036
Sweden	Stockholm	6,515,561	3,917,020	3,876,941	4,032,765	4,232,479

Notes:
1. Figures for all current European Union countries have been provided. However, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia did not join the European Union until 1 May 2004, and Bulgaria and Romania did not join the European Union until 1 January 2007.
2. Figures for the embassy in Brussels for 2000-01 and 2005-06, and the Embassies in Nicosia, Prague, and Sofia for 2002-03 are not available and the IT system on which the figures were recorded is no longer in use.
3. The figures for the embassies in Lisbon for 2007-08, and in Dublin and Madrid for 2008-09 are negative due to net proceeds from sale of property.

Freedom of Information: Trident

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of which his Department has disclosed information in the last 12 months have related to the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system and its launch platform. [286851]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received no requests in the last 12 months under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 related to the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system and its launch platform.

Iran: Internet

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) of 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1072W, on Iran: internet, whether his Department has received reports of the Iranian Government using technology or software provided by British companies to inspect, monitor or filter internet content. [286034]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not aware of any such reports.

Locate System

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's Locate system for tracking British travellers. [286855]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s overseas online registration and crisis database, Locate, enables British nationals to let the FCO know about their travel and residence outside of the UK. It is also a tool designed specifically for handling consular crises. Since its media launch in May 2008, the FCO website and Know Before You Go campaign literature has encouraged British travellers to use Locate. We have also used Locate successfully as part of our response to recent crises, most notably during the Sichuan earthquake and the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008.

An audit of Locate in March 2009 showed that many expatriate Britons around the world are registering with Locate and that our embassy staff are trained and ready to use the system in a crisis. The audit identified ways to improve Locate's functionality and better promote it. The results of the audit, and continual assessments of Locate's performance, are informing how we develop this important consular tool.

Royal Visits

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the participation on official visits sponsored by his Department of *(a)* the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall on visits to (i) South East Asia from 26 October to 5 November 2008 and (ii) Chile, Brazil and Equador from 7 to 18 March 2009 and *(b)* the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester on a visit to Tonga from 27 July to 6 August 2008; and if he will make a statement. [286136]

Chris Bryant: The Asia tour by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall in October to November 2008 was highly effective in bolstering our relationships with important countries. The visit to Japan was the culmination of a year-long major UK-Japan festival marking the 150th anniversary of UK-Japan diplomatic relations. The environment and climate change were important themes, and a corporate leaders' group on climate change was established. In Brunei, the British garrison was a major feature along with initiatives to promote a low carbon, high growth, global economy. The key themes for the visit to Indonesia were climate change, environment and interfaith dialogue.

Their Royal Highnesses' Latin American tour in March 2009 was similarly effective. The visit to Chile encompassed environmental, social and defence issues; his Royal Highness participated in the launch of an energy efficiency programme for the young. The visit to Brazil centred on climate change and strengthened our growing relationship with this major regional player. It included constructive discussion on sustainable development in the Amazon. The visit to the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 50th of the foundation of the Galapagos National Park, and was a special opportunity to highlight wildlife protection.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester visited Tonga in 2008 to represent Her Majesty the Queen at the coronation of King George Tupou V. It was particularly important that a member of the British Royal Family was present to bolster support for King George Tupou V's voluntary surrender of constitutional powers in order to make Tonga a constitutional monarchy. The tour also incorporated an official visit to the Solomon Islands to celebrate its 30th anniversary of independence.

Spirit of Humanity

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Israel over the interception in international waters by the Israeli navy of the Free Gaza ship, Spirit of Humanity and the subsequent detention in an Israeli port of the vessel and those on board; and if he will make a statement. [285849]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* We are unable to confirm whether the Spirit of Humanity was intercepted in international waters or in Gazan waters. When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, on 1 July 2009, he raised the issue with him. Officials at our embassy in Tel Aviv confirm that they were given good access to the British nationals arrested by the Israelis and that they were all treated well during their detention. The Israeli authorities deported the British nationals on 6 July 2009 and they are now back in the UK.

Sri Lanka: Election Observers

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to seek to ensure that independent observers monitor the forthcoming municipal elections in Jaffna and Vavuniya in Sri Lanka. [285352]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: At least two independent Sri Lankan organisations intend to monitor the upcoming municipal election in Vavuniya and Jaffna. Our view remains that a political process, based on respect, inclusion and rule of law is essential to address the underlying causes of the recent conflict in Sri Lanka. Ensuring all elections are transparent, free and fair is a crucial part of this process.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the ability of residents of Jaffna and Vavuniya who have been displaced and are being held in government clearing centres to vote in the forthcoming municipal elections in Sri Lanka. [285351]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Sri Lankan Government announced special measures to enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to vote in the upcoming municipal elections. Given the continued restrictions on freedom of movement in the IDP camps we understand that very few IDPs have registered to vote. We have raised regularly with the Sri Lankan Government the need to allow IDPs freedom of movement and to make meaningful progress on an inclusive political process.

Western Sahara: Natural Resources

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the legality of the practices of the Moroccan Government in extracting resources from Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [286783]

Chris Bryant: We have received no recent reports on the legality of the practices of the Moroccan Government in extracting resources from the Western Sahara. I am however aware of academic papers on this matter by the Former Legal Counsel of the UN.

The Government maintain the position that the Government of Morocco—as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara—are obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration, including the extraction and exportation of phosphates, do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Western Sahara.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed in *(a)* the City of York unitary authority and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber by each Governmen Department and Executive agency in each year since 1996. [285752]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed in (a) the City of York unitary local authority and (b) Yorkshire and the Humber by each Government department and executive agency in each year since 1996. 285752

In order to provide the information requested for York, ad hoc analysis has been required. This analysis is based on the Mandate collection (1997-2006) which provides approximately 90 per cent coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies and the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007-2008) which provides 100 per cent coverage. For years prior to 2003 coverage is lower.

The requested data for York are attached in Annex A.

The number of full-time equivalent staff employed in Yorkshire and the Humber by government departments and executive agencies from 1996-2005 has been published by Cabinet Office and is available on-line:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/archived-reports.aspx

The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by government departments and their executive agencies for Yorkshire and the Humber, 2006-2008, is attached in Annex B.

The information referred to as Annex A and Annex B has been placed in the Library.

Death: Alcohol

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many alcohol-related deaths there were in each age group in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [285375]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many alcohol-related deaths there were in each age group in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. (285375)

The table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in each primary care organisation in England, by age group, from 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available). A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Death: Bacterial Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths attributable to necrotizing fasciitis there were in each of the last five years. [285463]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributable to necrotizing fasciitis there were in each of the last five years. (285463)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where necrotizing fasciitis was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales, from 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths where necrotizing fasciitis[1] was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales[2], 2004 to 2008[3, 4]

	Persons (deaths)
2004	70
2005	79
2006	65
2007	87
2008	92

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code M72.5 (Fasciitis, not elsewhere classified).
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Death: Methanol

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths attributable to methanol poisoning there were in each region in each of the last five years. [285464]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributable to methanol poisoning there were in each region in each of the last five years. (285464)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where the toxic effect of methanol was the cause of death, in each government office region in England from 2004 to 2008.

The toxic effect of methanol does not appear as the underlying cause of death, but is identified from the secondary cause, or 'main injury' field in the death registration data. The figures provided may include deaths which resulted from an accident, suicide or homicide.

Table 1: Number of deaths where the toxic effect of methanol[1] was the cause of death, Government office regions in England[2], 2004-08[3, 4]

	Deaths (persons)				
Government office region	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
North East	0	1	0	0	1
North West	0	1	0	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	0	0	0	0
East Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
East of England	0	0	0	0	0
London	0	0	0	0	1
South East	1	0	1	0	0
South West	0	0	1	0	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T51.1 (Toxic effect of methanol), where this code appeared as a secondary cause.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency in the last five years. [281083]

Tessa Jowell: There was one significant loss of security classified information and one loss of personal information for the period 1 March 2008 to 30 March 2009. There were no such losses in the 12 months before that period. Figures for previous years are not available.

Information on breaches are published on an annual basis in the Department's annual report and accounts, as announced in the data handling review published on 25 June 2008.

The Cabinet Office is not responsible for any Executive agencies.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by her Department in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [286552]

Angela E. Smith: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

The Cabinet Office complies with the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were working in the economy in each region in each of the last 30 years. [285686]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were working in the economy in each region in each of the last 30 years. (285686)

The available information on people aged 16 and over in employment for 1992 to 2009 is shown in the attached table. Regional estimates for years prior to 1992 are not available on a comparable basis. This information is updated monthly as part of the Labour Market Statistics Bulletin and can be found on the National Statistics website at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=8281

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People aged 16 and over in employment by Government office region and sex, three-month period ending May 1992; then April 1993 to 2009, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	North East		North West		Yorkshire and Humberside		East Midlands	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
1992	570	485	1,605	1,332	1,191	981	1,026	831
1993	559	488	1,573	1,313	1,171	991	1,017	838
1994	556	483	1,558	1,321	1,173	982	1,021	827
1995	552	474	1,563	1,311	1,191	985	1,042	846
1996	574	482	1,568	1,326	1,188	1,002	1,039	855
1997	572	488	1,603	1,350	1,177	993	1,066	881
1998	580	482	1,593	1,335	1,184	1,013	1,079	882
1999	554	477	1,591	1,357	1,204	1,009	1,075	898
2000	572	500	1,656	1,371	1,216	1,038	1,099	904
2001	578	492	1,635	1,414	1,217	1,054	1,088	892
2002	571	520	1,609	1,427	1,235	1,039	1,096	903
2003	575	499	1,673	1,437	1,255	1,069	1,119	926
2004	589	528	1,678	1,463	1,274	1,100	1,119	949
2005	595	530	1,692	1,480	1,286	1,109	1,142	959
2006	615	545	1,704	1,493	1,313	1,118	1,158	988
2007	615	534	1,701	1,481	1,310	1,098	1,169	970
2008	617	546	1,688	1,470	1,334	1,128	1,171	990
2009	608	535	1,673	1,475	1,301	1,114	1,160	995

	West Midlands		Eastern		London		South East	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
1992	1,284	1,011	1,374	1,079	1,658	1,361	2,008	1,648
1993	1,244	1,007	1,336	1,070	1,616	1,382	1,977	1,614
1994	1,279	1,045	1,340	1,083	1,583	1,373	2,019	1,638
1995	1,297	1,033	1,366	1,093	1,637	1,398	2,026	1,654
1996	1,294	1,047	1,385	1,087	1,654	1,435	2,047	1,718
1997	1,327	1,051	1,379	1,120	1,725	1,448	2,108	1,727
1998	1,351	1,067	1,424	1,139	1,737	1,480	2,127	1,767
1999	1,318	1,087	1,430	1,158	1,831	1,548	2,179	1,798
2000	1,312	1,090	1,438	1,185	1,869	1,557	2,209	1,8[illegible]
2001	1,339	1,084	1,474	1,223	1,917	1,572	2,188	1,843
2002	1,344	1,102	1,472	1,231	1,945	1,570	2,215	1,866
2003	1,334	1,108	1,463	1,214	1,938	1,557	2,194	1,870
2004	1,343	1,119	1,492	1,260	1,967	1,564	2,200	1,840
2005	1,380	1,144	1,511	1,244	1,955	1,590	2,219	1,867
2006	1,382	1,138	1,498	1,254	1,999	1,595	2,211	1,925
2007	1,354	1,124	1,525	1,244	2,022	1,608	2,217	1,926
2008	1,393	1,133	1,530	1,294	2,095	1,653	2,287	1,948
2009	1,328	1,101	1,512	1,281	2,040	1,669	2,256	1,923

	South West		Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
1992	1,171	938	649	535	1,251	1,031	345	273
1993	1,143	967	617	522	1,203	1,006	345	263
1994	1,174	976	640	525	1,225	1,026	341	266
1995	1,184	982	641	541	1,213	1,052	350	279
1996	1,187	1,008	648	535	1,199	1,040	365	292
1997	1,231	1,038	656	554	1,201	1,056	374	303
1998	1,242	1,052	641	554	1,216	1,082	382	299
1999	1,258	1,074	654	558	1,215	1,077	381	313
2000	1,275	1,087	659	570	1,214	1,085	381	295
2001	1,278	1,094	660	570	1,246	1,108	394	305
2002	1,276	1,135	670	564	1,215	1,125	393	320
2003	1,294	1,123	689	618	1,269	1,137	420	330
2004	1,323	1,132	712	611	1,269	1,158	395	325
2005	1,341	1,146	692	624	1,289	1,165	410	332
2006	1,344	1,157	703	625	1,302	1,171	413	346
2007	1,343	1,174	718	625	1,335	1,202	432	360
2008	1,383	1,182	732	631	1,340	1,211	430	363
2009	1,355	1,202	697	626	1,315	1,195	403	349

Note:
The above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals, *(e)* EU A8 nationals and *(f)* non-EU nationals of working age in the UK were in employment in the second quarter of 2009. [286459]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) UK born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals, (e) EU A8 nationals and (f) non-EU nationals of working age in the UK were in employment in the second quarter of 2009. (286459)

The information for the April to June 2009 Labour Force Survey (LFS) quarter will not be available until 12 August 2009, the release date of the August Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when her Department plans to provide a substantive answer to Freedom of Information Act request [illegible]2511; and what the reasons are for the time taken to assess the public interest in relation to the request. [250312]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested under the Freedom of Information Act request FO125251 was released on 8 June 2009.

Lord Ashcroft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many documents her Department has made available to the Information Commissioner in relation to the request by the hon. Member for

Pendle under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information on the assurances given by Lord Ashcroft on his tax status prior to his elevation to the peerage. [285228]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* Information provided to the Information Commissioner as part of an investigation is provided in confidence. It is not Cabinet Office practice to comment on such investigations.

National Income

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the gross domestic product of each region of the UK was in each of the last 30 years. [286293]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question about the average gross domestic product in each region of the UK for the last thirty years. (286293)

Information on gross domestic product by region is not available for years from 1997 onwards. However the Office for National Statistics does publish estimates of regional gross value added (GVA) using official statistical geographies known as the Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS). Data at NUTS1 level refer to Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the Government Office Regions of England. GDP at market prices is equal to GVA at basic prices plus taxes on products (e.g. VAT, excise duties on alcohol, tobacco and fuel) less subsidies on products (e.g. the majority of agricultural subsidies).

A full range of published NUTS1 GVA estimates from 1989, including GVA per head is available on the ONS website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/PROGRESS_NUTS1.xls

Although information on gross domestic product (GDP) is available at NUTS 1 for years up to 1996, it was compiled on different conceptual, geographical and industrial bases from the current GVA estimates and is not comparable.

Further information is available from:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14650

Pay: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average wage for *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) male and (ii) female employees is; and what the average household income of working age households was in the City of York local authority area in (A) cash and (B) real terms in (1) 1997 and (2) 2008. [285825]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average wage for (a) full-time and (b) part-time (i) male and (ii) female employees is; and what the average household income of working age households was in the City of York local authority area in (A) cash and (B) real terms in (1) 1997 and (2) 2008. (285825)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. I refer you to the answer given in the Official Report, 24 February 2009, volume 488, column 594 for the average wage for (a) full-time and (b) part- time (i) male and (ii) female employees in the City of York local authority area in (A) cash and (B) real terms in (1) 1997 and (2) 2008.

Information regarding the average household income of working age households is not available for the City of York local authority area.

Regional Development Agencies

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance her Department issued to officials from regional development agencies on meeting hon. Members during the restricted period before the local and European Parliament elections in 2009. [285382]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, 70W. Copies of the guidance were placed in the Libraries of Houses and on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/civil_service/election_guidance.aspx

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the announcement of his Department's Emergency Service Review on 3 June 2009, which standards in emergency care are classified as having been challenged in the winter of 2008-09; [283877]

(2) when he expects to receive the report of the Emergency Services Review; and what data that review is analysing from the last and previous years to understand the root causes of declines in performance. [283878]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Emergency Services Review (ESR) is led by the Office of the Strategic Health Authorities on behalf of SHA chief executives and will deliver a range of outputs including conferences, tools and guides rather than producing a single report. As part of the ESR, a number of tools for local health services to use are being published this month, and a series of regional conferences are taking place between June and September of this year. An Intensive Support Team has been established to support specific challenges within the local national health service in relation to operational performance in the delivery of high quality urgent and emergency care. The analysis undertaken has included detailed work with partners drawing on a broad range of quantitative data and expert input.

No formal classification of 'challenged' was applied to performance standards during last winter. The severe weather in 2008-09 led to performance dips in some parts of the country during winter, both in ambulance response times and the accident and emergency (A&E) 4 hour standard. Despite this, the NHS performed very well, meeting the A&E 4 hour standard for the year and performing well against the new, more rigorous ambulance response time measurement.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people of each age group attended accident and emergency departments in each NHS

trust area within the ceremonial county of Hampshire for treatment for injuries sustained in an attack by a dog in each of the last five years. [286285]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of patients admitted to hospital through accident and emergency departments (A and Es) for hospital providers in the ceremonial county of Hampshire with a cause code of W54 (bitten or struck by dog). 2007-08 is the most recent financial year for which data are available. Information has therefore been provided for the five financial years to 2007-08.

Admission episodes where the patient was admitted via A and E with cause code W54 (bitten or struck by dog), by hospital providers in Hampshire and age group

	NHS trust	Under 10	10-18	Over 18	Total
2003-04	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	8	0	9	17
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	16	27
	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	0	*	*	*
	North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	*	*
2004-05	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	14	19
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	14	6	13	33
	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	0	0	*	*
	North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	*	*
2005-06	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	20	30
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	9	8	19	36
	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	*	0	*	*
	North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	*	0	*	7
2006-07	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	18	29
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	19	30
	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	0	*	*	8
	Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	0	*	*	*
2007-08	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	20	28
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	21	36
	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	0	0	*	*
	Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	*	0	*	7

Notes:
1. To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with "*". Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.
2. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the national health service have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
3. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are unproved).
5. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
6. The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. The field within HES counts only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode. Cause code used: W54—Bitten or struck by dog.
7. The admission method field within HES contains a code which identifies how the patient was admitted to hospital. Admission method codes used in this case were:
21 = Emergency: via A&E services, including the casualty department of the provider
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another health care provider
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care

Accident and Emergency Departments: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision at what locations there is in the South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust area for emergency referrals for children, the elderly and vulnerable adults outside normal working hours. [285903]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected centrally. Strategic health authorities and primary care trusts (PCTs) determine how to most effectively meet the needs of their local populations. I have asked the South Staffordshire PCT to send this information to my hon. Friend.

Cancer: Brain

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on the treatment of brain cancer in each strategic health authority area in each of the last six years. [286284]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

Dental Services

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the *(a)* adult and *(b)* child population of (i) Selby and York Primary Care Trust area, (ii) North Yorkshire Primary Care Trust area, (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iv) England received treatment from an NHS general dental practitioner in the last 24 months. [285867]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in the previous 24 months as a percentage of the population, in England, is available in table D2 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 3: 31 December 2008" report. Data are available at primary care trust and strategic health authority level, and are provided by adults and children. The most recent published information covers the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008.

This report has already been placed in the Library.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people resident in Blaydon constituency were on a waiting list for orthodontic treatment in each of the last five years; [286240]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Gateshead Borough and *(b)* the North East were on a waiting list for orthodontic treatment in each of the last five years. [286288]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, information on the waiting lists for orthodontic treatment in the Gateshead Primary Care Trust (PCT) area is shown in the following table:

Oral surgery—total number of incomplete pathways

	Gateshead PCT	North East Strategic Health Authority	England
August 2007	264	3,011	152,392
April 2008	156	1,950	121,032
April 2009	127	1,431	111,199

Note:
Data on incomplete pathways only published since August 2007
Source:
Department of Health 18 weeks RTT data

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time for *(a)* initial orthodontic assessment and *(b)* subsequent orthodontic treatment was in Gateshead borough in each of the last five years; [286244]

(2) what the average waiting time for *(a)* initial orthodontic assessment and *(b)* subsequent orthodontic treatment was in Blaydon constituency in each of the last five years. [286249]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following tables provide information on the median in-patient and out-patient waiting times for orthodontics and oral surgery within the Gateshead Primary Care Trust and the North East Strategic Health Authority areas.

Table 1: Median in-patient waiting time for elective admission (weeks). Time periods 2003-07 (commissioner based). Inpatient Commissioner Hospital Based Waiting List Statistics: Specialties—Oral Surgery, Orthodontics

	Gateshead		North East	
Month ending	Oral surgery	Orthodontics	Oral surgery	Orthodontics
March 2003	8.4	n/a	8.4	8.0
March 2004	7.9	n/a	8.4	8.2
March 2005	6.9	n/a	8.0	n/a
March 2006	4.2	n/a	6.6	n/a
March 2007	9.3	n/a	6.5	n/a
September 2007	6.8	n/a	7.1	n/a

Notes:
1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. The last time this data was collected was for period ending September 2007.
4. Where n/a, no orthodontic waiters were declared for the time periods specified.
5. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
6. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QF01 and MMRC1304

Table 2: Median out-patient waiting time for first out-patient appointment not seen (weeks). Time periods 2003-07 (commissioner based). Outpatient Commissioner Hospital Based Waiting List Statistics: Specialties—Oral Surgery, Orthodontics

	Gateshead		North East	
Month ending	Oral surgery	Orthodontics	Oral surgery	Orthodontics
March 2005	6.4	n/a	4.5	5.4
March 2006	5.5	n/a	4.7	5.6
March 2007	4.3	5.1	4.1	4.6
September 2007	4.5	6.3	3.8	4.5

Notes:
1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. Out-patient waiting times are measured from referral by the general practitioner (GP) to first out-patient appointment to the consultant.
3. From 2006-07 all time bands for outpatients not seen were first collected so only average waiting first out-patient times can be made from this point in time.
4. The last time this data was collected was for period ending September 2007.
5. Where n/a, no orthodontic waiters were declared for the time periods specified or there were very low numbers declared.
6. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QF04HR and MMRC1304

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their GP or dentist to start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer. The 18 weeks commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care, including orthodontics, which is now recorded under the oral surgery speciality.

Latest data show that since January 2009, the national health service has been delivering the operating standards for 18 weeks to ensure that no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their consultant-led treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* initial orthodontic assessment and *(b)* subsequent orthodontic treatment was in England in each of the last five years. [286253]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

Information is available for part of the period requested from which average hospital waiting times from referral to first out-patient appointment and from decision to hospital admission (both day case and in-patient) can be provided.

This information available covers the period up to and including Quarter 2 2007-08. From Quarter 3 2007-08 this data collection no longer broke waits down by speciality.

Median orthodontic speciality out-patient waiting time for first out-patient appointment

Month ending	England Weeks
March 2005	5.1
March 2006	3.9
March 2007	4.2
September 2007	3.9

Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QM08R and MMRCU04

Median orthodontic speciality in-patient waiting time for elective admission

Month ending	England Weeks
March 2003	11.2
March 2004	9.2
March 2005	8.9
March 2006	6.9
March 2007	6.0
September 2007	5.8

Notes:
1. Figures shown are for those recorded under the orthodontic speciality.
2. Out-patient waiting times are measured from referral by the doctor to first out-patient appointment to the consultant. The data are based on a snapshot in time, and so will include some patients who were yet to see a consultant.
3. In-patient waiting times are measured from the decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
4. The last time these data were collected was for the period ending September 2007.
5. Time bands for all specialties were only collected from 2004-05 onwards for out-patients so average waiting first out-patient times are only available from this point forward.
6. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are estimates of the position on average waits.
7. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QF01 and MMRCU04

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner or dentist to start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer. The 18 weeks commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care, including orthodontics, which is now recorded under the oral surgery speciality.

Latest data show that since January 2009, the national health service has been delivering the operating standards for 18 weeks to ensure that no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their consultant-led treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were on a waiting list for orthodontic treatment in England in each of the last five years. [286253]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for national health service orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner or dentist to the start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so, or they choose to wait longer.

The 18 weeks commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care. Referral to treatment (RTT) data collection monitors the length of time from referral through to treatment and is used to measure performance against the 18 weeks operational standard.

Information is collected on the total number of incomplete RTT pathways, for oral surgery, which includes orthodontic treatment. This data looks at patients who have entered a RTT pathway but whose treatment had not yet started. Data are available from August 2007:

Total number of incomplete oral surgery RTT pathways, England

	Number
August 2007	152,302
April 2008	121,032
April 2009	111,188

Note:
Data on incomplete pathways is only available from August 2007 onwards.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were on a waiting list for orthodontic treatment in each of the last four years. [286691]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for national health service orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner or dentist to the start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so, or they choose to wait longer.

The 18 weeks commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care. Referral to treatment (RTT) data collection monitors the length of time from referral through to treatment and is used to measure performance against the 18 weeks operational standard.

Information is collected on the total number of incomplete RTT pathways, for oral surgery, which includes orthodontic treatment. These data look at patients who have entered a RTT pathway but whose treatment had not yet started. Data are available from August 2007.

The following table shows data for Bexley Care Trust.

Oral surgery: Total number of incomplete RTT pathways

	Bexley Care Trust
August 2007	257
April 2008	216
April 2009	183

Note:
RTT data are only available from 2007 onwards.
Source:
Department of Health 18 weeks RTT data

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of his Department's *(a)* capital budget and *(b)* capital expenditure outturn in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [286317]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Details of the Department's capital expenditure forecasts for 2009-10 and 2010-11 were published in the 2009 departmental report (page 218), Cm 7593, which is available in the Library.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the change to the number of patient appointments available following the introduction of extended evening and weekend opening hours at GP practices in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* England. [286338]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not collected centrally on which individual general practitioner (GP) practices offer extended opening hours. GP practices can voluntarily participate in a national scheme where they should offer 30 minutes of extended opening for every 1,000 registered patients. Guidance issued to primary care trusts (PCTs) suggests that this would normally equate to 12 to 14 additional patient appointments being available in the average practice of 6,000 patients. However, there will be variations in the number of additional appointments available within each practice dependent on the list size of each practice participating in the scheme. It is not possible to estimate the number of additional appointments being delivered in Tamworth (South Staffordshire PCT). However, nationally, we estimate that around 5.5 million additional new appointments may have been created based on the current levels of extended opening. I have asked the PCT to provide any local information they have to my hon. Friend.

Hospital Beds

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 117-8W, on hospital beds, whether his Department collates data on the *(a)* sex and *(b)* age of occupants of hospital beds. [285724]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collate these data. However, the NHS Information Centre publishes Hospital Episode Statistics for admitted patient care which are available by age and gender. Summary data are published at:

www.hesonline.org.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=193

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* respiratory diseases in (i) England and (ii) each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [286251]

Ann Keen: The hospital admission data for 2007-08 for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and all respiratory disease in England and each primary care trust are contained in a the table which has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* elective in-patient admission and *(b)* first out-patient appointment in each specialty at York NHS Trust in each year since 1996. [285714]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information on the waiting times for York health services by specialty is shown in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Injuries: Dogs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* between 10 and 18 and *(c)* over 18 years of age were admitted to accident and emergency departments in each hospital trust under the external cause code of W54 as a result of an attack by a dog in each year since 2000. [285762]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Tables showing a count of the number (admission episodes) admitted to hospital via accident and emergency departments for hospital providers in England, with a cause code of W54 (bitten or struck by dog) have been placed in the Library. This information has been provided by the following age groups: under 10, between 10 and 18 and over 18, for each financial year from 2000-01 to 2007-08—the most recent financial year available.

Kidneys

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions for the treatment of kidney stones were recorded in each year since 1997. [285445]

Ann Keen: The following table shows how many finished hospital admissions for the treatment of kidney stones were recorded in each year since 1997.

Count of finished admission episodes for the treatment of kidney stones (ICD-10 codes N20.0 and N20.2)

	Count
2007-08	33,639
2006-07	31,015
2005-06	28,555
2004-05	26,210
2003-04	25,089
2002-03	21,949
2001-02	21,288
2000-01	21,145
1999-2000	21,030
1998-99	21,074
1997-98	20,932

Count of finished admission episodes for the treatment of kidney stones (ICD-10 codes N20.0 and N20.2)

	Count
1996-97	20,158

ICD-10 Code
N20.0 Calculus of Kidney
N20.2 Calculus of Kidney with calculus of ureter

Notes:

1. Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

2. Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. We have provided finished admission with a primary diagnosis of ICD-10 codes N20.0 Calculus of kidney and N20.2 Calculus of kidney with calculus of ureter.

3. Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

4. Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

5. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

6. Further primary diagnosis codes exist relating to kidney stones, however these are not limited to kidney stones and therefore have been excluded these are:

N13.2 Hydronephrosis with renal and ureteral calculous obstruction includes but is not limited to ureteric calculus of kidney and hydronephrosis.

N13.6 Pronephrosis includes but is not limited to ureteric calculus with calculus of kidney and hydronephrosis and infection.

Q63.8 Other specific congenital malformations of kidney includes but is not limited to congenital calculus of kidney.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Mental Health Services: Kent

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated for the provision of mental health services in West Kent for 2009-10. [286758]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for decisions about the funding of mental health services based on the priorities and needs of the local population.

NHS: Debt

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 494W, on the NHS: debt, how the NHS accounts for debts owed by trusts to bodies other than *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Government bodies. [283937]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: From 2009-10, accounting for all types of creditor transactions by national health service organisations is in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as adapted and interpreted for the public sector by the Government Financial Reporting Manual issued by Her Majesty's Treasury.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in *(a)* legal costs and *(b)* compensation awards arising from cases of adverse incidents associated with the use of medicines outside their licensed indication in the last 12 months. [286295]

Ann Keen: The information requested can be answered only at disproportionate cost because the NHS Litigation Authority does not record this information in a readily accessible format.

NHS: Private Sector

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what criteria relating to *(a)* medical conditions and *(b)* waiting times the eligibility of patients for access to treatment funded by the NHS in private hospitals is determined. [285989]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under free choice, patients who require an elective referral can choose to be treated at any clinically appropriate provider that meets national health service costs and standards (including waiting times standards). This includes all NHS Foundation trusts and NHS Acute trusts as well as a large number of Independent Sector providers and their hospitals.

There are some services that fall outside the scope of the choice policy. Where speed of access is particularly important (for example, patients attending a rapid access chest pain cancer services under the two week maximum waiting time). Maternity and mental health services are also currently exempt.

Pharmacy

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support primary care trusts provide to pharmacies which do not reach their prescription items threshold for *(a)* one month, *(b)* six months and *(c)* one year. [286062]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Essential Small Pharmacy Local Pharmaceutical Services (ESPLPS) contracts are in place for those low-volume pharmacies considered by their primary care trust to be essential to the proper and sufficient provision of drugs and medicines within its area. This provides a 'top-up' where the dispensing activity falls below certain monthly thresholds. For other low-volume pharmacies it is a matter for the parties locally to agree what measures, if any, may be taken, including, for example, the commissioning of additional services.

Pregnant Women

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health in pregnancy grants have been made in the London boroughs of *(a)* Waltham Forest and *(b)* Redbridge; and what estimate he has made of the number of residents of each borough who will be eligible for such grants in 2009-10. [285819]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not yet available, it is estimated that, 140,000 mothers-to-be in London will be eligible for the Health in Pregnancy grant in 2009-10.

Prescription: Fees and Charges

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress his Department has made towards exempting from prescription charges people with long-term medical conditions; and if he will make a statement. [285917]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) on 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 92W.

Primary Care Trusts: Working Hours

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to each primary care trust in respect of compliance with the revised requirements of the European Working Time Directive; and what assessment he has made of the use to which such funds have been put. [285462]

Ann Keen: A total of £310 million has been made available to support implementation of the Directive. In 2009-10 the tariff uplift includes £150 million implementing the Directive, while strategic health authorities will be able to target £50 million to support change and expansion in paediatrics, obstetrics and anaesthetics and other trained doctor solutions.

Strategic health authorities have made clear to primary care trusts and trust boards the availability of funding and the criteria for its use.

The strategic health authorities will report on usage in due course.

Swine Flu

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1052-62, on swine flu update, what scenarios have been planned for; and which of these has enabled his Department to plan for the worst. [284274]

Gillian Merron: The planning assumptions set out in the National Framework for Responding to an Influenza Pandemic, which was published in November 2007, advise planning for a range of scenarios. A copy has already been placed in the Library. These were based on advice from the predecessor of the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee, the Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza, and its subgroup on Modelling. These assumptions are for a considerably more severe and more infectious illness than the illness currently seen in the United Kingdom or abroad with the swine flu virus A(H1N1).

York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Expenditure

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what capital expenditure York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has incurred in each year since 1996-97. [285871]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table shows data for 2001-02 to 2006-07, which are the only years for which information is available for the York Hospitals NHS Trust.

	Charge against the capital resource limit (£000)
2006-07	(20,770)
2005-06	13,187
2004-05	14,916
2003-04	11,238
2002-03	843
2001-02	(9,281)

Notes:
1. York Hospitals NHS Trust achieved Foundation Trust status on 1 April 2007. The Department does not collect data from foundation trusts, therefore no data are available for 2007-08.
2. The term "capital expenditure" has been interpreted to mean the charge against the Capital Resource Limit for the year. This charge is calculated as follows:
(a) Gross capital expenditure in accruals terms for the period
(b) Less the net book value of assets disposed of
(c) Plus any loss on disposal of donated assets
(d) Less capital grants received
(e) Less donations
3. The negative figures in 2006-07 and 2001-02 indicate that the trust has disposed of assets with a net book value greater than the amount spent on the purchase of fixed assets in each period.
4. For the available data since achieving foundation trust status, my hon. Friend may wish to contact the York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust direct.
Source:
Department of Health audited consolidation schedules.

York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Waiting Times

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum waiting time for (i) in-patient and (ii) day case admissions was at York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in the quarter ending (A) December 2006, (B) March 2007 and (C) June 2007. [285868]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information on the waiting time for York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is shown in the following table:

	Month ending	*Type*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*	*Time band containing the longest Waiter (weeks)*
2006-07	December 2006	Day case	6.5	25-26
	December 2006	Ordinary	7.8	25-26

	Month ending	Type	Median waiting time (weeks)	Time band containing the longest waiter (weeks)
	March 2007	Day case	6.7	19-20
	March 2007	Ordinary	6.5	19-20
2007-08	June 2007	Day case	6.0	19-20
	June 2007	Ordinary	6.5	19-20

Notes:
1. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
2. In-patient waiting times are measure from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:
KH07

York Hospitals NHS Trust: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by York NHS Trust, excluding those transferred to Selby and York Primary Care Trust, in each year since 1996-97. [285869]

Ann Keen: The data are not available in the format requested. The following table shows national health service staff at the York Hospitals NHS Trust by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year.

Full-time equivalent

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) Medical and Dental Consultants	102	98	110	109	120	113	119	131	149	155	158	157
Of which:												
Medical Consultant	97	93	103	104	115	108	114	125	144	150	152	152
All HCHS Other Medical and Dental staff	159	176	172	171	138	124	174	189	195	215	222	217
Of which:												
Medical Other	153	166	161	160	131	119	166	180	184	206	212	208
All Non-Medical staff	3,399	3,230	3,234	3,451	2,967	2,605	2,817	2,927	2,958	3,149	3,067	3,232
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,771	1,667	1,707	1,840	1,476	1,270	1,335	1,395	1,430	1,539	1,517	1,513
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,362	1,235	1,268	1,375	1,132	915	948	990	1,023	1,111	1,071	1,030
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	409	431	438	465	344	355	387	402	407	428	446	483
Qualified Allied Health Professions	228	246	245	257	154	169	187	195	194	206	214	231
Qualified Healthcare Scientists	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	94	98	105	113	111	138
Other Qualified Scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST&T) staff	181	186	193	208	189	186	106	109	109	109	121	114
Support to clinical staff	1,021	974	943	1,014	936	788	885	908	908	1,009	968	885
Support to doctors and nursing staff	915	866	832	887	783	605	688	707	696	793	764	670
Support to ST&T staff	105	108	113	128	153	183	197	201	212	217	203	215
NHS infrastructure support	602	583	576	591	554	548	597	626	621	600	583	834
Central functions	166	155	190	208	171	183	196	215	202	184	246	307

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
											Full-time equivalent	
Hotel, property and estates	344	331	290	291	299	286	304	311	320	302	303	457
Managers and senior managers	92	97	96	92	84	79	97	100	99	114	33	70
Other staff or those with unknown classification	6	6	7	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

n/a = Not applicable. Figures for Healthcare Scientists were not separately identifiable until 2003.

Notes:

1. Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Data Quality:

2. Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level, they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level, this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

TREASURY

Quantitative Easing

17. **Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of the Bank of England's decision to implement quantitative easing measures. [286207]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Bank of England has operational responsibility for monetary policy, including use of the Asset Purchase Facility.

The Bank publishes quarterly reports on the APF, the first of which was published on 27 April. The Bank also reports on the APF in its Inflation Report and Quarterly Bulletin and regularly publishes operational information for the APF on its website.

Comprehensive Spending Review

18. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to commence the next Comprehensive Spending Review. [286208]

Mr. Byrne: Departmental budgets are set until April 2011. The exceptional economic uncertainty we now face means that it would not make sense to set budgets now for 2014, less than half way through the current spending review period. The Chancellor will set out economic and fiscal forecasts at the time of the Pre-Budget report, when he will return to this issue.

21. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking in preparation for the next Comprehensive Spending Review. [286211]

Mr. Byrne: Departmental budgets are set until April 2011. The exceptional economic uncertainty we now face means that it would not make sense to set budgets now for 2014, less than half way through the current spending review period. The Chancellor will set out economic and fiscal forecasts at the time of the Pre-Budget report, when he will return to this issue.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

22. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans have been made for total Departmental Expenditure Limits in real and cash terms for 2010-11 and 2013-14. [286213]

Mr. Byrne: Departmental budgets are set until April 2011. The exceptional economic uncertainty we now face means that it would not make sense to set budgets now for 2014, less than half way through the current spending review period. The Chancellor will set out economic and fiscal forecasts at the time of the Pre-Budget report, when he will return to this issue.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what categories of personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each such category of information began to be collected; and if he will make a statement; [285880]

(2) what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each database expected to become operational in the next five years which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement; [286151]

(3) what databases which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will contain personal information are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* expected to be operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286508]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to her on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 877W. For those databases, managed by the Treasury and its agencies, containing personal information about members of the public, the following categories of data are held:

Financial Sanctions (all categories collected since October 2007):

Personal identification information, contact information, information related to financial sanctions.

Gilts Register (all categories collected since December 2004)

Personal identification information, contact information, information related to gilts registration.

DMO Job Applicants (all categories collected since 2004):

Personal identification information, contact information.

All data stored on Treasury databases are managed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

There are currently no new databases managed by the Department, or its agencies, which will contain personal information of any kind, either under construction or expected to become operational over the next five years.

Following the publication of the cross-Government data handling review in June 2008, any new projects or programmes that propose to hold significant amounts of personal data will be obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286164]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury currently has no stand-alone photocopiers. Photocopying is carried out on multi-function devices. The other information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Banks: Regulation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further plans he has for the reform of banking regulation. [286212]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As set out in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement to the House on 8 July, the Government's plans for the reform of banking regulation are presented in the document 'Reforming financial markets.' Legislation will follow, where necessary, in the next session.

Banks: Remuneration of Senior Employees

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with banks in public ownership on remuneration packages for their senior employees. [286210]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have been clear that any rewards for senior employees in the banks must be based on solid, long-term performance which rebuilds the bank and delivers a good return for the taxpayer. As a shareholder, UKFI has worked closely with the bank to ensure these principles are adhered to. The implementation of this is for the banks' boards, in consultation with UKFI.

Economic Growth

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the future rate of growth of the economy. [286209]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As set out in the Budget:

"GDP is forecast to contract sharply in the first half of 2009, by 4 per cent. on a year earlier, to stabilise in the second half of the year, and then to pick up progressively through 2010 and 2011".

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports he has received of the progress made by Sir John Chadwick in the formulation of his advice on an Equitable Life ex-gratia payment scheme. [286196]

Mr. Byrne: Sir John provides regular updates to the Government on the progress of his work. Sir John has already established his Office, appointed its key members and actuarial advisers, and has established a website.

On 16 June Sir John issued a document setting out his proposed approach and he has requested comments to this by 17 July.

Financial Action Task Force

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the Government has received warnings from the Financial Action Task Force for non-compliance with its recommendations on combating the laundering of corrupt funds; [285378]

(2) on how many occasions the Government has delivered a progress report to the Financial Action Task Force for non-compliance with its recommendations on *(a)* requiring banks to perform enhanced due diligence for politically exposed persons and *(b)* preventing the unlawful use of legal persons by money launderers; [285379]

(3) whether the Government has received representations from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on the Government's compliance with FATF recommendations on tackling money laundering. [285799]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The anti-money laundering and countering the finance of terrorism regime of the UK was last evaluated by the FATF in 2007. The UK achieved one of the highest overall compliance ratings of any country evaluated so far and was required to report in two years on progress in addressing the deficiencies the report identified.

That progress report was delivered in June this year. The report detailed all the action that had been taken in addressing each deficiency identified in the FATF mutual evaluation and will shortly be published on the FATF website.

In the follow up report, the UK detailed the changes made to its regime since 2007, including the implementation of a requirement for banks to carry out enhanced due diligence when conducting business with politically exposed persons, thereby rectifying the identified shortfalls that led to the non-compliant rating against the recommendation on combating the laundering of corrupt funds.

Financial Ombudsman Service: Complaints

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the average time taken by the Financial Ombudsman Service to respond to complaints by members of the public in the last six months. [285677]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) is operationally independent from Government. The steps taken by the Financial Ombudsman Service to deal with the demands it faces are detailed in its Corporate Plan and budget 2009-10 published in March 2009.

Interest Rates

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of lower interest rates on *(a)* the income and *(b)* retail spending levels of those over 65 years of age whose income is largely dependent on their savings. [285208]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government recognise that historically low interest rates have particularly impacted on pensioners. Budget 2009 announced a package of support for pensioners who receive an income from savings.

In order to help those pensioners who may have been affected by lower interest rates the Government will be increasing the annual ISA investment limits for people aged 50 and over to £10,200, up to £5,100 of which can be held in cash, from October 2009.

To provide additional support, the capital disregard in pension credit and pensioner-related housing and council tax benefit will increase in November 2009, meaning the first £10,000 of savings will not be included when calculating someone's entitlement for these income-related benefits. This is expected to increase the income of 540,000 low-income households by an average of £4 a week.

The Government are also launching a new tax back campaign, through which pension credit recipients will be contacted to encourage them to claim back tax they may have overpaid on their savings income and, where possible, register to receive interest on their savings tax-free in future.

The Government have also committed to maintain the standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest at 6.08 per cent. for a further six months until the end of December 2009, to provide continued support for home owners on pension credit who receive help with their mortgage.

Personal Income

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the net cost to the public purse of increasing personal allowances to provide a *(a)* £2 and *(b)* £3 rise in net income per week if the whole of the value of the increase in income were clawed back through national insurance contributions from those earning more than £18,000 per year. [286911]

Mr. Timms: £2 per week rise in net income would require an increase in the personal allowance of £520. £3 per week rise would require an increase of £780 The national insurance contributions (NICs) system in its present form has no facility that would allow the increase in net income to be clawed back from those who earn over £18,000 and pay primary Class 1 or Class 4 NICs.

To do so would require each individual affected to have a different rate of NICs dependent on their income to ensure the income rises are exactly clawed back by the increase in NICs.

Public Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on that Department's departmental expenditure limits for the next three years. [286538]

Mr. Byrne: The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Treasury ministers have regular discussion on a range of issues in the conduct of their duties including the Departmental Expenditure Limits of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

DEFRA's Departmental Expenditure Limits for 2009-10 and 2010-11 were published on 19 June 2009 in Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2009.

Departmental expenditure limits for all Departments for the period after 2010-11 will be set at the next Spending Review.

Public Services: Finance

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department undertook a needs assessment of the cost of provision of public services in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in 1994. [285812]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The Treasury produced an update of the 1979 Needs Assessment for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in 1994.

Revenue and Customs

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requests received by HM Revenue and Customs under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2008 were *(a)* classified as not resolvable and *(b)* refused in full. [286132]

Mr. Timms: In 2008 HMRC received 1,288 Freedom of Information requests. Of these, 174 were classified as not resolvable in that HMRC either did not hold the information requested, or asked the requestor to clarify the information they were seeking.

Of the remaining requests, HMRC fully withheld the information in 312 cases. The most frequent reason for withholding information is in response to requests for customer information, relating to either individuals or companies.

The text for these 486 requests could be located and extracted only at disproportionate cost.

Taxation: Bingo

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent representations his Department has received on changes to the taxation regime for bingo; [286054]

(2) what representations his Department received from representatives of the bingo industry on estimates made by his Department in relation to the effects on that industry of recent changes to the taxation regime for bingo; and if he will make a statement; [286058]

(3) whether he has had discussions with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on his Department's proposals in relation to the introduction of a gross profit tax system to replace amusement machine licence duty; [286078]

(4) whether he has had discussions with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on his Department's proposals in relation to the introduction of a gross profit tax in place of amusement machine licence duty; and if he will make a statement; [286085]

(5) what representations he has received on his Department's planned consultation on proposals to introduce a gross profit tax in place of amusement machine licence duty; [286086]

(6) what representations his Department has received on changes to the amusement machine licence duty regime by means other than the introduction of a gross profits tax. [286103]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what timetable he has set for his Department's consultation on proposals to introduce of a gross profit tax in place of amusement machine licence duty; and if he will make a statement; [286080]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of introducing a gross profit tax in place of amusement machine licence duty; and if he will make a statement; [286083]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in revenue accruing to the Exchequer consequent on the introduction of a gross profit tax on gaming machines; and what methodology was used to determine that estimate; [286099]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects on the amusement machine industry of the introduction of a gross profit tax to replace the amusement machine licence duty system. [286104]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government plan to launch the consultation and a consultation stage impact assessment soon. The Government will produce and publish a final stage impact assessment after the consultation has closed.

Taxation: Repayments

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) in how many and what proportion of tax credit cases in which tax credits were overpaid those overpayments were being repaid by claimants in each year since their introduction; [286071]

(2) how many and what proportion of tax credit claimants have been required to repay tax credits in each year since they were introduced. [286066]

Mr. Timms: This information is not available.

The latest estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments based on final family circumstances and incomes are published on the HM Revenue Customs website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm

VAT: Garages

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the rules on value added tax liability of garages rented by local authorities to householders have been amended since 1997. [286518]

Mr. Timms: No.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship places have been created as a result of the awarding of new public procurement contracts since January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [283898]

Kevin Brennan: We do not have a central record of how many apprenticeship places have been created as a result of the award of new public sector contracts. There is no formal requirement in place in the Apprenticeships programme to record this information.

A number of Departments and agencies have already brought forward firm, quantified commitments to creating apprenticeship opportunities through their procurement processes. The Olympic Delivery Authority has pledged to create an extra 250 apprenticeship places through the development of the Olympic Park and Village. Through Building Schools for the Future procurement, we expect to create an additional 1,000 apprenticeship places, building on existing commitments in Building Colleges for the Future where we estimate that on average one in every 20 workers employed on college construction projects is an apprentice.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department has issued on the inclusion of apprenticeship opportunities in criteria for Government procurement contracts. [283899]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are committed to using the unique leverage of their £175 billion procurement programme to promote skills training and apprenticeship opportunities.

In April the then Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Office of Government Commerce published "Promoting Skills through Public Procurement", a new guide to provide procurers across the public sector with practical advice on how skills training and apprenticeships can be promoted through public procurement processes—both when letting new contracts, and working with existing contractors on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average number of apprentices in training was in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [286220]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* There were 224,800 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08, the latest year for which we have full-year information. In total, there were 418,900 learners participating on apprenticeship programmes in 2007/08. This includes learners who had started their programme in previous academic years. In the first nine months of 2008/09 (1 August 2008 to 30 April 2009, provisional), there were 196,600 apprenticeship starts.

In "World-Class Apprenticeships", we announced that we were changing the way we count apprenticeships, moving to counting the number of people starting an apprenticeship in the year ('starts') and the percentage who complete an apprenticeship ('completion rate').

Apprentices: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on funding the Council has allocated to training providers for the provision of new apprenticeship places in 2009-10. [284682]

Kevin Brennan: The Government have made clear to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) that apprenticeships are a key route to building the national skills base. The Government are committed to significant growth in apprenticeships for young people and adults.

The LSC has issued final allocations to providers for apprenticeships for the academic year 2009/10. Funding for apprenticeships has increased by almost a quarter between 2007-08 and 2009-10, to over £1 billion.

Government funding will provide for over 250,000 new apprenticeship starts in the academic year 2009-10, including an additional 30,000 of the 35,000 new starts announced by the Government in January 2009.

Companies Act 2006

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what progress his Department has made in its assessment of the merits of using provisions of the Companies Act 2006 to protect the use of the word college; [285603]

(2) if he will take steps to restrict the use of the word college to educational establishments providing education to recognised standards. [285604]

Ian Lucas: The new offence under the Companies Act 2006 of carrying on business under a name that gives so misleading an indication of the nature of the business's activities as to be likely to cause harm to the public will come into force on 1 October 2009. As this will address the problem of bogus colleges, I do not intend to add "college" to the list of words for which the Secretary of State's prior approval is required for their inclusion in either a company's registered name or any person's business name.

Consumer Protection Act 1987

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many requests for communications data were made by trading standards officials to communication service providers (CSPs) under the *(a)* Consumer Protection Act 1987, *(b)* Fair Trading Act 1973, *(c)* Trade Descriptions Act 1968 in (i) 2000, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2002, (iv) 2003, (v) 2004, (vi) 2005, (vii) 2006, (viii) 2007 and (ix) 2008; and how many of these requests resulted in the requested communications data being disclosed by the relevant CSP. [284864]

Kevin Brennan: Local authorities will make requests to service providers for subscriber details as part of their enforcement activities on a case by case basis. This information is held by the respective local authorities and is not collected by central Government.

Consumers: Protection

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department takes to ensure that consumers entering into contracts with *(a)* utilities, *(b)* communications providers, *(c)* internet service providers, *(d)* media services, *(e)* banks and *(f)* software companies are provided with comprehensible forms to protect them from agreeing to unfair terms. [284735]

Kevin Brennan: The Unfair Terms in Consumer Contract Regulations 1999 (UTCCRs) protect consumers when entering into contracts. Companies who deal with consumers and use standard form contracts must ensure they do not use unfair terms. Under the UTCCRs, an unfair term is defined as one which, contrary to the requirements of good faith, causes a significant imbalance in the parties' rights and obligations under the contract to the detriment of the consumer.

The UTCCRs require that all contract terms are expressed in plain, intelligible language. The indicative list of terms which may be unfair includes terms with which the consumer has had no real opportunity of becoming acquainted before the conclusion of the contract.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's predecessors' estate and (ii) by his Department's predecessors' agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280515]

Mr. McFadden: Electricity and gas consumption figures for BIS and its predecessors are as follows:

	Electricity	*kWh Gas*
2004-05	17,867,158	6,385,773
2005-06	18,294,370	6,011,530
2006-07	15,721,409	4,380,799
2007-08	14,068,343	5,040,888
2008-09	12,644,998	6,400,222

The figures shown for 2007-08 and 2008-09 include consumption by DIUS who occupied floors in a BIS managed building, Kingsgate House, in London. The figures do not include DIUS consumption in buildings managed by DCSF where DIUS also occupied space.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, National Weights and Measures Laboratory and UK Intellectual Property Office and they will respond directly to you.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 14 July 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in relation to how much (a) electricity and (b) gas was used (i) on his Department's predecessors' estate and (ii) by his Department's predecessors' agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

The table shows the amount of electricity and gas consumption (in kilowatt hours) that has been directly billed to the Insolvency Service by utility providers.

Financial year	*Electricity*	*Gas*
2004-05	2722806	610187
2005-06	2777875	565826
2006-07	2770868	389574
2007-08	2892753	471518
2008-09	2336081	659159

In about half of its offices, The Insolvency Service is billed indirectly via a building services charge and where this is the case we are unable to identify energy, consumption separately.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 14 July 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 12 June 2009, UIN 280515, to the Minister of State for the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

The amounts of electricity and gas used by Companies House are as follows:

Year	*Electricity (kwh)*	*Gas (kwh)*
2004-05	4,885,487	2,068,553
2005-06	5,458,489	1,894,193
2006-07	5,349,874	1,612,251
2007-08	5,315,618	1,708,260
2008-09	5,500,920	1,901,217

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 25 June 2009:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 12 June 2009 [reference 280515] to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how much (a) electricity and (b) gas was used (i) on his Department's predecessors' estate and (ii) by his Department's predecessors' agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

The expenditure by the National Weights and Measures Laboratory on electricity and gas as recorded in the Agency's accounts over the relevant years was:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ 2008-09*
Electricity	55,779.38	66,796.09	10,156.98	40,963.17	41,396.33
Gas	17,551.23	26,730.70	23,993.23	23,579.51	29,409.96

Letter from Ian Fletcher, dated 24 June 2009:

I am responding on behalf of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 12 June 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In the last 4 years the following quantities of gas and electricity were used within the Intellectual Property Office; 05/06 through to 08/09 as follows:

2005/06

Gas: 4,451,422 kwH

Electric: 2,952,075 kwH

2006/07

Gas: 4,065,852 kwH

Electric: 3,415,314 kwH

2007/08

Gas: 3,982,293 kwH

Electric: 3,404,358 kwH

2008/09

Gas: 4,035,357 kwH

Electric: 3,379,787 kwH

Figures are for Concept House and NMP. Harmsworth House consumption was included in the service charge and not monitored separately.

We are not able to provide figures for 04/05 within the specified time frame as these records are not kept electronically at present and paper records are held off site in storage.

Education: Standards

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what representations he has received on the effects on the reputation of the higher and further education sectors of trends in the numbers of establishments purporting to be colleges but not providing education to recognised standards; [285600]

(2) what steps he plans to take to cease the operations of organisations purporting to provide educational courses but not doing so to recognised standards. [285602]

Kevin Brennan: This Department and its predecessors have received representations on this issue from a number of parties. Following the Home Affairs Select Committee on 16 June 2009, the Department will form a task group to review the case for registering privately funded education providers. The task group will report back with its findings in September 2009.

Iron and Steel: Redundancy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what training schemes will be provided for skilled steel workers who are made redundant to retain and develop their skills. [282877]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are committed to providing individuals and employers with the real help they need during the current economic downturn.

In each region Government agencies, including the Regional Development Agencies and Learning and Skills Council, are working together with Jobcentre Plus to deliver its Rapid Response Service to help individuals affected by redundancy. The service provides help and advice on a range of issues, including job searches, training, and benefits, and can be delivered on employers' premises.

Newly redundant employees or those under notice of redundancy can access a new £100 million package of support that will help 70,000 people to get flexible pre-employment training designed to meet their individual needs and help them get back to work quickly. The support typically lasts two to eight weeks, and there is no restriction on the type of provision.

£58 million will also be available over two years to increase information and advice services for people looking to re-train and find work.

The Government have also created 75,000 additional work-focused training opportunities for people who have been unemployed for six months or more from any sector, to help them up-skill or re-skill and get back into work. This provision is tailored to the local job market, can be full-time supported by a training allowance, and will provide a significant uplift in skills.

Through the Train to Gain service we are also actively engaging with employers in the steel industry to provide them and their employees with the skills support that will help them through the downturn.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Learning and Skills Council on *(a)* 4 March and *(b)* 22 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [276887]

Kevin Brennan: The acting chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council has recently undertaken a review of its National Council minutes and has decided that he will make public the full minutes from the National Council meetings, subject to the redaction of any confidential information that is exempt under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Copies of the full minutes from June 2008 to April 2009 have now been published on their website, and can be found at:

www.lsc.gov.uk

Minutes of future meetings will be placed on the LSC's website within seven days of being approved by the Council.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the paper on the regional and sub-regional presence of the Young People's Learning Agency and the Skills Funding Agency, which the former Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills undertook to provide to the Learning and Skills Council at its Council meeting on 22 April 2009, has been completed. [282961]

Kevin Brennan: This paper remains under development and will be submitted to a future meeting of the LSC Council. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families are currently working with a range of partners at regional and sub-regional level to discuss how they will work with the Skills Funding Agency and Young People's Learning Agency.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of progress in the transition from the Learning and Skills Council to the Skills Funding Agency and Young People Learning Agency. [285422]

Kevin Brennan: We continue to make good progress in planning for the changes, though any transition is subject to the passage of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, currently progressing through Parliament.

In respect of local authorities, we now have proposals for the operation of the 43 sub-regional groupings that will act as the main planning bodies for learning for those aged 16-18 across the country.

Significant progress has also been made in developing the new structures for the Young People's Learning Agency and the Skills Funding Agency. The ambition is to establish shadow operations, without disrupting services to young people, employers and adult learners, from this September.

We have appointed a chair of the new LSC Young People's Learning Agency committee and appointed a chief executive designate of the Young People's Learning Agency, though this is subject to the passage of the ASCL Bill. Recruitment for the post of chief executive of Skills Funding is also under way.

LSC staff have been briefed on the new staffing structures (including numbers and roles) and locations for the new agencies and for each local authority, and processes to match LSC staff to the posts in the new structures have been communicated and are under way.

We continue to work with key partners and stakeholder to ensure that our planning for the change is as comprehensive as possible. During June and July we are undertaking a series of regional events for partners and stakeholders affected by or involved in the changes to the pre and post 19 landscapes, to provide information on the changes and invite their views on how they would like to work with the new systems locally.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many posts he expects to be transferred from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local authorities by 31 March 2010; and how many staff he expects to be transferred by *(a)* 31 August 2009, *(b)* 31 December 2009 and *(c)* 31 March 2010 from the LSC to those posts in each LSC region of England. [285581]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The LSC will continue to operate until 31 March 2010. On that date, subject to the passage of the necessary legislation in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, the LSC will be dissolved.

On 1 April 2010 LSC staff will transfer to the new structures. We expect around 950 posts to transfer to local authorities distributed across each of the local authorities in each region.

No staff will transfer before this point, though we are planning to operate the new system in a shadow mode from September 2009 as a part of the transition process. The LSC remains the legally accountable body for the planning, commissioning and funding of all post-16 provision until it is dissolved.

Learning and Skills Council: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 981-2W, on Learning and Skills Council: finance, (1) when he expects to announce the funding allocations to local authorities through the Learning and Skills Council for the academic year 2009-10; [284053]

(2) what funding allocations were made to the London boroughs through the Learning and Skills Council in the academic years *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; [284054]

(3) what funding allocations were made to each London borough for informal adult learning in the academic years *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what funding is planned for the academic year 2009-10. [284055]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has responsibility for the funding of post 16 education and training. Further education (FE) colleges and providers (including local authorities) received confirmation of their adult learner responsive allocations on 7 April 2009, with maximum contract values for Train to Gain and adult apprenticeships confirmed on 19 June 2009.

This Department does not hold information on funding allocations made to London boroughs for specific years. I have therefore asked the chief executive of the LSC, Geoff Russell to write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Skilled Workers

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent research his Department and its predecessor have evaluated on the effects of skill levels in the workforce on levels of national prosperity; [284634]

(2) what recent research his Department has evaluated on the potential effects of the numbers of people taking *(a)* further and higher education courses and *(b)* skills courses on levels of economic productivity. [284629]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is constantly monitoring research and analysis on the economic impact of education, skills and qualifications. This covers both work commissioned by the Department and by others.

Generally, there is not much research that directly estimates the impact on overall levels of national prosperity of the numbers going through HE and FE, or of the numbers holding FE and HE-level qualifications. The Bank of England found that increasing skill levels accounted for a fifth of GDP growth over the 30 years from 1975-2002[1]. Other research[2] found that lower skill levels in the UK directly accounted for up to a fifth of the productivity gap with our competitors.

In future we also hope to be able to match data from the National Employer Skills Survey, and the Train to Gain Evaluation, to data from the Annual Business Inquiry. This should help us to try and assess the direct impact of skills on firm level productivity.

However, there is a lot of research that can inform this question in a more indirect way—in particular research which analyses the impact of holding qualifications on earnings, which is generally taken as a reasonable proxy for the impact on productivity of those individuals. Relevant reports published in the departmental research series[3] since 2000 are listed as follows.

In addition, the Department co-funds the Centre for the Economics of Education (CEE). This research centre has also carried out a lot of research on the returns to the economy and individuals from education and training. Their publications can be found on their website at:

http://cee.lse.ac.uk

In brief, the research shows that individuals with higher qualification levels are more likely to be employed than those with lower qualification levels. Equally, individuals with higher qualifications are less likely to be unemployed.

Once in work, people with higher qualifications also earn more on average than similar individuals with lower qualification levels. This is true for each successive level of qualification, and applies to both academic and vocational qualifications, plus apprenticeships. In general, higher qualifications carry higher earnings returns and academic qualifications deliver higher returns than their vocational counterparts.

Research also shows that the earnings returns to qualifications have remained relatively constant over recent years. This would seem to suggest that the supply of skilled labour has been keeping pace with employer demand, and we are not saturating the market with skills and qualifications that are not in demand.

The Department will continue to monitor the returns to education, skills and qualifications, both through commissioned research and through internal analysis of data. It is vital that we gain as full an understanding as possible of these returns. This will enable us to make sure that the qualifications we deliver in future provide economically valuable skills for individuals, employers and the economy as a whole, and help us to achieve the ambitions for a high-skilled workforce set out in the Leitch report on skills.

DIUS Research Brief CEE-08-02 "An Analysis of the Benefit of NVQ2 Qualifications Acquired at Age 26-34", De Coulon and Vignoles (2008)

Ref: DCSF-CEE-02-07 "Returns to Qualifications in England: Updating the Evidence Base on Level 2 and Level 3 Vocational Qualifications", Jenkins et al (2007)

Ref: RR834—"Apprenticeships and Other Vocational Qualifications: A Cost-Benefit Analysis", McIntosh (2007)

Ref: RR465—"Sectoral & Area Analysis of the Economic Effects of Qualifications and Basic Skills", Machin et al (2003)

Ref: RR370—"Further Analysis of the Returns to Academic and Vocational Qualifications", McIntosh et al (2002)

Ref: 2001074—"Literature Review on Rates of Return to Higher Education", London School of Economics (2002)

Ref: 2002023—"Labour Market Returns to Graduates from Less Advantaged Backgrounds in the Context of Expansion: A Review of the Literature", London School of Economics (2002)

Ref: 2002041—"The returns arising from learning undertaken as adults", Department for Education and Employment (2002)

Ref: RB313—"Returns to Education: Evidence from the Labour Force Survey", Walker and Zhu (2001)

Ref: RR254—"The Returns to Education: A Review of Evidence, Issues and Deficiencies in the Literature", Harmon and Walker (2001)

Ref: RR192—"The Returns to Academic Vocational and Basic Skills in Britain". Dearden et al (2000)

Ref: 28199—"Returns to Education—evidence using a sample of UK twins", Institute of Education (2000)

[1] [1] Bell, Burriel-Llombart and Jones (2005) "A quality-adjusted labour input series for the United Kingdom (1975-2002)" Bank of England Working Paper 280.

[2] O'Mahoney and de Boer (2002) "Britain's relative productivity performance: Updates to 1999" NIESR.

[3] This covers the predecessor Departments: DIUS, DFES and DFEE.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the UK's optimal skills mix; and what steps his Department is taking to achieve that skills mix. [284677]

Kevin Brennan: "Ambition 2020", published by UKCES, reiterates Government's long held view that raising skills levels improves the country's future prosperity. "Working Futures", also published by UKCES, made it clear that if we are to emerge from the recession stronger, more adaptable and more competitive, our skills strategy must enable the UK to take advantage of opportunities in the key industries, technologies and services that will drive economic growth.

Government are investing £5 billion in adult skills this year to continue to up-skill the nation. Government have also put in place measures to ensure we are up-skilling people with the right skills. For example, sector skills agreements provide a framework for sector skills council's to work with employers, key delivery agencies and Government to address priority skills in their sector.

Government will now take a more proactive approach to ensure it delivers the right skills, in the right place, at the right time to ensure the UK can seize the opportunities of the new global economy. The new approach will include forecasting demand; taking action to manage supply to meet these demands; and thinking strategically about how we best support areas of the economy where we anticipate opportunities for high employment or high competitive advantage.

We will publish a new Skills Strategy later this year, setting out how this will work in more detail.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in selling parts of the student loan book following the enactment of the Sale of Student Loans Act 2008. [283171]

Mr. Lammy: The Government still intend to make sales from the student loan book, but it is clear that this should only be done at a time when we can get a good return for the taxpayer. For the time being, the market conditions do not allow this. However, we will actively look to identify opportunities for a sale that represents value for money as market conditions improve.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms his Department uses to assess the progress of the Train to Gain programme towards its objectives; and what his most recent assessment is of such progress. [284628]

Kevin Brennan: The progress of Train to Gain is assessed both through evaluations commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council and through the use of Management Information on Train to Gain starts and outcomes, reported in the Statistical First Release, published by the Data Service.

The most recent, fourth wave of Train to Gain evaluation comprised a survey of Train to Gain employers and a survey with learners who accessed training via Train to Gain. Reports on these employer and learner evaluations were published on 25 June 2009, alongside the most recent Statistical First Release.

The latest employer evaluation tells us that employers are satisfied, and Train to Gain is having a real impact on business:

more than nine in 10 of employers were satisfied with the quality of provision;

80 per cent. of employers who had taken up training would recommend it to others;

around half of employers sampled reported a positive impact on staff productivity;

66 per cent. reported improved long-term competitiveness.

Additionally, the latest Train to Gain learner evaluation shows that improving skills provides benefits to individuals in terms of improved employment prospects, labour market progression and social mobility:

83 per cent. of new learners said their training gave them skills that would help them do a better job in the future.

34 per cent. of learners completing a Train to Gain course reported getting a promotion, and 34 per cent. of new learners reported receiving a pay rise.

The Statistical First Release shows that since April 2006, there have been a total just over 1.25 million Train to Gain starts with around 600,000 qualifications achieved.

Train to Gain Programme: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in Tamworth constituency have successfully completed a Train to Gain course in the latest period for which figures are available. [285365]

Kevin Brennan: In 2007/08 academic year, 470 courses were achieved through Train to Gain by learners resident in Tamworth constituency, an increase from 170 in 2006/07.

This information was published in a statistical first release on 25 June 2009:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfriun09/

Tyne Metropolitan College

Mr. Byers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will provide additional funding to Tyne Metropolitan College for the purposes of *(a)* avoiding redundancies and *(b)* maintaining numbers of available courses. [286296]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has responsibility for the funding of post-16 further education (FE) and skills delivered through FE colleges and providers. In line with Government priorities, funding is prioritised towards courses that provide adults with the skills to enter and progress into employment or further learning.

As independent organisations, FE colleges are responsible for managing their own budgets and setting the conditions of service of their staff. The Government therefore have no involvement in contractual arrangements for college staff.

Vocational Training

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from training providers on the availability of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* Train to Gain contracts in the 2009-10 academic year. [273202]

Kevin Brennan: As a part of its normal tendering process, in January 2009 the Learning and Skills Council undertook a tendering exercise for Employer Responsive provision in 2009-10. 2,059 organisations accessed the pre-qualification questionnaire for this exercise, 1,553 responded to the questionnaire, 1,142 were invited to tender for Train to Gain and Apprenticeship provision, and 47 responded to the Train to Gain invitation to tender and 14 to the Apprenticeships invitation to tender.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what methodology his Department uses to assess the demand for skills training in each region. [284620]

Kevin Brennan: The Department utilises data and advice from the United Kingdom Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) and the National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) to provide a national level picture of skills needs. The most recent wave of NESS (2007) interviewed around 79,000 employers. The National Employer Skills Survey 2007 report includes a breakdown of the regional pattern of skills gaps (i.e. where employers consider that employees are not fully proficient at their job), including a distribution of skills gaps by occupation in each region (p.85) and the skills lacking by region (p.88). Each regional development agency also assesses the need to improve skills levels at regional level as part of the Regional Economic Strategy (separate arrangements apply in London).

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question *(a)* 265951 and *(b)* 265952, tabled on 18 March 2009, on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [281348]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 186W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 15 July 2009

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers of *(a)* the Welsh Guards and *(b)* the Royal Welsh Regiment are deployed in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [286101]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The deployment of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and elements of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh to Afghanistan was announced by the then Secretary of State for Defence on 16 December 2008.

The number of personnel in units may fluctuate significantly on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, and visits. Units often contain individual augmentees from other units and services, and additional members from the Welsh Guards and the Royal Welsh Regiment may be augmenting other units.

These data are not collated centrally and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces have resumed *(a)* front line service and *(b)* civilian military support duties after being diagnosed with a mental health condition in each year since 1997. [283312]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation has since July 2007 reported on the Psychiatric Morbidity of the UK Armed Forces, and quarterly Reports for the whole of 2007 and 2008 are now available both in the Library of the House and on the DASA website at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The figures show that, of the 10,103 personnel who attended a MOD Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) for the first time during this two-year period, 7,101 were assessed as having a mental health disorder of some sort. These included a wide range and severity of neurotic and mood disorders; only 335 were given an initial diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

While records are not collated centrally as to how many of these return specifically to the frontline or to other service duties, overall only around 200 personnel are discharged each year where mental and behavioural disorders are the principal disability. This demonstrates that if personnel do come forward for mental health assessment and treatment, the vast majority can be treated and remain in service.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many airborne jumps armed forces personnel undertook for training purposes from civilian aircraft in each of the last five years. [284535]

Bill Rammell: The total number of annual parachute descents by entitled service personnel conducted between 2004 and 2008 from civilian aircraft is provided in the following table. This includes displays conducted by the RAF Falcon display team, whose descents cannot be broken out from the totals.

	Descents from civilian aircraft
2004	5,610
2005	3,462
2006	2,139
2007	203
2008	3,470

Civilian aircraft make a valuable and cost-effective contribution to parachute training particularly when military aircraft are deployed on other high priority military tasks. The relatively small number of descents made in 2007 is due to an increased availability of military aircraft in that year.

Ascension Island

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 18W, on Ascension Island, when he plans to write to the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes in response to his query. [283752]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 July 2009]*: The decision by the Ascension Island Government to remove a variation in the Ministry of Defence's annual property tax liability, which had the effect of almost doubling the amount, is currently being disputed. The MOD, therefore, has not paid this new tax liability in full. Urgent discussions are taking place between the MOD and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about the amount of property tax owed. We are seeking an agreement that is fair and equitable, and assurance that the services received in return from the Ascension Island Government represent best value for money. I will inform the House once these discussions are complete.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287337]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department's resource accounts for 2008-09 are expected to be laid before the House by the summer recess.

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department of *(a)* press officers and *(b)* other press office staff has been in each year since 1997. [283064]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Currently, there are 110 press officers employed across the Department, as recorded in the Central Office of Information's White Book, of which 35 are within the central MOD Media and Communications unit or Regional Defence Press Officer Network. Additionally, there are five press office support staff.

The total includes civilian and military staff working across the Department (including within single services) and are defined as those who directly interface with national or regional media on news issues, and in direct support of operations.

The cost for the 35 press officers and five support staff employed by the central organisation based on capitation rates for 2009-10 is approximately £2.2 million, which includes some £115,000 for the press office support staff.

Press officer costs in other areas of the Department and historical records, since 1997, are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Operation Herrick 10: Operation Herrick 9

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel have lost limbs in the course of *(a)* Operation Herrick 10 and *(b)* Operation Herrick 9. [286974]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Fifteen surviving casualties from roulement 9 of Op. Herrick, between 15 October 2008 and 14 April 2009, sustained a traumatic or surgical amputation ranging from the loss of part of a finger or toe up to the loss of an entire limb or limbs.

Initial figures for roulement 10, will be reported following the end of the roulement period.

These figures include those who have had a surgical amputation performed either at military field hospitals or in hospital in the UK. These figures may be amended as records are updated.

Tornado Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying hours were completed by Tornado aircraft in each of the last 10 years. [284991]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 14-16MC, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) which provides the actual flying hours completed by Tornado aircraft from 2001-02 until 2007-08. Information prior to 2001-02 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The actual flying hours completed for 2008-09 are:

Aircraft	*Actual hours flown*
Tornado F3	7,460
Tornado GR4	22,248

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question 279511, on Demos, tabled on 11 June 2009. [285877]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I replied to my hon. Friend on 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 943W.

SCOTLAND

Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [287091]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. Any member of staff can request a change to their working pattern and line managers consider requests in line with the policy and guidance of the parent Department.

Staff below the senior civil service (92 per cent.) can work to a flexi-time agreement and local records are kept of hours worked; 4 per cent. of all staff work part-time; and 4 per cent. work compressed hours. No staff work on job-share or work from home for more than four hours per week.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287342]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not produce its own set of resource accounts, the Office's figures are included within the resource accounts of the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the floor area is of each of the premises occupied by his Department. [284860]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office occupies premises at Dover House, London and Melville Crescent, Edinburgh. Both buildings provide non standard office accommodation and have listed building status, they provide both office space as well as accommodation that can be doubled up for hosting events. The office occupies a floor area of 927.5m^2 in Dover House and 694m^2 in Melville Crescent.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286541]

Ann McKechin: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or

databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

The Scotland Office shares an information technology system with the Scottish Executive, who are responsible for the development, administration, security and maintenance of the system. They comply with the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286166]

Ann McKechin: Details of the number of Scotland Office photocopiers, scanning devices and fax machines in each of the last three years are provided in the following table:

Scotland Office—overall

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Photocopiers	6	5	4
Scanning devices	2	2	3
Fax machines (incl. secure fax)	19	18	16

My officials are in regular communication with their counterparts in the Scottish Government and about the information and communications technology system (SCOTS), which the Office shares with the Scottish Government, as well as compatible devices that will help reduce the carbon footprint of the office.

The Scottish Government are complying with the same standards as those set out in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

Departmental Publications

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland who authored the Scotland Office Background Paper, Scotland and oil, published 18 June 2009; when the Paper was commissioned; what background papers the Scotland Office has published since May 1997; who was consulted in the production of the Paper; what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* producing and *(b)* printing the Paper; and what steps his Department took to publicise the Paper. [286784]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The paper was produced by the Scotland Office to provide a factual analysis of the position to help inform debate. It was prepared over the course of 2009, in consultation with other relevant Government Departments.

As the paper was part of the ongoing work of the Scotland Office, there were no additional costs involved. It was made available on the Scotland Office website.

Similar papers may be published in the future, as appropriate, but have not been hitherto.

TRANSPORT

Air Misses

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many air proximity hazards have been reported to the Civil Aviation Authority's UK Airprox Board in each year since 1997. [285836]

Paul Clark: The Airprox events for the years from 1997 to 2008 are given in the following table.

	Number of Airprox events
1997	208
1998	201
1999	208
2000	198
2001	195
2002	221
2003	181
2004	207
2005	188
2006	159
2007	154
2008	155

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to require cabin air quality monitoring systems to be installed on passenger aircraft. [286904]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* UK passengers travel on a range of global airlines. Within Europe, we suggest that any mandatory system to be fitted to commercial passenger aircraft would have to be required and approved by the European Aviation Safety Agency, on the basis of evidence that it was necessary and fit for purpose i.e. capable of detecting any specific items of concern in the circumstances where these might occur. In the UK we are conducting research to ascertain what substances are in cabin air, and at what concentrations, both in normal circumstances and during occasional "fume events". When we have obtained and assessed this information, it may be appropriate for the UK to recommend some kind of detection systems.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what procedures are used to quantify and investigate instances of air contamination on board commercial aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [286905]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The principal procedure is the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting scheme which the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) established in 1976. Its objectives are to ensure that the CAA is advised of any hazardous, or potentially hazardous, incidents and defects (occurrences), and that appropriate action is taken. All reports are disseminated to the relevant specialists in CAA. The Head of the Aviation Health Unit will see any where health effects are reported.

Should an individual wish to bypass his employer in reporting an incident, a separate procedure exists whereby details can be sent to the Confidential Human Factors Incident Reporting Programme.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the responsibilities of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Civil Aviation Authority and *(c)* the Health and Safety Executive are in relation to the health of persons on board commercial aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [286906]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The functions of the Secretary of State for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) with respect to health are set out in section 8 of the Civil Aviation Act 2006.

S8 (2) amends the functions of the Secretary of State in the Civil Aviation Act 1982 to include a "general duty of organising, carrying out and encouraging measures for safeguarding the health of persons on board aircraft".

S8 (3) amends the functions of the CAA to include the "health of persons on board aircraft".

S8 (4) requires the CAA to provide assistance to the Secretary of State in relation to the function.

The CAA established the Aviation Health Unit in 2003 as a centre of expertise on aviation health matters. It provides advice to the UK Government and other stakeholders; and suggests and oversees research on relevant aviation medical issues.

Separately, the CAA has specific health and safety regulatory responsibilities under the Civil Aviation (Working Time) Regulations 2004 for crew members (flight and cabin crew) of UK public transport aircraft. The Regulations require employers to ensure that each crew member is provided with adequate health and safety protection and prevention services or facilities appropriate to the nature of his employment.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is responsible for the enforcement of health and safety legislation in Great Britain and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA) applies within British air space. A memorandum of understanding exists between the CAA and the HSE to reduce regulatory duplication of effort. Similar arrangements exist for Northern Ireland.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Lord Turner of Ecchinswell and *(b)* other members of the Committee on Climate Change on the effect on lifeline flights of proposed targets for aviation emissions; [285958]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of the Committee on Climate Change on the effect on plans to expand Heathrow Airport of the proposed aviation emissions targets. [286068]

Paul Clark: The Committee on Climate Change will provide independent advice to the Government by December 2009 this year on the 2050 UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions target. The Committee is currently undertaking analysis of a range of factors that might contribute to meeting the target. The Department for Transport meets from time to time with the Committee on Climate Change at ministerial and official level in order to provide information in support of the Committee's analytical work on the 2050 target.

No discussions have taken place with the Committee on the effects of the target on specific aviation policy initiatives. The Government will develop their approach to achieving the target once they have received the Committee's advice.

Departmental Information

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to his Department of press office staff other than press officers has been in each year since 1997. [283069]

Chris Mole: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which Minister approved the 2009 pay remit for his central Department; on what date that remit was *(a)* sent to that Minister, *(b)* approved by the Minister and *(c)* sent to HM Treasury. [286977]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State for Transport approved the final version of the 2009 remit of the central Department on 3 June 2009 having been sent to the Minister that day. The final remit was submitted to HM Treasury on 4 June 2009.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the job titles are of the senior managers who approved the 2009 pay remit for his central Department; and on what date *(a)* that remit was sent to and *(b)* approved by those managers. [286978]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport (DfT) (C) Executive Committee discussed the pay remit for DfT (C) at its meeting on 28 April 2009.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Alistair Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many applications for vehicle excise duty refunds from *(a)* private owners and *(b)* motor dealerships have been processed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each month since January 2008; and what the monetary value was of the refunds made in each such month. [286791]

Paul Clark: The following table provides the total number and value of vehicle excise duty refunds processed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) since January 2008. Separate figures are not available for private owners and motor dealerships. However, since January 2009 only the current or previous registered keeper would receive a refund of vehicle excise duty and then only after informing the DVLA why the vehicle no longer requires a valid tax disc:

Month	Volume	Value (£000)
January 2008	314,491	19,011
February 2008	302,928	21,383
March 2008	272,720	17,447
April 2008	393,654	24,724
May 2008	301,969	22,010
June 2008	336,389	21,281
July 2008	321,566	22,322
August 2008	290,476	20,329
September 2008	306,270	20,031
October 2008	355,190	26,895
November 2008	313,229	23,223
December 2008	234,214	18,330
January 2009	235,022	17,262
February 2009	195,601	11,688
March 2009	191,752	16,579
April 2009	274,613	16,216
May 2009	183,451	14,721
June 2009	270,709	17,704

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has for levels of staff recruitment to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency; and if he will make a statement. [286979]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is committed to efficiency and will continue to critically assess that to reflect the economic situation and customer need, including contributing fully to future public spending rounds. We anticipate that it is likely that there will continue to be turnover, for example in a number of specialist vacancies such as Accountants and Procurement Specialists that will need to be recruited. Fixed term and temporary appointments are also used to manage fluctuating business demands.

Railways: Franchises

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department will allocate to rail franchises in revenue support in financial year 2009-10. [286901]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The Department for Transport maintains financial forecasts of anticipated revenue support payable to Train Operating Companies. However, this information is commercially confidential and market sensitive.

Shipping

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many incidents of ships losing hazardous cargo overboard resulted in *(a)* court actions and *(b)* fines since 1979; and what the (i) nature of the conviction and (ii) financial penalty was in each case. [286298]

Paul Clark: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has recorded this information centrally since 2001. There have been no court actions or fines against ship owners for losing hazardous cargo overboard since then.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Vehicles

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abandoned vehicles were recorded in England in each year since 1997. [286451]

Dan Norris: The numbers of abandoned vehicles reported by local authorities in England to DEFRA between 2000-01 and 2003-04 in the Municipal Waste Management Survey, and from 2004-05 onwards via WasteDataFlow, are available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/waste/wrabanvehicles.htm

National figures prior to 2000-01 were not collected by DEFRA.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the report of the Circus Working Group on the future use of wild animals in travelling circuses will be published. [287097]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The report of the Circus Working Group on wild animal acts in travelling circuses was released on 20 November 2007.

Following the publication of that report, which found that there was no existing evidence that justified banning wild animal acts in circuses, DEFRA launched a feasibility study to look at the possibility of regulating the use of such animals in circuses.

The feasibility study is due to report later this year.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285016]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) provides Internet Explorer 7 to staff via our internal office system.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information the Waste Improvement Network has provided to local authorities on the procurement of containers for the collection of household waste. [286526]

Dan Norris: The Waste Improvement Network (WIN) exists to share information between councils and publish guidance from all available sources in one place on waste management issues. It does not issue advice directly to councils. However, WIN promotes existing framework contracts which can be used to procure bins, and provides links to general information, guidance, advice and case studies from available sources on both procurement and waste collection strategy.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will direct the Bird Management Unit of the Food and Environment Research Agency to conduct research into the effect on the prevalence of *(a)* vermin and *(b)* insects of different modes of collection of household waste. [286530]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA currently has no plans to commission research into the effect on the prevalence of 'vermin' or insects of different modes of collection of household waste.

Horses: Artificial Insemination

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 324W, on horses: artificial insemination, how many semen straws from the Hanoverian stallion Weltmeyer, reference 31-44035-84, have been imported into the UK since January 1989. [285008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Landfill: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of carbon dioxide emissions arising from landfill activities in the latest period for which figures are available. [285559]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

According to the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory, landfill activities accounted for 3.2 per cent. of UK total emissions in 2007. This is from methane and corresponds to 41.5 per cent. of UK total methane emissions in 2007. The UK agrees with the assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the proportion of carbon dioxide in landfill gas is about 50 per cent. The UK does not separately estimate emissions of carbon dioxide from landfills because to do so would be to double count with carbon stock changes estimated in the land-use, land-use change and forestry sector. This is in accordance with the international guidelines for reporting greenhouse gases to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Mobile Phones

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* printer cartridges which were (i) recycled, (ii) reused overseas and (iii) disposed of within the waste stream in each year since 1997; what research his Department has (A) commissioned and (B) evaluated on the disposal of mobile telephones and printer cartridges in that period; and if he will make a statement. [286468]

Dan Norris: Information on the number of mobile phones and printer cartridges recycled, reused or disposed of is not collected centrally. The Department has not commissioned research into the disposal of these items. We have, however, published guidance on the treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment which includes mobile phones and printers, which is available on DEFRA's website.

Pollution: Fines

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been levied in fines by local authorities against *(a)* companies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* individuals for each type of pollution incident in each region in each year since 1997. [286450]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Details of fines levied by local authorities against companies, local authorities and individuals for pollution incidents are not held centrally and can be sourced only at disproportionate cost.

Primates

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislation to prohibit the keeping of primates as pets. [287093]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have no plans to introduce legislation to prohibit the keeping of primates as pets because we are not aware of any evidence to suggest that there is a widespread problem to warrant such action.

However, the Government accept that primates are complex creatures that require specialist care. As a result of concerns raised in Parliament, the Government are working with a number of stakeholders on the production of a code of practice on the welfare of privately kept primates.

Sustainable Development Commission

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria were used to select the new Chairman of the Sustainable Development Commission; and what the remuneration is for that post in 2009-10. [286817]

Dan Norris: As the sponsoring Department for the Sustainable Development Commission, DEFRA, on behalf of the Cabinet Office, managed the appointment of the new chair of the Sustainable Development Commission. The process was managed in line with the Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) guidelines.

Candidates were required to demonstrate the full range of criteria outlined in the information pack for the post (see OCPA Guidelines Annex A).

All devolved Administrations and the Prime Minister approved the recommended appointment. Remuneration for the SDC chair is £400 per diem. The time input for the position is two to three days per week subject to negotiation.

Veterinary Medicines Agency: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and

delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administrative staff in the Veterinary Medicines Agency in each of the last five years. [286367]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Veterinary Medicines Directorate is an Executive agency of DEFRA and follows DEFRA's pay agreements for staff outside the senior civil service. Non-consolidated performance payments for directors are paid under the senior civil service pay agreement and the payments for the chief executive is part of his contract of employment. The VMD's other staff are eligible for non-consolidated performance payments under the DEFRA scheme. Many of VMD's staff straddle the categories requested so it has not been possible to break down the total annual payments for these staff which are set out in the following table.

£

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
CEO and directors	[1]0	19,047	19,674	20,405	29,803
Other staff	[2]—	71,767	80,800	70,828	51,725
Total	0	90,814	100,474	91,233	81,528

[1] The CEO's non-consolidated performance payments for 2003-04 and 2004-05 were paid in 2005-06.
[2] The VMD is unable to identify payments paid as a separate component of gross salary before 2005-06 as this information was not available from the previous payroll bureau.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements arising from EU legislation there are in respect of *(a)* charges for businesses and local authorities disposed of waste in landfill sites, *(b)* the provision of receptacles for the disposal of household waste and *(c)* the frequency of waste collections. [286574]

Dan Norris: The requirements from EU obligations in respect of charges on businesses or local authorities to dispose of waste in landfill sites relate to two directives:

The European Waste Framework Directive which provides that in accordance with the 'polluter pays principle' the cost of disposing of waste must be borne by the holder or previous holder, or the producer of the product giving rise to of the waste, or the collector or disposer of the waste.

The Landfill Directive which seeks to ensure measures are taken that all the costs of setting up and operating a landfill site, including the cost of any financial security and the costs of closure and aftercare for a period of at least 30 years, are covered in the price to be charged by the operator for the disposal of waste at a landfill site.

There are no requirements arising from EU obligations in respect of either the receptacles for the disposal of household waste or the frequency of collections. These are rightly matters for local authorities to determine to suit local circumstances, taking into account the views of residents in the area.

Weed Control

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has issued guidance to local authorities on controlling weeds. [286511]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has policy responsibility for the five injurious weeds covered by the Weeds Act 1959 (Common Ragwort, Creeping or Field Thistle and Spear Thistle and Curled and Broad Leaved Dock) and also for invasive species, such as Japanese knotweed and water primrose.

We have not issued any specific guidance to local authorities on controlling the weeds covered by the Weeds Act 1959. However, the Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort provides comprehensive guidance on how to develop a strategic and cost-effective approach to control of common ragwort. It is intended for use by all landowners and occupiers but is particularly relevant for large-scale organisations managing significant land areas, including local authorities and other public bodies. The code of practice and other information about the control of injurious weeds is available on the DEFRA website.

Advice on the management of invasive non-native weeds is available from a number of sources including the websites of the Environment Agency and the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat. In addition, DEFRA published the Horticultural Code of Practice in 2005, which provides best practice advice concerning the acquisition, use and disposal of plants.

WALES

Holtham Commission

10. **Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what evidence his Department has given to the Holtham Commission; and if he will make a statement. [285617]

Mr. Hain: The Treasury provided evidence to the Holtham Commission and last week I met with Gerald Holtham to discuss the outcomes of the Commission's work.

Crime Levels

11. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the likely effect of proposals contained in the Building Britain's Future document on the level of criminal activity in Wales. [285618]

Mr. David: Building Britain's Future, our strategic plan to build a more prosperous, stronger and fairer country contains enforceable entitlements that will help to reduce the level of criminal activity in Wales, such as:

a right to police on the beat, with community teams spending 80 per cent. of their time on foot patrol;

a right to monthly beat meetings, where local policing priorities are agreed; and

a right to minimum response times.

Crime Prevention

12. **Mr. Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on crime prevention programmes in Wales. [285619]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend and I have regular meetings with Home Office Ministers on a range of issues including crime prevention programmes.

A great deal of solid and focused work has been undertaken around Wales to address key crime issues over the last year, with great success.

Rail Service: Aberystwyth-London

13. **Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and ministerial colleagues on proposals for the introduction of a direct rail service between Aberystwyth and London. [285620]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular meetings with Welsh Assembly Government and ministerial colleagues to discuss matters relating to Wales, including transport issues.

I would like to pay tribute to the work of the hon. Gentleman in his campaigning to raise the profile of this proposed rail service. There is a strong demand for increased rail services in Wales, and a further rail service to London would be most welcome not only to rail users but also local businesses, by encouraging even more visitors to Wales.

Holiday Lettings

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he has had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the implications for Wales of the decision to repeal rules on furnished holiday lettings. [286095]

Mr. Hain: The Treasury's decision to repeal the Furnished Holiday Lettings Scheme in 2010 is based upon advice it received that by treating landlords of furnished holiday accommodation differently to other landlords in the UK, and across the rest of the European Economic Area, it may be in breach of European Law. The change will put landlords of holiday homes on an equal footing with other landlords and brings the UK regulations in line with those elsewhere in the wider European Economic Area.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his assessment is of the effect of the recession on levels of public expenditure per capita in Wales. [285994]

Mr. Hain: Figures on identifiable public spending per head in Wales were published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Cm 7630) in June 2009. Public expenditure for the Welsh Assembly Government was set in the 2007 Spending Review. Wales, along with other parts of the UK, received a fiscal stimulus in the pre-Budget report and Budget in response to the recession.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the maximum fine was imposed on a licensee for the offence of persistently selling alcohol to people under-age in each of the last two years. [284845]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There have been no prosecutions under s147A of the Licensing Act 2003 in the last two years for which data are available (2006 and 2007). Therefore no individuals have been recorded as receiving the maximum fine for the offence of persistently selling alcohol to people underage. Data from 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much was collected in fines levied upon retail store licensees for serving alcohol to minors in each local authority area within the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years; [286280]

(2) how much was collected against fines levied upon public house licensees for serving alcohol to minors in each local authority area within the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [286281]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is not possible to differentiate between fines given to retailers and those given to licensees of public houses. Additionally, data on the collection of fines for specific offences are not held, therefore the answer given in table 1 shows the sum of all fines imposed for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to under 18's. The actual amount collected, and the status of the defendant is not known.

Fines issued in Hampshire police force area for selling alcohol to under 18's

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 on the premises					
Number of fines issued	0	6	7	0	0
Sum of fines imposed (£)	—	1,740	1,800	—	—
Sale of alcohol to person under 18					
Number of fines issued	0	0	0	0	4
Sum of fines imposed (£)	—	—	—	—	1,690

Note:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Asylum

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to make a decision on the case of Mr. Davit Khutcichvili, Ref. no. K1100834. [285990]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 8 July 2009.

Asylum: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in receipt of section 4 support have been receiving it for a period longer than *(a)* six months, *(b)* one year, *(c)* two years, *(d)* five years and *(e)* 10 years. [264019]

Mr. Woolas: As at 14 June 2009 9,354 people, excluding dependants, are recorded as having been on section 4 support for over six months, of whom 7,598 had been on section 4 support for over one year and 5,106 for over two years. These figures are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Information is not available on the number of persons on section 4 support for over five years and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. No person has been on section 4 support for over 10 years as this support for failed asylum seekers became effective from 7 November 2002.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* police forces on the use of automated number plate recognition systems to detect parking offences. [284178]

Mr. Hanson: Neither the Home Office nor the National Policing Improvement Agency has issued guidance to *(a)* local authorities or *(b)* police forces on the use of automatic number plate recognition systems (ANPR) to detect parking offences.

Following the Road Traffic Act (1991), the majority of parking enforcement is not dealt with by the police. The police operated national ANPR system is not used for parking enforcement.

British Citizenship

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK born people have been given British citizenship in each of the last three years; and from which countries such people originated. [285523]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not in the public domain in the required format.

Information based upon the previous nationality of those granted British Citizenship is provided in the table.

Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2006, 2007 and 2008(P) by previous nationality

Previous nationality	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
			Number of persons
European Economic Area			
Austria	25	50	35
Belgium	75	40	35
Bulgaria	625	1,115	795
Cyprus	105	40	30
Czech Republic	95	80	40
Denmark	25	65	30
Estonia	60	65	20
Finland	30	40	30
France	340	480	370
Germany	260	370	300
Greece	150	285	225
Hungary	110	95	55
Ireland	115	140	95
Italy	260	345	240
Latvia	90	85	30
Liechtenstein	—	5	•
Lithuania	215	170	65
Luxembourg	5	†	•
Malta	45	30	20
Netherlands	115	200	130
Norway	30	25	15
Poland	580	560	250
Portugal	535	520	405
Romania	600	540	385
Slovakia	155	125	55
Slovenia	10	10	5
Spain	170	185	125
Sweden	55	105	85
Total European Economic Area	3,665	5,785	3,885
Remainder of Europe			
Albania	885	1,115	930
Armenia	110	140	70
Azerbaijan	130	215	160
Belarus	170	175	155
Bosnia-Herzegovina	230	195	110
Croatia	605	375	165
Cyprus (Northern part of)	390	130	85
Georgia	175	155	110
Kazakhstan	95	120	80
Kyrgyzstan	45	65	45
Macedonia	135	215	140
Moldova	90	130	100
Russia	1,830	1,885	1,380
Serbia and Montenegro	7,550	3,485	1,865
Switzerland	95	70	45
Tajikistan	10	5	10
Turkey	5,590	4,710	4,640
Turkmenistan	10	25	20
Ukraine	865	1,220	705
Uzbekistan	60	90	60
Total Remainder of Europe	20,305	14,515	10,875
Americas			
Antigua and Barbuda	15	20	15
Argentina	120	125	120
Bahamas	15	10	15
Barbados	145	105	85

Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2006, 2007 and 2008 (P) by previous nationality

Previous nationality	*Number of persons* 2006	2007	2008
Belize	15	20	15
Bolivia	70	75	65
Brazil	540	610	605
Canada	1,325	1,140	815
Chile	100	90	90
Colombia	1,580	1,845	1,115
Costa Rica	15	10	10
Cuba	90	90	80
Dominica	50	35	45
Dominican Republic	35	20	35
Ecuador	955	745	580
El Salvador	10	5	15
Grenada	65	70	60
Guatemala	5	20	15
Guyana	240	240	210
Haiti	5	5	5
Honduras	10	5	10
Jamaica	2,525	3,165	2,715
Mexico	145	135	115
Netherlands Antilles	—	—	*
Nicaragua	5	5	10
Panama	10	10	25
Paraguay	5	†	5
Peru	130	220	170
St. Kitts and Nevis	10	10	5
St. Lucia	85	125	140
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	55	130	135
Trinidad and Tobago	490	480	380
United States of America	3,020	2,785	2,205
Uruguay	25	10	10
Venezuela	105	155	120
Total Americas	12,015	12,530	10,050
Africa			
Algeria	1,015	1,170	955
Angola	945	1,200	1,070
Benin	15	15	10
Botswana	25	25	20
Burkina Faso	10	5	10
Burundi	425	680	520
Cameroon	395	535	420
Cape Verde	†	†	*
Central African Republic	5	†	*
Chad	50	30	25
Comoros	†	†	5
Congo	550	470	280
Congo Democratic Republic	1,910	2,100	1,575
Djibouti	10	10	10
Egypt	595	730	485
Equatorial Guinea	†	5	10
Eritrea	705	915	660
Ethiopia	670	865	485
Gabon	5	10	5
Gambia	315	410	395
Ghana	2,990	3,375	3,135
Guinea	35	75	95
Guinea-Bissau	5	15	5
Ivory Coast	395	450	370
Kenya	2,380	2,235	1,405
Lesotho	10	15	10

Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2006, 2007 and 2008 (P) by previous nationality

Previous nationality	*Number of persons* 2006	2007	2008
Liberia	170	245	195
Libya	460	405	385
Madagascar	5	5	10
Malawi	130	165	175
Mali	5	5	*
Mauritania	5	15	5
Mauritius	640	905	650
Morocco	495	510	500
Mozambique	20	15	10
Namibia	25	30	20
Niger	15	5	*
Nigeria	5,875	6,030	4,530
Rwanda	565	745	405
Senegal	25	35	30
Seychelles	70	75	55
Sierra Leone	1,660	2,195	1,270
Somalia	9,050	7,450	7,165
South Africa	7,070	8,150	5,265
Sudan	965	735	570
Swaziland	5	20	10
Tanzania	675	530	410
Togo	120	105	60
Tunisia	130	185	150
Uganda	1,100	1,210	910
Western Sahara	†	—	*
Zambia	400	555	460
Zimbabwe	2,545	5,590	5,710
Total Africa	46,280	51,255	40,910
Indian sub-continent			
Bangladesh	3,725	2,250	3,635
India	15,125	14,490	11,825
Pakistan	10,260	8,140	9,440
Total Indian sub-continent	29,110	24,885	24,900
Middle East			
Bahrain	15	15	10
Iran	3,285	4,425	2,280
Iraq	4,125	5,480	8,895
Israel	570	540	350
Jordan	320	310	175
Kuwait	70	25	40
Lebanon	515	625	320
Oman	5	5	5
Palestine	340	425	280
Saudi Arabia	60	75	30
Syria	390	330	230
United Arab Emirates	20	25	10
Yemen	520	400	335
Total Middle East	10,240	12,685	12,880
Remainder of Asia			
Afghanistan	3,480	10,505	5,540
Bhutan	20	35	30
Brunei	10	10	5
Cambodia	15	25	15
China	2,785	3,345	2,860

Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2006, 2007 and 2008 (P) by previous nationality

Previous nationality	Number of persons 2006	2007	2008
Hong Kong SAR of China (Holder of Certificate of Identity or Document of Identity)	10	10	10
Hong Kong SAR of China (Holder of Special Administrative Region Passport)	85	100	105
Indonesia	170	170	115
Japan	180	135	110
Korea (North)	5	†	*
Korea (South)	300	375	410
Laos	10	5	10
Malaysia	560	635	590
Maldives	5	5	5
Mongolia	45	65	70
Myanmar (Burma)	145	180	145
Nepal	915	1,045	930
Philippines	8,840	10,840	5,380
Singapore	95	120	120
Sri Lanka	5,720	6,495	3,285
Thailand	785	985	1,070
Vietnam	190	305	290
Total Remainder of Asia	24,295	35,640	21,085
Oceania			
American Samoa	†	†	*
Australia	3,380	2,835	1,990
Fiji	25	65	80
Nauru	5	†	*
New Zealand	1,565	1,335	980
Papua New Guinea	5	5	*
Samoa	†	†	*
Tonga	†	10	10
Total Oceania	4,980	4,285	3,060
Other			
British overseas territories citizen (1)	470	820	330
British Nationals (Overseas)	545	680	540
British Overseas citizen	1,545	1,100	570
British protected persons	160	100	50
British subjects	190	150	60
Nationality Currently Unknown	10	15	5
Nationality Unknown Officially Designated as Stateless	50	30	20
Stateless—Defined 1954 Convention	100	45	70
Stateless Refugee—Defined 1951 Convention	15	5	5
Stateless refugee—Other	40	15	10
Total Other	3,130	2,965	1,660
Grand Total	154,015	164,540	129,310

[1] Excluding Gibraltar BOTCs.

The information has been provided with reference to the published statistics.

British Nationality

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have *(a)* been prevented from entering the UK, *(b)* been deported from the UK and *(c)* had their British citizenship revoked under the UK Border Agency's powers to exclude those who promote violent extremism and stir up hatred. [286112]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's unacceptable behaviours policy is directed at those who advocate hatred or violence in support of their beliefs. Since the introduction of the policy in August 2005, there have been *(a)* 106 exclusions, *(b)* one deportation and *(c)* no deprivations of citizenship on unacceptable behaviour grounds.

Cannabis: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many seizures of cannabis were made by the police in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [286271]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the following table.

Number of police seizures of cannabis in Suffolk police force area, 2003 to 2007-08[1]

	Number of Cannabis seizures
2003	660
2004[2]	1,080
2005[3]	1,181
2006-07	1,022
2007-08	947

[1] The drugs seizures collection was changed from a calendar year basis to a financial year basis from 2006-07 onwards.
[2] Increases in cannabis seizures in 2004 and 2005 are thought to be associated with the introduction of cannabis warnings on 1 April 2004.
[3] 2005 figures onwards are unrounded; previous years rounded.

Citizenship: Gurkhas

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Gurkhas have *(a)* applied for, *(b)* been granted and *(c)* been refused British citizenship in each of the last 15 years. [262733]

Mr. Woolas: UKBA does not capture information relating to the employment of individual applicants electronically. We can not therefore provide information on the numbers of Gurkhas or former Gurkhas who have naturalised in the past 15 years as a British citizen. The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records of all Nepalese nationals who had applied for British citizenship in the past 15 years only at disproportionate cost.

Crime: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes committed by *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged between 10 and 17 years were recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [286272]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. From the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office it is not possible to identify the age or sex of the alleged offender.

The Ministry of Justice collects information on the number of persons proceeded against and convicted by age and sex.

Crimes of Violence: West Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded as occurring in West Suffolk constituency in each of the last five years. [286269]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information for the West Suffolk constituency is not available centrally. West Suffolk comes within the Forest Heath crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area and figures for this CDRP are provided in the following table.

Offences of violence against the person recorded in Forest Heath

	Number of offences
2003-04	856
2004-05	809
2005-06	798
2006-07	1,072
2007-08	1,133

Criminal Records Bureau

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much on average it cost the Criminal Records Bureau to process a *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced check in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [285971]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is an Executive agency of the Home Office and issues higher level disclosures (both standard and enhanced) for employment and licensing purposes, as provided for in part V of the Police Act 1997. The CRB has been self-funding since 2006.

Fees have been frozen at the 2006-07 level, meaning the cost of a disclosure has not increased since April 2006. This has been achieved as a direct result of year on year internal efficiency savings and year on year increases in demand.

Approximately 20 per cent. of applications are from volunteers and disclosures for volunteers continue to be processed free of charge. This has resulted in a considerable saving for the voluntary sector.

As the CRB is self-funding, the processing costs for all the volunteer applications, processed free of charge, needs to be recovered through the fee paid by other applicants; consequently, the fee must be set higher than the unit cost.

The unit cost of a standard and an enhanced disclosure is the average cost to the CRB of producing one disclosure, irrespective of whether the disclosure is paid for. The following table shows the unit costs in each of the last five financial years.

£

Financial year	*Standard disclosure*	*Enhanced disclosure*
2004-05	22.73	28.09
2005-06	19.94	26.86
2006-07	18.34	24.30
2007-08	24.34	33.29
2008-09	25.18	35.21

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279500]

Mr. Woolas: Ministers have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280524]

Mr. Woolas: Central Government Departments and their Executive agencies report performance data on their energy consumption from their offices annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process.

For the properties that we collect data and report on, the electricity and gas use is as follows:

	kWh	*2005-06 (Baseline)*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Core[1]	Electricity	48,715,675	49,986,978	46,319,546
	Gas	21,020,944	20,731,269	15,863,319
Agency[2]	Electricity	3,340,052	3,765,290	3,505,445
	Gas	3,415,074	3,210,571	2,808,985
Total	Electricity	52,055,727	53,752,268	49,824,991
	Gas	24,436,018	23,941,840	18,672,304

[1] Core includes Home Office, UKBA and Home Office Scientific Development Branch.
[2] Agency includes Identity and Passport Service.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Ministers with responsibility for victims of crime in England and Wales there have been in his Department since 1997. [286094]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* There were in total seven Ministers in the Home Office with responsibility for victims of crime in England and Wales between the Government coming to power in 1997 and the creation of the Ministry of Justice in 2007. Ministry of Justice Ministers now have overall responsibility for victims of crime.

Deportation

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on discussing planned deportations with representatives of the government of the destination country based *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in that country. [283093]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 June 2009]:* The UK Border Agency works in close partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on return of individuals who do not have a right to remain in the UK, including those who are subject to deportation. The FCO leads in liaison with foreign missions in the UK, and through the FCO network of UK missions overseas, to work with the authorities in the country of destination. This includes both establishing overall agreements on returns policy with the receiving country and liaison on specific cases.

DNA: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 359W, on DNA: databases, how many children aged under 10 years have had DNA samples taken with the consent of a parent or guardian in the last 12 months; and for how long on average such samples were retained. [278668]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* A DNA sample may only be taken from a child under 10 with the consent of a parent or guardian. Such samples are taken from children aged under 10 for elimination purposes to assist in the investigation of an offence e.g. from children who are the victim of a crime or who had legitimate access to a crime scene. These samples are then destroyed and not put on the actual database. Information on the number of such samples taken and the average length of time for which they were retained is not held centrally.

The DNA profiles of all children aged under 10 taken by England and Wales police forces have been removed from the National DNA Database, and the database is monitored to ensure that this remains the case.

Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been sentenced to immediate custody for possession of *(a)* cannabis and *(b)* ecstasy in each year since 1997. [286045]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The requested information is shown in the table:

Number of immediate custodial sentences imposed for possession of cannabis or MDMA, 1997-2007

	Possession of MDMA	*Possession of MDMA with intent to supply*	*Possession of cannabis*	*Possession of cannabis with intent to supply*
1997	62	410	268	1,129
1998	51	217	410	1,284
1999	69	338	451	1,112
2000	108	520	361	808
2001	151	690	290	618
2002	100	578	241	547
2003	81	461	288	475
2004	60	394	161	420
2005	61	342	136	272
2006	62	256	141	240
2007	70	276	162	232

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of appeals against refusal of a family visit visa from *(a)* India, *(b)* Nigeria, *(c)* Bangladesh and *(d)* Pakistan have been dismissed in the last six years. [273593]

Mr. Woolas: The number of appeals against the refusal of applications for family visit visas at visa-issuing posts in India, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Pakistan that were *(a)* received and *(b)* dismissed in each of the last five calendar years is shown in the following tables. Reliable data is not held for years prior to 2004.

	2004			*2005*			*2006*		
	Appeal decisions	*Dismissed*	*Dismissed (%)*	*Appeal decisions*	*Dismissed*	*Dismissed (%)*	*Appeal decisions*	*Dismissed*	*Dismissed (%)*
Bangladesh	350	119	34	719	275	38	2,027	956	47
India	3,690	1,380	37	3,321	986	30	8,153	2,956	36
Nigeria	1,506	563	37	3,101	1,442	47	4,147	1,846	45
Pakistan	430	90	21	2,832	678	24	11,889	5,473	46

	2007			2008		
	Appeal decisions	*Dismissed*	*Dismissed (%)*	*Appeal decisions*	*Dismissed*	*Dismissed (%)*
Bangladesh	3,146	1,557	49	4,450	2,128	48
India	9,427	4,657	49	8,841	4,198	47
Nigeria	8,703	6,090	70	8,740	7,149	82
Pakistan	14,646	7,994	55	17,230	8,783	51

Information is unpublished and treated as provisional.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for residence permits by the spouses or partners of EU citizens have been awaiting a decision for more than six months. [284546]

Mr. Woolas: Information relating to the number of applications for residence permits from the spouses and partners of EU nationals are in the same category as other family members and is not recorded separately and therefore is not readily available.

Essex Police Authority: Absenteeism

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting from injury at work was among Essex Police Authority employees in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such absences; and if he will make a statement. [283890]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for staff employed by Essex police authority are not collected centrally.

This is a matter for Essex county council and the chief constable of the police force.

Forensic Science: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violent crime requiring forensic science capabilities there have been in the police force areas covering *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* Merseyside, *(c)* Cumbria, *(d)* North Wales, *(e)* Greater Manchester and *(f)* Cheshire in each of the last five years. [282984]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The table gives details of the number of violent crimes which had a crime scene examination and the number of crimes at which potential DNA material, finger marks and footwear marks were collected in each of the years from 2004-05 to 2007-08 for the police forces referred to. Figures for the 2008-09 financial year will be available shortly.

It should be noted that in crimes where potential forensic material is collected, only a proportion of the forensic material collected is submitted to a forensic laboratory for analysis. The proportion varies for DNA material, finger marks and footwear marks.

The information provided is from police force data collected by the Home Office on forensic activity and related detections. The data cover DNA, finger mark and footwear mark activity. These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications.

Violent crime[1]

	Cheshire	*Cumbria*	*Greater Manchester*	*Lancashire*	*Merseyside*	*North Wales*	*Total*
2004-05							
Crimes which have a crime scene examination	571	169	2,392	831	478	480	4,921
Crimes where potential DNA material collected	210	112	863	223	319	201	1928
Crimes where potential fingerprints collected	119	52	1,143	140	229	107	1790
Crimes where potential footwear marks collected	35	20	150	73	58	40	376
2005-06							
Crimes which have a crime scene examination	383	336	2,014	992	704	191	4,620
Crimes where potential DNA material collected	166	75	758	200	396	134	1729
Crimes where potential fingerprints collected	77	49	592	134	254	80	1186
Crimes where potential footwear marks collected	35	12	138	88	57	49	379

	Violent crime[1]						
	Cheshire	*Cumbria*	*Greater Manchester*	*Lancashire*	*Merseyside*	*North Wales*	*Total*
2006-07							
Crimes which have a crime scene examination	1,072	394	1,574	1,091	1,018	156	5,305
Crimes where potential DNA material collected	196	110	724	278	537	100	1945
Crimes where potential fingerprints collected	116	62	635	186	289	70	1358
Crimes where potential footwear marks collected	45	27	505	101	73	56	807
2007-08							
Crimes which have a crime scene examination	849	312	1,443	919	1,063	122	4708
Crimes where potential DNA material collected	174	117	714	264	580	82	1931
Crimes where potential fingerprints collected	60	50	666	171	316	57	1320
Crimes where potential footwear marks collected	37	32	317	96	61	45	588

[1] 'Violent crime' covers all violence against the person offences.

G20: Protest

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to take steps in response to the report by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary on the G20 protests; and if he will make a statement. [285933]

Mr. Hanson: The Government welcome the interim report by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary on the G20 protests and will be working closely with the police to ensure the conclusions and recommendations are properly addressed, and co-ordinated with the recommendations coming out of other reviews into the policing of the G20 summit and the policing of protest by the Home Affairs Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

Human Trafficking: Babies

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of legislation on the trafficking of babies into the UK; and if he will make a statement. [273057]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Following discussions with the Crown Prosecution Service we have introduced a clause in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill to amend Section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004.

This amendment will allow for the prosecution, under trafficking legislation, of those who bring small children or vulnerable adults into the country for the purpose of obtaining benefits, and where the role of the child or vulnerable adult is entirely passive.

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 192W, on human trafficking, how many people from each country were *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* convicted of human trafficking offences in each of the last five years. [282151]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The numbers of arrests and convictions for human trafficking broken down by country of origin is set out in the following table:

	Arrests	*Convictions*
United Kingdom	68	9
Nigeria	6	0
Somalia	2	0
Romania	36	5
Poland	16	3
Spain	1	1
Lithuania	31	6
Latvia	4	1
Bulgaria	7	2
Cameroon	2	0
Kosovo	22	10
Turkey	4	2
Thailand	27	8
Malaysia	12	1
Pakistan	9	1
Albania	25	21
Hungary	19	1
Moldova	5	1
Vietnam	6	2
Slovakia	17	3
Congo	3	0
Brazil	1	1
China	57	11
Ukraine	2	1
Czech Republic	40	8
Portugal	2	0
Serbia	4	4
Germany	4	1
Philippines	2	1
Macedonia	4	2

	Arrests	Convictions
Greece	1	1
Bangladesh	10	1
South Africa	1	1
Malta	2	1

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements his Department has made with the French Government to fly back to their country of origin potential illegal entrants into the United Kingdom from France; when he expects the first such flights to happen; how costs will be split between the Government and the French Government; and what payments in cash or benefits in kind will be made to those placed on such flights. [243113]

Mr. Woolas: The United Kingdom (UK) continues to work with France—one of our closest European partners—in fighting illegal migration. Our shared determination has already created one of the toughest border crossings in the world at Calais. As part of this co-operation, the UK and France are assessing the feasibility of joint return flights to fly back to their country of origin potential illegal entrants who have no lawful basis with which to be in either country.

The UK Border Agency does not disclose information in advance about the dates or destinations of charter flights in order to ensure the safety and security of our own staff, our contractors, and those we are seeking to return. Additionally, the Government of the country of origin may request that we do not publicise our operation as a condition of granting clearance for the flight. As there are currently no firm arrangements in place for the UK and France to operate a joint flight, there has been no agreement about cost allocation or whether any payment to returnees is appropriate. Any details about costs or breakdown of costs to an airline contracted for the purpose of a joint flight would be regarded as commercially confidential.

Jersey

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* police forces in England and Wales have received any requests from Jersey police to provide information about elected members of the state of Jersey. [286137]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office has received no such reports. Neither are we aware of any such reports being received by police forces in England and Wales.

National Security Strategy: Electromagnetic Pulses

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had on electromagnetic pulses in the context of the National Security Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [286183]

Mr. Hanson: The Government's updated National Security Strategy takes into account the threat posed to UK interests by the full range of 'threat actors'; a definition which includes natural hazards, as well as individuals or organisations with malign intent.

The associated Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update, considers a number of methods of cyber attack, including those that generate high levels of power that can damage or disrupt unprotected electronics.

Both strategies were produced in consultation with experts within and outside Government.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to tackle knife crime; and if he will make a statement. [283215]

Mr. Hanson: In March my predecessor announced an extra £5 million to tackle knife crime and increase targeted police action to tackle a minority of young people who commit serious violence, regardless of the weapon involved. In June I committed more than £2 million to support over 150 organisations who work with young people to tackle knife crime and support victims.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on promoting anti-knife initiatives in the last 12 months. [284114]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office spent a total of £1,918,979 on promoting anti-knife initiatives in the last complete financial year 2008-09 (this figure is composed of advertising media, PR and print costs but excludes supplier fees, production and VAT).

Offensive Weapons: Amnesties

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of knife amnesty programmes; and if he will make a statement. [282087]

Mr. Hanson: On 26 June 2007, following the national knife amnesty in 2006, the Government published a best practice guide for local police forces and practitioners providing a tactical menu of options to tackle knife-enabled crime at a local level. This was developed closely with ACPO and was developed drawing on the local lessons learned from the national amnesty.

The 2006 knife amnesty was held from 24 May to the end of June 2006. Over that period, almost 90,000 items were handed in to police in England and Wales. This constitutes a substantial quantity of potentially lethal items taken off the streets. The amnesty was just one facet of our knife crime strategy, which focuses on tough enforcement, education programmes and support for wider prevention work. We are continuing our support to local initiatives and projects through the Community Fund, which was established in December 2008 and will provide financial assistance to 144 groups over three years.

Personation

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk reported being a victim of offences related to identity fraud in each of the last five years. [286268]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available centrally. The use of another person's identification details (or the use of false identification details), often referred to as identity fraud, is not in itself an offence in law. It is the action that is undertaken using those identification details that needs to be considered in respect of whether an offence has occurred and should be recorded.

Police Community Support Officers: Clothing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he next expects to meet the *(a)* Head of the Home Office Scientific Development Branch and *(b)* President of the Association of Chief Police Officers to discuss stab-proof vests for police community support officers. [286907]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The provision of stab-proof vests for police community support officers is not a matter for the Home Office Scientific Development Branch. However, I will discuss the issue of stab-proof vests for police community support officers in wider discussions on police equipment with the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers shortly.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the average cost of equipping a police community support officer with a stab-proof vest. [286910]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* I have made no assessment of the cost of equipping a police community support officer with protective body armour. The equipping of police community support officers is an operational matter for chief officers of police.

Police Community Support Officers: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers became full members of the police force in the Staffordshire Police Authority area in the most recent period for which figures are available. [285920]

Mr. Hanson: Eight PCSOs left their post in Staffordshire to become police officers in the financial year 2007-08.

Police: Stun Guns

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what analysis his Department has undertaken of the use of tasers by police officers in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [285340]

Mr. Hanson: Every use of taser by police officers in England and Wales is recorded and a report sent through to the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) for collection. This data is summarised and published on a quarterly basis and has been used to inform taser's operational effectiveness and its medical implications. The latest data can be found at:

http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/images/106966/Taserfigs_Sep-ec_08_.pdf

HOSDB also published an evacuation of the 12 month trial of taser by specially trained units in November 2008.

UK Border Agency: Office of the Chief Inspector

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the budget is of the Office of the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency; and how many staff are employed in that office; [285927]

(2) how many staff employed in the Office of the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency worked for his Department prior to their appointment at the Agency; [285934]

(3) what the salary is of the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency; at what pay grades staff in his office are employed; and how many such staff are employed at each grade; [285935]

(4) what the cost of the premises occupied by the Office of the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency is in 2009-10. [285936]

Mr. Woolas: The independent Chief Inspector UK Border Agency has a budget of £3 million for 2009 -10. As of 1 July 2009, 24.9 full-time equivalent staff work in the Office of the Chief Inspector (excluding the Chief Inspector). An additional five staff have been appointed and are expected to take up posts shortly.

Of the 24.9 full-time equivalent staff in post on 1 July 2009, 15.9 staff worked for the Home Office prior to their employment.

The Chief Inspector's current salary is £159,108. The following table sets out the position on the current number and grades of staff (excluding the Chief Inspector).

The annual costs for 2009-10 for the premises occupied by the Office of the Chief Inspector UK Border Agency are still to be confirmed.

Office of Chief Inspector UKBA staff as at 1 July 2009

	Number
Senior Civil Service (Pay Band 1)	1
Grade 6	4
Grade 7	7.9
SEO or equivalent	7
HEO or equivalent	1
EO or equivalent	4
AA/AO or equivalent	0

Note:
In addition: 3 x SEO; 1 x EO and 1 x AO have been appointed and will take up posts shortly.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas visits to each country have been made by the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency; and what the cost to the public purse was of such visits. [285928]

Mr. Woolas: I have asked the independent chief inspector to respond in writing to my right hon. Friend.

Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1436W, on vetting, how many *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks were undertaken in each police force area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [285996]

Mr. Hanson: The total number of standard and enhanced disclosures processed in each financial year since 2002 until March 2009 is shown in the following table.

CRB checks processed

Financial year	*Standard disclosures*	*Enhanced disclosures*	*Total*
2002-03	178,375	1,258,719	1,437,094
2003-04	285,130	1,999,558	2,284,688
2004-05	275,197	2,155,740	2,430,937
2005-06	313,368	2,456,897	2,770,265
2006-07	329,223	2,948,734	3,277,957
2007-08	294,592	3,028,659	3,323,251
2008-09	396,274	3,457,410	3,853,684
Grand total	2,072,159	17,305,717	19,377,876

The CRB cannot provide figures broken down by police force area. This is because standard disclosures are processed without any requirement for the police forces to conduct checks and several different police forces may be required to conduct checks in order to produce one enhanced disclosure.

The CRB has now issued over 20 million disclosures since inception and operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which are to issue 95 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days. While the CRB has consistently exceeded their targets for standard disclosures, there have been problems in meeting the target set for enhanced disclosures.

To address these problems associated with delays, the CRB has set up an improvement plan with their delivery partners, including the police forces. This is aimed at maintaining a balanced output of applications on the system while also reducing the number of aged cases. This work has started to show an improvement in turnaround times but the CRB will continue to monitor forces performance in line with its own performance.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Berkeley Power Station

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future use of the former nuclear laboratories site at Berkeley; and when he expects the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to present proposals for that future use. [281350]

Mr. Kidney: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is responsible for the clean up and decommissioning of the Berkeley site in line with its published strategy. I understand that the NDA's objective is to separate Berkeley Centre from the licensed site to facilitate reuse and that detailed planning for this is well underway.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [286175]

Joan Ruddock: As of 9 July 2009, in the Department there are:

(a) 17 photocopiers;

(b) 11 faxes, and

(c) 0 scanners.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of his Department's capital underspend in 2009-10; and how much of that sum he proposes to return to the Exchequer. [284327]

Joan Ruddock: DECC does not expect to underspend against its capital budget in 2009-10.

Energy: Conservation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps he has taken to implement the undertakings made by the Prime Minister on 11 September 2008 in relation to the home energy saving programme; and if he will make a statement. [265834]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The Prime Minister's announcement saw a £74 million increase in funding for the Warm Front Scheme, offering grants for central heating and energy efficiency measures for the fuel poor. Over 37,000 households have been assisted to date with this additional funding.

Also the weekly rate for cold weather payments was increased from £8.50 to £25. Over 8 million payments were made during winter 2008-09—at a value of £209 million.

Following full public consultation, the Government have laid the statutory instruments giving effect to the proposals for the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) and the increase in the Carbon Emissions Reductions Target (CERT), subject to parliamentary approval.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much new funding for low-carbon community heating schemes announced in Budget 2009 will be provided in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* subsequent years. [285101]

Mr. Kidney: Of the £25 million made available in Budget 2009 to fund low-carbon community heating schemes, £20.96 million is being administered by the

Homes and Communities Agency to fund at least 10 exemplar schemes in England. It is anticipated that all of the funding will be provided to successful schemes in 2009-10. The remainder of the funding was made available to the devolved Administrations in line with the Barnett formula and is a matter for them.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the first payments of money from the new funding for low-carbon community heating schemes announced in Budget 2009 will be made. [285102]

Mr. Kidney: The first payments of money from the new funding for low carbon community heating schemes will be made before the end of July. A formal and more detailed announcement will be made as soon as is possible.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria will be used to select recipients of the new funding for low-carbon community heating schemes announced in Budget 2009. [285103]

Mr. Kidney: The criteria used to select recipients of the new funding for low carbon community heating schemes include:

Novelty, innovation or exemplar quality;

Support for new housing development or refurbishment of existing buildings;

Value for money;

Carbon savings;

Progress of the scheme and ability to deliver quickly, and to timescales;

Help for people affected by fuel poverty; and,

Ability to leverage additional public or private funding.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of domestic dwellings in Tamworth constituency which have a smart meter. [285367]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has no estimate of this.

European Energy Market

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of levels of likely voluntary implementation by EU member states of the most recent EU liberalisation package in respect of the European energy market in advance of legislation coming into force in 2011. [284773]

Mr. Kidney: We expect the latest EU energy liberalisation package to come into force shortly, with implementation of most aspects of it then to be completed within 18 months. Well functioning EU energy markets will make an important contribution to energy security and investment to support low carbon energy supplies. This is why we are encouraging other member states to implement early as much of the package as possible.

There has already been considerable progress on transparency and on setting up the new bodies for cooperation between regulators and system operators. Work is also under way on the technical and regulatory frameworks needed to underpin greater market integration.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the early voluntary implementation of the most recent EU liberalisation package in respect of the European energy market. [284774]

Mr. Kidney: The EU liberalisation package was adopted on 25 June. Department officials are encouraging other member states to implement early as much of the package as possible, and I will reinforce this when I meet other EU energy Ministers in the course of business.

Evian

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the outcomes were of his visit to Evian on 6 July; and if he will publish on his Department's website the papers discussed with his French counterpart during that visit. [286719]

Joan Ruddock: The meeting showed how close the thinking of the UK and France is on climate change and energy policy. Much of the discussion between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and French Ministers concentrated on how to secure an ambitious agreement at COP 15 in Copenhagen. Most notably we agreed to seek international adoption of new, tougher reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The results are summarised in joint declarations on international climate change negotiations and on nuclear energy. These appear on the No. 10 website.

Fuel Poverty

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which schemes sponsored by the Government have as an objective the reduction of fuel poverty; which such schemes are planned; and how much has been spent on each scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [285901]

Mr. Kidney: Warm Front is the main Government funded scheme for tackling fuel poverty in England. Over 1.9 million households have received assistance with heating, insulation and other energy efficient measures since the scheme's inception in June 2000.

Funding for the scheme has been increased to more than £950 million in the current spending round. In the previous spending round period, 2005-08, Warm Front total spend was £862 million.

The Government are currently undertaking a wide-ranging review of our fuel poverty policies. The review is examining whether existing measures to tackle fuel poverty could be made more effective and whether new policies should be introduced to help us make further progress towards our goals.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what initiatives to tackle fuel poverty are being provided by private companies under his Department's direction; how much has been spent on each in the latest period for which figures are available; and whether any other such schemes are planned. [285902]

Mr. Kidney: Warm Front is the main Government scheme for tackling fuel poverty in the private sector in England and is managed by eaga plc. Over 1.9 million households have received assistance with heating, insulation and other energy efficient measures since the scheme's inception in June 2000. Funding for the scheme has been increased to more than £950 million in the current spending round. The scheme is managed for the Government by eaga plc.

The carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) is an obligation placed on energy supply companies that have more than 50,000 customers to achieve CO_2 savings in the homes of domestic consumers—40 per cent. of which must be met by installing measures in the homes of a priority group of low-income consumers in receipt of qualifying benefits or are aged 70 and over.

Energy suppliers do not disclose the amount of money that they spend on promoting CERT measures, as they regard this as being commercial-in-confidence. However, we understand that under the previous two phases of the energy efficiency commitment (EEC), which ran from April 2002 to March 2008, suppliers invested £1.325 billion promoting measures. The Government's estimate of likely spend for the current CERT is £3.2 billion. With 60 per cent. of this investment expected to be directed at the Priority Group, the total investment over nine years would total £2.7 billion.

DECC has provided funding of £3 million between 2008-09 to 2010-11 under the Low Carbon Buildings programme—together with revenue funding from partners—to deliver pilot microgeneration projects for deprived communities in the north-east, Yorkshire and Humberside, East of England and, possibly, Wales.

The new Community Energy Saving programme (CESP) will see the main energy companies deliver energy efficiency measures worth around £350 million to homes in low income areas around the country. The scheme will deliver both carbon savings and fuel bill savings to assisted households, and subject to parliamentary approval is expected to come into force in September this year.

The Government are currently undertaking a wide-ranging review of our fuel poverty policies. The review is examining whether existing measures to tackle fuel poverty could be made more effective and whether new policies should be introduced to help us make further progress towards our goals.

Future Energy Networks Team

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department are working in the future energy networks team. [285096]

Mr. Kidney: The Future Electricity Networks (FEN) team is part of the Renewables Directorate and is made up of 12 people.

Insulation: Housing

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent from the public purse on insulating the homes of pensioners in each local authority area in Greater Manchester in each of the last five years. [285381]

Mr. Kidney: The following table details the Warm Front funding spent on insulating the homes of over 60's in each local authority area in Greater Manchester in each of the last five years.

£

Local authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]	*Total*
Bolton	132,374.20	237,704.61	248,163.23	182,662.34	45,817.05	846,721.43
Bury	75,986.77	162,115.45	115,095.72	97,909.33	41,201.97	492,309.24
Manchester	80,305.86	174,675.11	123,719.35	97,067.10	34,664.02	510,431.44
Oldham	74,876.18	152,595.20	118,227.46	93,377.32	30,278.27	469,354.43
Rochdale	85,797.64	180,263.33	103,292.97	117,583.31	36,847.64	523,784.89
Salford	95,302.55	186,267.34	95,899.60	131,508.95	31,440.38	540,418.82
Stockport	90,460.84	221,788.91	124,709.77	193,585.93	63,698.40	694,243.85
Tameside	71,009.40	153,265.42	104,586.24	147,911.29	29,391.33	506,163.68
Trafford	64,147.31	122,690.78	125,323.81	129,179.62	55,439.88	496,781.40
Wigan	163,826.48	289,096.05	236,302.84	288,649.36	76,426.73	1,054,301.46

[1] From 1 March 2009 to 30 June 2009.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much new funding for the Low-carbon Buildings Programme announced in Budget 2009 there will be in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* subsequent years. [285098]

Mr. Kidney: The new £45 million funding for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme announced in Budget 2009 will be allotted over *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* subsequent years as follows:

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*Total*
Phase I Ext (Householders)	5	5	10
Phase II Ext (Others)	25	10	35
Total			45

There is no planned expenditure after 2011. The Low Carbon Buildings Programme will be superseded by Feed in Tariffs in 2010 and Renewable Heat Incentives in 2011.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the first payments of money from the new funding for the Low-carbon Buildings Programme announced in Budget 2009 will be made. [285099]

Mr. Kidney: The new grant funding under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme became available from 1 July 2009 when new applications were welcomed. With a lead in period of approximately three months between grant offer letter and payment upon completion of project—the first payment of grant money allocated is expected to be in October 2009.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the new funding for the Low-carbon Buildings Programme announced in Budget 2009 will be made available for solar photovoltaic installations in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* subsequent years. [285100]

Mr. Kidney: The proportion of the new £45 million funding for Low Carbon Buildings programme (LCBP) announced in Budget 2009 which will be made available for solar photovoltaic applications under LCBP Phase 2 in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* subsequent years is as follows:

		2009-10	*2010-11*	*Total*
Phase II Ext Addition for PV	New	14	0	14

There is no planned expenditure after 2011. The Low Carbon Buildings programme will be superseded by feed in tariffs in 2010 and renewable heat incentives in 2011.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary in his Department plans to reply to the e-mail of 31 March from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on a replacement low carbon buildings programme. [274636]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* I apologise for the unacceptable delay in replying to the hon. Member, which was due to administrative error in my Department.

The e-mail the hon. Member refers to forwarded correspondence from Councillor Anne Mackison regarding the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. My colleague, the previous Minister of State in this Department, replied directly to Councillor Mackison on 20 April 2009. I apologise that the hon. Member was not copied in to that letter, and I have therefore sent a copy of that letter to him today.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount of commercial income that will be earned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13. [285087]

Mr. Kidney: The budget of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) for 2009-10 and 2010-11 was considered within the context of the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR07). The settlement assumed that the NDA's commercial income would be £2.2 billion for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The commercial income budget for 2011-12 and 2012-13 has yet to be determined, and will take into account the end of life of existing Magnox electricity generating stations and the evaporative capacity at Sellafield.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much commercial income was earned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [285088]

Mr. Kidney: The NDA publishes commercial income in their annual report and accounts. Their commercial income for 2007-08 was £1,458 million. The accounts for 2008-09 will be laid before Parliament later this month.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's budget is for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13, broken down by budget heading. [285089]

Mr. Kidney: The budget of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) for 2009-10 and 2010-11 was considered within the context of the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR07). The settlement provides the NDA with £3.3 billion direct Government funding over the last two years of CSR07 (£1.6 billion in 2009-10 and £1.7 billion in 2010-11) of which £0.9 billion is resource and £2.4 billion is capital. Together with its commercial income the total funding available over the last two years of CSR07 is projected to be £5.5 billion. The budget for 2011-12 and 2012-13 has yet to be determined.

Nuclear Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Nuclear National Policy Statement will be launched. [280360]

Mr. Kidney: The Government will publish a draft Nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS) in autumn 2009 for public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny. We aim to designate the NPS in spring 2010.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the generic design assessment for nuclear new build against the Office for Nuclear Development's draft timeline. [285042]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* The UK nuclear regulators are currently assessing two designs under the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) process—EdF/Areva's UK-EPR and Westinghouse's API 000.

This process is being undertaken by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) (both part of the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate) and the Environment Agency.

GDA began in July 2007 on a contingent basis, pending the outcome of the Government's consultation on nuclear power in January 2008. Regulators completed their initial stage of the assessment in March 2008. The more detailed assessment stages of GDA commenced in June 2008.

Regulators have stated that they remain on track to complete GDA by June 2011. The NII will produce interim reports in November 2009 and the Environment Agency aim to undertake a public consultation on their findings in spring 2010. This is consistent with the Government's indicative timeline for the first new nuclear power stations coming online from around 2018.

Regular updates on the progress of GDA, including quarterly reports, are published on the regulator's joint website:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/index.htm

Plutonium

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 725W, on plutonium, for what reason his Department declined to fund the travel and accommodation expenses of stakeholders attending the plutonium policy meeting on 21 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [282004]

Mr. Kidney: Normal practice is for organisations to fund the expenses of those attending meetings on their behalf.

DECC in common with all Departments has to manage its limited funding and used normal practice with respect to the expenses of those invited to the meeting.

Power Stations: Influenza

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements his Department has made regarding the continuity of fuel supplies to power stations in the event of an influenza pandemic. [283254]

Mr. Kidney: DECC has been working closely with the energy sector through the Energy Emergencies Executive Committee (E3C) for over two years in order to identify and mitigate energy supply risks specific to an influenza pandemic.

Within the power generation industry, work has focused on a number of risks to the continuity of generation including: a severe shortage of manpower, unavailability of primary fuels for generation and disruption of the supply chain for essential chemicals and other goods.

On the particular question of fuel supplies, these are mainly coal, gas and nuclear.

In the case of coal, fuel stocks currently stand at about three months supply, and this figure would usually rise as we approach the winter. These stock levels are thought to be sufficient to cope with any disruptions caused by a flu pandemic, where the peak impact might be intense but would be of a relatively short duration.

For gas fired power stations the supply route is robust, with gas being transported by pipeline via the main national gas transmission network. We are working with gas network owners via E3C to ensure appropriate business continuity plans are in place to minimise the likelihood of disruption to gas supplies.

The UK's nuclear power station need to replenish their nuclear reactor fuel on a regular basis, however the impact of a delay in the replenishment programmes would be a gradual reduction in output rather than complete loss. The risk of a disruption to supply arrangements is deemed to be very low, however British Energy and Magnox are working with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to understand what flexibility exists within current regulations to help extend the life of fuel cells and thus reduce the frequency of the refuelling process if necessary.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the baseline planning assumptions are for the proposed national deep-level geological repository for radioactive waste. [285519]

Mr. Kidney: *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely White Paper: A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal", published in June 2008, outlined the role of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) as the body responsible for planning and implementing geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste.

The White Paper sets out a staged decision-making process to site a geological disposal facility and the NDA are proceeding with early planning. The process is driven by discussions with potential host communities but early assumptions will need to be made for planning purposes on a wide range of technical issues that will not become clear for some time, such as the potential geological characteristics of a site and the amount of waste to be disposed of. The NDA plans to publish a document outlining and explaining its early planning work on this subject later this year.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on (i) the earliest and (ii) latest dates for the proposed national deep-level geological repository for radioactive waste to open to receive waste deposits; and what discussions have been held on the operational opening dates. [285520]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* Ministers and Officials meet the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) regularly to discuss its responsibilities for decommissioning and clean-up of the UK's public civil nuclear sites including the geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste.

The process to site a geological disposal facility is driven by discussions with potential host communities. The programme is flexible and able to incorporate both robust technical site investigations and ongoing interactions between the project and potential host communities. The Government have therefore not set a fixed delivery timetable, but the NDA, as part of its baseline delivery

strategy, has a current planning assumption that the disposal facility could be available to receive the first waste in 2040. In the event that geological disposal facilities are not available until after this date, interim stores will have their lives extended as required, in order to provide safe and secure interim storage throughout the geological disposal facility development programme.

Renewable Energy

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to announce his decision on the future of *(a)* the Severn Tidal Barrier and *(b)* each other proposed renewable energy project under consideration by his Department. [284315]

Mr. Kidney: The Government response to public consultation on Severn tidal power is published today. A decision on whether to support a Severn Estuary power scheme will be made after further assessment of the costs, benefits and impacts and following a second public consultation, likely to be during 2010.

The Government's Renewable Energy Strategy, which contains a range of measures to meet the UK's renewable energy target, will also be published shortly.

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the heat generated from woody biomass in each year since 2005; and on what data he bases such estimates. [286793]

Joan Ruddock: Information on all forms of renewable energy used for heat generation is contained in table 7.6 of the annual Digest of UK Energy Statistics. The current edition, published in July 2008, contains information up to and including 2007; the data for 2005-07 are shown in the table. The next edition of the digest, which will contain 2008 data, is being published on 30 July 2009.

	Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent	
	Domestic wood use	*Industrial wood use*
2005	286.6	80.9
2006	322.4	80.9
2007	358.3	80.9

The data are based on information from the Forestry Commission, the Heating Equipment Testing and Approval Scheme (HETAS), the bio-energy capital grants scheme, and AEA, acting on behalf of DECC.

Warm Front Scheme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many boilers running on *(a)* wood chips and *(b)* other biomass fuels have been installed under the Warm Front scheme in each of the last five years. [283246]

Mr. Kidney: The Warm Front scheme does not provide for wood-chip and other biomass fuelled measures, therefore no such measures have been installed.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedures are in place to ensure that work is carried out by Warm Front contractors before they are paid for it. [285190]

Mr. Kidney: All Warm Front installations must be signed for by the householder, who will sign a Works Completion Certificate confirming they are satisfied with the installation that has been carried out. Installers then submit their request for payment to eaga.

Inspections of the installations (100 per cent. of gas, 5 per cent. of oil, 5 per cent. of electric heating installations, and a 5 per cent. sample of insulation installations) are also performed, eaga reserves the right to withhold payment to installers should the installation not meet Warm Front required standards.

In those cases where the work quoted exceeds the grant limit the customer will need to pay the excess paid direct to the installer before work can commence.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households had work undertaken for them by Warm Front contractors *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in Wandsworth in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [285192]

Mr. Kidney: The following table details the number of households assisted by Warm Front in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wandsworth borough in years 2005-06 to 2008-09 and from 1 March to 19 June in 2009-10, (the latest period for which figures are available).

Assisted households	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10[1]*	*Total*
England	114,591	253,079	268,900	233,594	45,168	915,332
Wandsworth	109	237	289	325	62	1,022

[1] Up to 19 June 2009

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the average waiting time for insulation work to be carried out under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [285193]

Joan Ruddock: The following table details the average waiting times for insulation measures delivered by Warm Front in years 2006-07 to 2008-09 and from 1 March to 9 May in 2009-10.(the latest period for which figures are available).

	Average days to install
2006-07	33
2007-08	28
2008-09	33
2009-10[1]	24

[1] To 9 May 2009

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in each region *(a)* were eligible for and *(b)* received grants under the Warm Front Scheme in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286485]

Mr. Kidney: The Department does not record how many households are eligible for a Warm Front grant in each region.

The following table details how many households in each Government office region received grants under the Warm Front scheme in each of the last five years.

	Government office region								
Scheme year	*East Midlands*	*East of England*	*Greater London*	*North East England*	*North West England*	*South East England*	*South West England*	*West Midlands*	*Yorkshire and Humber*
2004-05	20,505	14,520	13,623	15,420	47,246	19,000	16,978	27,457	33,335
2005-06	15,038	14,458	12,080	11,418	41,410	17,183	17,949	19,808	23,840
2006-08	24,110	19,901	12,766	20,683	61,536	22,046	19,424	36,453	36,160
2007-08	25,136	24,421	19,481	18,865	60,089	22,941	22,034	36,530	39,403
2008-09	22,613	25,503	16,888	13,721	51,079	22,959	21,365	30,745	28,721

WORK AND PENSIONS

Action for Employment

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many training and skills contracts her Department has with A4e; what percentage of people who have attended such A4e training and skills courses have been placed into permanent employment; who supervises and inspects sites where A4e are giving such courses; and if she will make a statement. [283289]

Jim Knight: The Department currently has 47 contracts with A4e for the delivery of a range of welfare to work provision.

On those contracts where we count job outcomes, during the period 2008-09, 20 per cent. of people starting provision delivered by A4e have started work. Some customers, however, will still be on provision.

The delivery of provision is monitored by the Department and is also subject to external inspection by Ofsted in England, and Estyn in Wales. Areas for improvement identified at inspection are addressed through the Department's contract management process.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the number of non-resident parents paying child maintenance who are in receipt of tax credits. [281765]

Helen Goodman: I have consulted with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission who have confirmed that the information requested is not available.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by her Department in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [286537]

Jim Knight: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks, and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences. This is not in the public interest.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what categories of personal information on members of the public are contained on each database which contains such data managed by her Department and its agencies; when each category of information was first collected; and if she will make a statement; [284900]

(2) what databases managed by her Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if she will make a statement. [285970]

Jim Knight: The categories of personal data relating to members of the public contained on databases administered by the Department and its agencies are set out in the Department's formal registration under the Data Protection Act, which is available for examination on the Information Commissioner's public website. Details of when these categories of information were collected, the databases which hold personal information, and the dates on which each database became operational are not available centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Equal Opportunities

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's definition is of equality of opportunity in relation to her Department's policies; and if she will make an assessment of the impact on equality of opportunity of her Department's policies. [285206]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions' statement of equality of opportunity is:

"The Department is committed to providing services which embrace diversity and which promote equality of opportunity. As an employer we are also committed to equality and valuing diversity within our workforce. Our goal is to ensure that these commitments, reinforced by our Values, are embedded in our day to day working practices with all our customers, colleagues and partners."

This means that our internal policies are designed to ensure equality of opportunity for our existing and prospective employees. For example, we carry out all

our permanent recruitment exercises under fair and open competition and we monitor the procedures carefully to make sure that they do not unfairly discriminate against anyone. We are a Disability Symbol user and operate the Guaranteed Interview Scheme for disabled candidates. We are a Local Employment Partnership employer.

Our statement of equality of opportunity applies to our policies and to the services we offer. We carry out equality impact assessments on new policies and services and when we make changes to existing ones. This ensures that equality of opportunity is taken into account at the earliest stage of policy and service development and that:

the Department's strategies, policies and services are free from discrimination;

due regard is given to equality (specifically disability, gender and race) in decision making and subsequent processes; and

opportunities for promoting equality are identified.

In order to consider the impact of equality of opportunity on our policies and services and to ensure the Department's diversity and equality work is showing real results and comparing well to comparative work carried by external organisations, we have also participated in external benchmarking exercises. External benchmarking also gives us the opportunity to share best diversity practise with other organisations.

Our approach to equality is set out in a variety of publications, including:

the Department for Work and Pensions: Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes 2008-2011

www.dwp.gov.uk/about-dwp/diversity-and-equality/dwp-equality-schemes/equality-schemes-2008-2011

the Department for Work and Pensions: Secretary of State Report on Disability Equality

www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/policy-publications.asp#social

and

the Department for Work and Pensions: Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes Annual Progress Report 2008-2011

www.dwp.gov.uk/about%2Ddwp/diversity%2Dand%2Dequality/dwp%2Dequality%2Dschemes/equality%2Dschemes%2D2008%2D2011/progress%2Dreports%2D2009/

Employment Schemes: Public Sector

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will assess the merits of making access to work funding available to individuals working or aiming to work in the public sector; and if she will make a statement. [285902]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* It is important that individuals aiming to, or who are already working within the public sector have access to funding, such as Access to Work, in relation to their support needs. Individuals working, or about to work in the public sector have been eligible for Access to Work support since the inception of the programme in 1994.

We believe, however, it is right for public sector employers to set an example to other employers by recognising the value to them of taking responsibility for managing workplace disability adjustments. The Strategy Unit Report "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People" published in January 2005, stated that there are strong grounds for asking employers in the wider public sector to fund workplace disability adjustments.

As a result of this, from 1 October 2006, ministerial Government Departments have funded the workplace disability adjustments required by their disabled staff out of their running costs, instead of using the Access to Work programme. Ministerial Government Departments are required to provide the same level of support for their employees that would be expected under the Access to Work programme.

Jobcentre Plus continues to provide and fund assessments, and continues to provide information and advice to disabled staff and their managers. There are no plans to remove Access to Work funding from people working in other parts of the public sector, and individuals working in these public sector organisations can still apply for Access to Work funding.

Future Jobs Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what mechanism the Future Jobs Fund will provide jobs for young people. [284966]

Jim Knight: The Future Jobs Fund is a challenge fund into which anyone can bid. We expect most bids to be made in partnership.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average level of subsidy per person funded by the Future Jobs Fund in the latest period for which figures are available. [285593]

Jim Knight: This is still an open bidding process and organisations are able to bid for up to £6,500 for every job they create. It is a rolling assessment process with more organisations bidding to the fund every day. It is up to those bidders to decide what level of funding they require to create a Future Jobs Fund job.

Future Jobs Fund: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions who in Oxfordshire will be responsible for administering and managing the Future Jobs Fund; and what estimate she has made of the proposed budget for the fund in Oxfordshire. [284965]

Jim Knight: The Future Jobs Fund will be managed centrally by the Department for Work and Pensions and every Government office in England will be able to help potential bidders to develop their bids.

As it is a competitive bidding process, we are not ring-fencing funding for any particular region or area, however greater emphasis will be given to bids from areas of high worklessness and with high populations of eligible young people.

Health and Safety Executive: Freedom of Information

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which requests for information received by the Health and Safety Executive under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2008 were *(a)* classified as not resolvable and *(b)* refused in full. [286131]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2008 HSE received a total of 6,516 requests for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

1,882 of these requests were classed as 'information not held', and therefore were not resolvable by HSE. The main reasons for this are that information was held by another public authority; or the requests relate to an incident that had not been reported to HSE.

A further 966 requests for information were withheld in full. Many of these requests were in relation to ongoing investigations, where the release of such information could affect the outcome of HSE's investigation. In these cases the exemption in Section 30 of FOI is applied.

HSE does not have a mechanism to easily identify all of the specific reasons why requests were not resolved or withheld in full, except by reviewing each individual case, which could be provided only at disproportionate cost/effort.

Housing Benefit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time was for a new single claim for housing benefit/local housing allowance to be processed following the cancellation of a joint claim in the latest period for which figures are available; and in how many cases it took 30 days or more to process a claim in the latest period for which figures are available. [283625]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive *(a)* more and *(b)* less housing benefit as a consequence of the most recent review of housing benefit localities carried out by the Rent Service. [285355]

Helen Goodman: A review of all Broad Rental Market Areas (formerly localities) was started in England by rent officers following amendments to the Rent Officers Order in January 2009. The first eight reviews were implemented on 1 July 2009 and a further two will be implemented on 1 August 2009. Other reviews, where changes are necessary for the BRMA to comply with the order, will be implemented after consultation with the appropriate local authorities. We do not yet know how many people will receive more or less housing benefit as a consequence of these reviews.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Jobcentre Plus office in each of the last five years. [280619]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) directors, (b) senior managers, (c) specialist and delivery managers and (d) executive support and administration staff there were in each Jobcentre Plus office in each of the last five years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information you have requested is not available in the form you have sought. Detailed statistics are not routinely held on staff by the descriptions you have provided; nor are staff necessarily allocated to a specific Jobcentre Plus office. Jobcentre Plus is a national organisation and delivers its services from around 850 locations around Britain. Those include Jobcentres, Contact Centres and Benefit Delivery Centres. We also operate from a small number of head office and regional office sites in different parts of the country where co-location arrangements apply.

However, the enclosed table provides a breakdown of staff, by grade, over each of the last five years. That provides an illustration of senior management, middle management and administrative posts in Jobcentre Plus. The information reflects the position at the end of March in each of the last five years.

Jobcentre Plus grade breakdown: March 2005 to March 2009

Grade	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*	*March 2008*	*March 2009*
SCS[1]	52	41	58	51	45
Band G	152	143	143	144	133
Band F	383	339	359	345	335
Band E	1,353	1,185	1,129	1,070	1,065
Band D	4,239	3,742	3,842	3,760	3,913
Band C	28,106	26,730	25,595	25,450	26,638
Band B	35,860	35,151	33,762	33,069	35,239
Band A	4,330	3,891	3,058	2,527	2,110
Total	74,475	71,222	67,946	66,416	69,478

[1] SCS = Senior Civil Service

Notes:

Senior Civil Service will include Directors and some senior managers; Bands G-E will include some senior managers, specialists and a number of delivery managers as well as some executive support functions; Bands D-C will also include delivery managers and executive support functions; Bands B-A comprise administrative staff.

Jobcentre Plus: Offices

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus has spent on *(a)* increasing the physical capacity of jobcentres, *(b)* acquiring new office space, *(c)* extending existing office space and *(d)* converting existing office space to accommodate higher demand for Jobcentre Plus services in the last 12 months. [285150]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your question asking how much Jobcentre Plus has spent on (a) increasing the physical capacity of jobcentres, (b) acquiring new office space, (c) extending existing office space and (d) converting existing office space to accommodate higher demand for Jobcentre Plus services. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus are continuously reviewing existing service delivery arrangements in order to meet the challenge of the current economic climate and the planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years. The latest reviews have taken account of the latest known information on the expected increases in business and customer volumes.

The latest review has identified that around 50% of Jobcentre Plus offices currently face a capacity challenge. This challenge will be met through a range of solutions and we are unable to provide the data to fully respond to your questions (a, b, c and d) until all of these solutions have been implemented.

In the light of the unprecedented customer demand we have secured the required funding to convert or extend our existing buildings where necessary. In addition we aim to make our services accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach facilities, often delivering advisory and other support on Partner's premises. We are supplementing these measures by operating extended opening hours in some locations where the need for this is identified locally. This includes some offices opening to the public on Saturday. We will only acquire new space where all other measures are insufficient.

To date estates work has been undertaken and completed on 18 of our buildings at a cost of £1m, increasing our capacity to deliver additional customer service to the public. Estates work is planned for a further 151 buildings. This work is currently at an early stage and therefore the costs are not fully known.

Jobcentre Plus: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in Jobcentre Plus in each of the last five years. [280325]

Jim Knight: Information is only available for the most recent two years requested and is shown in the following table.

Bonuses paid in 2007-08 and 2008-09 for Jobcentre Plus

	Staff grade range	*2007-08*	*£000 2008-09*
Directors	—	81	87
Senior managers	Band F to below Director level	721	582
Specialist and Delivery Managers	Band D to E	2,802	1,977
Executive Support and Administration staff	Band A to C	19,505	12,042
Total		23,109	14,688

Source:
DWP Payroll reports and Jobcentre Plus Accounts

Local Housing Allowance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of implementation of local housing allowance; what estimate she has made of the number of tenants who have not passed rent to their landlord since the new scheme was introduced; and what estimate she has made of the monetary value of that rent. [285599]

Helen Goodman: The Department has committed to completing a review of the LHA scheme over a two-year period from the commencement of its roll-out in April 2008. The aim of the review is to monitor the impact of the LHA at a national level, against the original LHA policy objectives.

The review will include an in-depth focus group study of landlords, concerning their attitudes and experiences of the LHA, including any problems with rent arrears. Further information is not available at this stage.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when she plans to reply to the letter to her predecessor of 19 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr J Woolley; [284725]

(2) when she plans to reply to the letter to her predecessor of 19 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Miss S See and Mr T Gordon. [284727]

Jim Knight: Replies were sent to my right hon. Friend on 13 July 2009.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths in each age category were attributable to mesothelioma in each year since 1979. [285969]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of mesothelioma deaths in Great Britain in each five-year age category in each year from 1979 to 2006 (the latest year for which statistics are available) is shown in the following table.

Mesothelioma deaths by five-year age group, 1979 to 2006

	10-14	*15-19*	*20-24*	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40-44*	*45-49*	*50-54*	*55-59*	*60-64*	*65-69*	*70-74*	*75-79*	*80-84*	*85+*	*Total*
1979	—	—	—	2	4	7	11	19	47	64	62	85	71	44	15	3	434
1980	—	—	1	—	1	7	11	21	45	66	69	90	74	44	18	10	457
1981	—	—	—	1	—	6	17	20	35	76	91	78	63	52	27	2	468
1982	—	—	—	—	3	9	19	23	40	73	90	86	92	47	17	8	507
1983	—	—	1	1	—	5	12	26	48	85	91	91	99	64	38	10	571
1984	—	—	1	—	—	9	13	30	44	81	118	108	98	62	47	12	623
1985	—	—	—	1	3	6	13	33	34	89	118	81	114	73	35	18	618
1986	—	1	—	—	3	9	15	31	50	87	124	128	113	86	42	15	706
1987	—	—	—	1	2	7	21	28	69	99	154	143	116	100	60	14	814
1988	—	—	—	—	1	4	20	41	64	112	134	180	145	106	39	26	872
1989	—	—	—	—	2	10	15	35	66	115	162	185	119	120	59	21	909
1990	—	—	—	—	2	3	20	42	73	96	139	164	151	116	60	29	895
1991	—	—	—	—	—	6	22	48	70	113	153	212	193	120	69	17	1,023
1992	—	—	1	—	1	7	21	45	92	118	162	195	194	166	67	28	1,097
1993	—	—	—	1	2	4	17	49	86	114	154	203	234	149	106	33	1,152

Mesothelioma deaths by five-year age group, 1979 to 2006

	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Total
1994	—	—	—	1	—	—	9	52	100	123	203	234	219	166	89	50	1,246
1995	1	—	—	1	1	3	14	38	82	152	163	250	267	194	100	51	1,317
1996	—	—	—	—	1	3	8	42	87	137	164	239	264	176	126	75	1,322
1997	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	35	95	129	192	243	260	214	121	66	1,367
1998	—	—	—	1	1	3	7	37	91	143	173	251	301	274	164	95	1,541
1999	—	—	—	1	3	—	7	35	78	178	230	258	288	320	147	80	1,615
2000	—	—	—	1	—	3	9	26	85	148	242	250	330	292	151	96	1,633
2001	—	—	1	—	1	2	11	27	94	179	242	276	332	357	216	124	1,862
2002	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	13	82	181	265	296	382	331	196	116	1,868
2003	—	1	—	1	2	—	6	24	63	169	244	324	309	364	256	124	1,887
2004	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	24	42	156	270	327	362	371	282	134	1,979
2005[1]	—	1	—	—	2	3	8	21	72	164	266	337	366	376	279	152	2,047
2006[1]	—	—	—	1	—	1	6	18	51	144	266	363	355	386	295	170	2,056
Total	1	3	5	14	36	125	352	873	1,885	3391	4,741	5,677	5,913	5,170	3,121	1,579	32,886

[1] Provisional.

Source:
Health and Safety Executive British Mesothelioma Register.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people completed a new deal programme in each of the last three years; and what the cost of new deal programmes was in each of those years. [280241]

Jim Knight: The following table gives the available data on the number of people who left the New Deal programmes in the last three years. The figures cover only New Deal for Young People, New Deal 25-Plus and New Deal for Partners. They include people leaving from the Jobcentre Plus and the provider-delivered elements of the programme.

	Total leavers from the above stated programmes
2006	264,710
2007	314,990
2008	262,190

Notes:
Time Series—year of leaving. The calendar year of leaving New Deal. Latest data are to November 2008.
1. The totals for each year exclude those customers on New Deal for Lone Parents, Disabled People and New Deal 50 Plus due to the unavailability of the data.
2. The measure used for New Deal for Partners is Leavers (individuals) as spells are not available for this New Deal. They may or may not have completed. For all other programmes the figures shown are for those who have completed.
3. Since June 2008, New Deal for Disabled People has ceased to operate as a national programme.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

The following table shows the costs of the contracted out element only for the three years 200-07 to 2008-09. It is not possible to split out the costs for the Jobcentre Plus element from normal Jobcentre Plus running costs.

Programme	2006-07	2007-08	£ million 2008-09
New Deals for Young People and 25 Plus	306.5	398.3	424.8
New Deal for Lone Parents	41.5	60.4	29.5
New Deal 50 Plus	0.2	0.2	0.2
New Deal for Disabled People	73	78.4	34.1
New Deal for Partners	0.6	0.4	0.3

Notes:
1. New Deal for Disabled People reductions in 2008-09 are due to the introduction of provider-led pathways in 60 per cent. of the country.
2. New Deal for Lone Parents reduction in 2008-09 are due to costs for In Work Credit being transferred from the DEL (Programme) account to Annually Managed Expenditure (AME).
3. Expenditure figures exclude administration costs as they cannot be identified since 2002-03, when ring fences were removed with agreement from HM Treasury.
4. The figures for 2008-09 are indicative pending scrutiny and sign-off by NAO.
5. The source of the above data is the DWP financial systems. Figures agree with those published in the departmental report.

Poverty

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people were *(a)* classified as living in poverty, *(b)* claiming jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* claiming employment and support allowance in each local authority area in each year since 2000. [285861]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number and proportion of people in relative poverty at Country and Government Office Region levels or for Inner or Outer London. This means information for each local authority area is not available.

The number of JSA claimants in each local authority since 2000 is given in the document that has been placed in the Library.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit for new claims from 27 October 2008. The latest quarterly data available is November 2008, which means that a full quarter's data are not available at present. Provisional headline figures are shown in the following table. Information for each local authority area is not yet available.

Provisional working age claimants of ESA November 2008

	ESA (Thousand)
November 2008	51,000

Notes:
1. Figure relating to ESA has been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics Standard, however it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence ESA figures for November 2008 are provisional.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overpayments of each type of benefit were made to claimants in each year since 1997. [267319]

Helen Goodman: The Department's strategy for measuring fraud and error focuses on providing estimates of the monetary value of fraud and error and does not provide estimates of the number of payments over or underpaid over a particular time period so this is not available.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the amount of overpayments of each type of benefit was in each year since 1997. [267438]

Helen Goodman: The Department's strategy for measuring fraud and error focuses on providing estimates of the monetary value of fraud and error. Estimates of the value and the percentage of expenditure for benefits that have been measured since 1997 have been placed in the Library. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 571-73W.

Unemployment

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 37 of Building Britain's Future (1) what criteria will be used to designate the areas of high unemployment in which 50,000 new jobs will be provided; [284957]

(2) what level of recruitment subsidies will be provided to support access to jobs by adults who have been unemployed for six months; who will administer such subsidies; and for how long such subsidies will be paid. [284958]

Jim Knight: Those areas we have defined as areas of high unemployment are those where the rate of claimant unemployment is at least 1.5 percentage points above the national average.

The recruitment subsidy is worth £1,000. Subsidised jobs have to be for a minimum of 16 hours a week and expected to last for at least six months. In England, the recruitment subsidy could also be combined with access to Train to Gain support, which is typically worth £1,500.

The recruitment subsidy is administered by Jobcentre Plus.

Unemployment: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions who in Oxfordshire will be responsible for ensuring that from 2010 every person under 25 years who has been unemployed for a year will be able to take up a guaranteed job, work experience or a training place. [284962]

Jim Knight: We expect that local authorities, partnerships and organisations will work together to create job opportunities for the young people in their area. Jobcentre Plus advisers will be responsible for ensuring that customers are given access to the full range of offers.

Unemployment: Young People

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Draft Legislative Programme 2009, Cm 7564, page 37, what steps will be taken from 2010 against a person aged under 25 years who has been unemployed for a year and who fails to take up a job, work experience or a training place. [284960]

Jim Knight: From April 2010, we will require all young people aged 18 to 25 approaching the 12-month point of their claim to jobseeker's allowance to take up one of the offers included in the Young Person's Guarantee: a subsidised job, training or a place on the Community Task Force.

We know that most jobseeker's allowance customers want to get back to work, and we expect the Young Person's Guarantee to help thousands of young people into jobs. Where a customer refuses to take up the job or provision they are referred to without good reason, the existing jobseeker's allowance conditionality rules will apply and they may be subject to a benefit sanction.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Draft Legislative Programme 2009, Cm 7564, page 37, what her definition is of a guaranteed job which a person aged under 25 who has been unemployed for a year will be required to take up. [284963]

Jim Knight: The Budget spoke of a guaranteed offer, one element of which is a job. The jobs consist of 150,000 new jobs created through the Future Jobs Fund and additionally up to 100,000 existing jobs in key employment sectors. These will be offered alongside work-focused training or meaningful activity via a community task force.

Young Persons' Guarantee

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of implementing the change in the Young Persons' Guarantee from a voluntary to a mandatory programme. [285143]

Jim Knight: In his 2009 Budget statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced £1.1 billion for the delivery of the young persons guarantee and future jobs fund. Work is ongoing to determine the specific costs of each initiative under mandation, but we are confident they will be delivered from within the funding.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of *(a)* the number of young people aged 18 to 24 years who will reach 12 months claiming jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* the number of young people aged 18 to 24 years who will receive assistance from the Young Persons' Guarantee and *(c)* how much the Young Persons' Guarantee will cost to deliver in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [285146]

Jim Knight: We do not forecast unemployment figures; however we will guarantee an offer for all 18 to 24-year-olds approaching 12 months on jobseeker's allowance.

The young person's guarantee is funded until 2010-11. £250 million has been allocated for 2009-10 and £843 million for 2010-11.

JUSTICE

Debt Collection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 958W, on debt collection, what assessment HM Courts Service made of the risk of persons in debt incurring further debts by charging bailiff payments to credit cards. [286075]

Bridget Prentice: The inclusion of credit card facilities extends the range of options available for payment. Payment routes available elsewhere were considered—there is precedent for the acceptance of credit and debit cards in other areas of public services. In addition, payment by credit card is already well established in many magistrates courts and all fixed penalty offices. Bailiffs operate under well-defined behaviour standards and there are no incentives to favour credit cards over the other current methods of repayment. There are a range of routes available to any debtor who genuinely cannot afford to pay. HM Courts Service is currently evaluating the scheme of taking payments by credit and debit cards. I am awaiting the results of the evaluation.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286169]

Mr. Wills: As part of the Department's efforts to reduce its impact on the environment and comply with the Greening Government ICT strategy published in July 2008, a programme is underway across the MOJ headquarters to replace photocopiers and printers with multi-functional devices, which optimise the green benefits for printing and photocopying services.

The following information has been obtained from central records covering MOJ headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts Service, Tribunals Service and Office of the Public Guardian:

April 2008

193 document scanners

373 barcode scanners

April 2009

202 document scanners

378 barcode scanners.

For the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), information is as follows:

April 2007

2,309 fax machines; 476 scanners;

April 2008

2,404 fax machines; 447 scanners;

April 2009[1]

439 scanners.

[1] Fax machines purchased in April 2009 have been removed from the contract and the figure is therefore unavailable. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The other detailed information requested is not collected centrally and could only be obtained through a separate data gathering exercise which would incur disproportionate costs.

Driving under Influence: Convictions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women under the age of 18 were (i) proceeded against, (ii) found guilty and (iii) sentenced to immediate custody for offences of drink driving in each year since 1997; [285786]

(2) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been (i) proceeded against, (ii) found guilty of and (iii) sentenced to immediate custody for a drink-driving offence in each year since 1997. [285999]

Claire Ward: Available information held on prosecutions and resultant convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or taking drugs in England and Wales from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in the tables.

The data provided covers both drink and drugs offences combined, as they cannot reliably be distinguished separately.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Proceedings at magistrates courts, findings of guilt at all courts, sentenced to immediate custody, by gender, for persons under the age of 18 years for 'driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs', England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1,2]

Number of offences

Offence type: driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs

Under 18 years

	Male			*Female*		
	Proceeded against	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*
1997	1,729	1,571	126	99	92	0
1998	1,637	1,494	112	107	95	2
1999	1,801	1,617	134	77	71	0
2000	1,860	1,668	117	80	73	1
2001	2,073	1,843	119	85	81	0
2002	2,066	1,825	118	115	104	0
2003	2,170	1,936	107	114	106	0
2004	1,952	1,801	101	132	121	1
2005	1,804	1,647	82	123	113	1
2006	1,714	1,608	59	143	132	1
2007	1,586	1,473	56	130	121	0

[1] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit, Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Proceedings at magistrates courts, findings of guilt at all courts, sentenced to immediate custody, by gender, for all persons for 'driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs', England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1,2]

Number of offences

Offence type: Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs

All ages

	Male			Female		
	Proceeded against	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*
1997	102,808	91,803	7,090	9,371	8,426	171
1998	94,636	84,604	6,757	9,406	8,509	171
1999	90,247	80,954	6,701	9,252	8,409	175
2000	86,778	77,373	6,421	9,382	8,457	154
2001	86,533	76,346	6,442	9,448	8,402	179
2002	91,407	80,971	6,231	10,618	9,512	144
2003	94,435	83,589	6,136	11,236	10,112	172
2004	95,179	85,475	5,863	11,912	10,765	196
2005	91,592	82,870	5,207	11,890	10,849	165
2006	89,145	81,376	4,273	12,278	11,295	126
2007	84,345	77,529	3,780	12,627	11,694	129

[1] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit, Ministry of Justice

Drugs: Convictions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of offences relating to the *(a)* possession and *(b)* supply of (i) cannabis and (ii) ecstasy in each year since 1997; and how many such people received (A) a custodial sentence and (B) the maximum sentence in each such year. [286044]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for the possession and supply of cannabis and ecstasy (methylenedioxymethamphetamine—MDMA), those sentenced to a custodial sentence and those receiving the maximum sentence, in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following tables.

The statistics given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn 2009.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for possession and supply of cannabis and ecstasy in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	1997			*1998*			*1999*		
		Sentenced to:			*Sentenced to:*			*Sentenced to:*	
	Found guilty	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum custody*
Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA	1,048	62	0	753	51	0	1,262	69	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA	544	410	0	304	217	0	451	338	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) MDMA	310	228	0	246	179	0	231	173	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin	17,275	268	1	22,643	410	1	22,623	451	1
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin	2,499	1,129	0	2,648	1,284	0	2,246	1,112	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis	1,414	650	1	1,442	656	0	1,168	573	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA	1,048	62	0	753	51	0	1,262	69	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA	544	410	0	304	217	0	451	338	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) MDMA	310	228	0	246	179	0	231	173	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin	17,275	268	1	22,643	410	1	22,623	451	1
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin	2,499	1,129	0	2,648	1,284	0	2,246	1,112	0

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for possession and supply of cannabis and ecstasy in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	1997			1998			1999		
		Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:	
	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis resin	1,414	650	1	1,442	656	0	1,168	573	0

	2000			2001			2002		
		Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:	
	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody
Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA	1,955	108	0	2,493	151	0	2,165	100	0
Having possesion of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA	736	520	0	960	690	0	830	578	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) MDMA	327	234	0	376	252	0	365	216	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin	20,602	361	0	20,752	290	1	23,655	241	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin	1,802	808	0	1,358	618	0	1,388	547	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis	842	405	0	613	265	0	592	258	0
Having possesion of a controlled drug: MDMA	1,955	108	0	2,493	151	0	2,165	100	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA	736	520	0	960	690	0	830	578	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) MDMA	327	234	0	376	252	0	365	216	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin	20,602	361	0	20,752	290	1	23,655	241	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin	1,802	808	0	1,358	618	0	1,388	547	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis resin	842	405	0	613	265	0	592	258	0

	2003			2004			2005		
		Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:	
	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody
Having possesion of a controlled drug: MDMA	2,009	81	0	1,853	60	0	1,677	61	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA	746	461	0	603	394	0	557	342	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) MDMA	219	127	0	172	100	0	167	91	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin	25,714	288	0	[4]13,320	[4]161	[5]2	12,095	136	5
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin	1,470	475	0	1,247	420	0	993	272	0

	2003			2004			2005		
		Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:	
	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis	522	222	0	456	156	0	393	135	0

	2006			2007		
		Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:	
	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum custody
Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA	1,539	62	0	1,590	70	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA	434	256	0	513	276	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) MDMA	169	81	0	169	73	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin	12,536	141	2	14,073	162	6
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin	957	240	0	958	232	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis	385	101	0	367	101	0

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this data has been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for parsons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Cannabis was reclassified in January 2004 to a class C drug. Guidelines advised that offenders over the age of 18 could be given, for possession only, a "cannabis warning" which does not constitute a criminal record.
[5] Following reclassification in January 2004 to a class C drug, statutory maximum penalty for possession of cannabis was downgraded from five to two years. The offenders shown here were sentenced to two years imprisonment although it is not known what maximum would have applied to these offenders on the day their offences took place.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis unit (OCJR-E&A).

Freedom of Information

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which requests for information received by his Department under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2008 were *(a)* classified as not resolvable and *(b)* refused in full; [286130]

(2) in respect of which requests for information received by his Department in 2008 under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has received permission to extend the deadline for a response by more than 40 days; and what the reason for the request for an extension was in each case. [286160]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the performance of central Government in dealing with requests made under the Freedom of Information Act.

In 2008, the Ministry of Justice received 2,492 requests under the Act. Of these, 529 sought information which was not held by the Department, and in respect of a further 426, the requester was provided with advice and assistance because further information was needed in order to identify the information being sought. The remaining 1,537 requests were "resolvable", in that it was possible for the Department to make a substantive decision on whether to release the information being requested, 393 of these were refused in full.

Where a qualified exemption applies to information sought, the Freedom of Information Act allows public bodies additional time to consider whether the balance of the public interest falls in favour of releasing or withholding that information. Of those requests initially received by the Ministry of Justice during 2008 which were answered by the time the annual statistics were collected, the deadline for response was extended for more than 40 working days on 45 occasions.

The 2008 statistics can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/foi-statistics-report-2008.pdf

HM Prison Service: Secondment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of his Department have been seconded to HM Prison Service for the purposes of its bid for the next round of market testing. [286583]

Maria Eagle: 21 staff have been redeployed within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in response to the announcement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor on 27 April 2009.

Interim Possession Order

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average elapsed between an application for and a ruling on an Interim Possession Order in the latest period for which figures are available. [285776]

Bridget Prentice: The main administrative system in the county courts of England and Wales (CaseMan) recorded that in 2008 there were 299 applications for an Interim Possession Order. CaseMan does not identify which orders following these applications were made for interim possession, were rulings on these, or were other types of orders. However, the first order will often be for interim possession and the second a ruling on this. Of the 128 cases that involved a second order being made, the average (mean) time from application to the second possession order was 45 days, while the median time was 29 days.

Local Government Association

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will use his powers under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to designate the Local Government Association as a public authority for the purposes of the Act. [285775]

Mr. Wills: In the Prime Minister's statement on Constitutional Renewal on 10 June 2009, he noted our plans to look at broadening the application of the Freedom of Information Act.

We have considered carefully the responses to the public consultation on designating additional public authorities under the Act through a section 5 order and will publish our full response to the consultation by the summer.

Prisoners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners aged (i) between 60 and 65 years, (ii) between 66 and 70 years, (iii) between 71 and 75 years, (iv) between 76 and 80 years and (v) over 80 years there were in April of each year since 1997. [285789]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the information requested for prison population in England and Wales as at 30 June in each year from 2002 to 2008. The data to provide figures for earlier years are not available centrally.

	Age bands				
	60-65	*66-70*	*71-75*	*76-80*	*over 80*
Female					
2002	17	4	2	0	0
2003	22	7	4	0	1
2004	13	6	3	1	3
2005	21	4	1	1	1
2006	38	7	2	2	0
2007	44	9	4	1	0
2008	48	11	4	1	1
Male					
2002	910	370	151	40	17
2003	922	373	170	46	19
2004	934	431	184	62	19
2005	1,030	435	204	62	17
2006	1,090	478	241	77	19
2007	1,269	549	236	78	23
2008	1,341	607	254	102	25

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisons operated a policy of five per cent. random mandatory drug testing in each financial year from 2002-03 to 2008-09; how many *(a)* random and *(b)* non-random tests were performed in such prisons in each such year; how many such tests were positive for (i) cannabis, (ii) opiates (excluding methadone), (iii) non-prescribed methadone and (iv) prescribed methadone; [285886]

(2) how many *(a)* random and *(b)* non-random mandatory drug tests were performed in each prison in each financial year from 2002-03 to 2008-09; and how many such tests were positive for (i) cannabis, (ii) opiates (excluding methadone), (iii) non-prescribed methadone and (iv) prescribed methadone in each prison in each such year. [285887]

Maria Eagle: The data requested are not readily available. I will write to the hon. Member once the information is available and place a copy in the Library of the House.

Probation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average ratio of offenders to Probation Service staff in the *(a)* Thames Valley and *(b)* Milton Keynes probation area was in each of the last five years. [283830]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

	Staff: Offenders	
	(a) All Thames Valley probation area staff	*(b) All Milton Keynes probation office staff*
2005	1:8	1:11

	Staff: Offenders	
	(a) All Thames Valley probation area staff	(b) All Milton Keynes probation office staff
2006	1:9	1:10
2007	1:10	1:11
2008	1:9	1:14
2009	1:8	1:12

	Offender Managers: Offenders	
	(a) All Thames Valley probation area offender managers	(b) All Milton Keynes probation office offender managers
2005	1:14	1:17
2006	1:17	1:15
2007	1:21	1:17
2008	1:23	1:19
2009	1:22	1:17

This information has been provided by Thames Valley Probation Area. The number of offenders includes some in custody who would be subject to probation supervision on release.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload of the Probation Service has been in each year since 1997. [285821]

Maria Eagle: The total community and pre-release custodial offender caseload for England and Wales as at 31 December since 2002 was as follows:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Supervised in community							
All court orders	116,125	120,734	128,217	137,377	146,532	150,179	146,725
Post-release supervision	22,000	21,106	22,739	25,603	26,096	28,721	32,220
Supervised in custody	55,732	59,791	61,328	64,682	65,378	66,381	66,864

Note:
A new system for collecting probation workload data was introduced from 1 January 2002, making comparisons with earlier years unreliable (and so data prior to 2002 are not provided here).

The 2008 figures are provisional and were published on 30 April in the Ministry of Justice statistics bulletin Probation statistics quarterly brief October to December 2008, England and Wales. Copies can be found in the Libraries of the House. The final 2008 data will be published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008 on 31 July.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Probation: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding his Department allocated to the Essex Probation Service in each of the last five years. [285729]

Maria Eagle: The grant allocation to Essex probation area for the last five years is as follows:

	£
2008-09	20,147,200
2007-08	19,091,300
2006-07	18,322,200
2005-06	16,923,000
2004-05	15,494,300

Probation: Reoffenders

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many high-risk offenders committed further serious crimes in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk while under the supervision of the Probation Service in each of the last three years. [286401]

Maria Eagle: The number of further serious crimes committed by high risk offenders in the East of England and more specifically in Suffolk, by offenders under the supervision of Probation areas in the region are as follows:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
East of England	10	3	3
Suffolk	0	0	0

These figures relate to those offenders who were assessed as at high or very high risk of causing serious harm through the Offender Assessment System who were subsequently convicted of a serious further offence, committed while the offender was under probation supervision in the community. These figures include offences of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (section 18), although this offence was removed from the criteria of a serious further offence on 1 December 2008.

Probation: Staffordshire

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of co-operation between the Probation Service and *(a)* the police, *(b)* HM Courts Service and *(c)* the Crown Prosecution Service in the Staffordshire Probation Area of the proposed merger between Staffordshire Probation Service and West Midlands Probation Service; [285657]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the level of management at which decisions relating to the operation of the Probation Service in Staffordshire are taken of the proposed merger between Staffordshire Probation Service and West Midlands Probation Service; [285658]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely change in *(a)* administrative and *(b)* staffing costs of the probation service in Staffordshire consequent on the proposed merger between Staffordshire Probation Service and West Midlands Probation Service. [285659]

Maria Eagle: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice is aware of the proposed merger of the Staffordshire and West Midlands probation areas. A joint application is anticipated in July for trust status, although this may be delayed to later in the year.

Any merger will require the continuation of very strong links with other criminal justice agencies, including the police, HM Courts Service and the Crown Prosecution Service. This will include continued active participation in the Staffordshire Local Criminal Justice Board public protection arrangements. The present chief probation officer for Staffordshire has met all the relevant agencies and explained the importance of local delivery and co-working in any trust arrangement. The proposed merger was discussed at the Staffordshire Criminal Justice Board meeting on the 28 April 2009 chaired by the then chief constable of Staffordshire Chris Sims. In a subsequent letter he said that members understood the merger and indicated strong support for the proposal based on local delivery units with devolved responsibilities. The Secretary of State will continue to require coterminus arrangements to be maintained with Staffordshire criminal justice agencies, should a merger of Staffordshire and West Midlands probation areas be approved.

The Secretary of State in approving any trust application needs to be assured that management is properly devolved to the level of local delivery units. In the case of Staffordshire these units will be aligned will Staffordshire county and Stoke on Trent. The Secretary of State would expect to see a trust appoint to such management units staff at assistant chief officer level who are both experienced and competent to oversee performance and partnership working. In addition there will be a single chief executive and chair of joint Staffordshire and West Midlands Board who will be responsible for ensuring performance across the trust and effective local partnership in all the local delivery units and to ensure the efficient and effective stewardship of public funds, working under a contract to the director of offender management for the West Midlands region.

The Secretary of State has made it clear in statements and answers to previous questions that any proposals on probation trust arrangements should come from local areas and not be provided either regionally or nationally. Individual probation boards, including Staffordshire, would have to consider the merits of merger based on business cases that would address both administrative and staffing costs.

As the Secretary of State has yet to receive an application for the trust status by the combined area it is not possible to make a detailed estimate of changes to both administrative and staffing costs. However, any such proposal would have to demonstrate that front line delivery of probation service duties and responsibilities to protect the public and reduce re-offending will be maintained whilst overheads, administration and management costs would be reviewed. No budgets have been allocated to Staffordshire or West Midlands probation areas for the period beyond March 2010.

Remand in Custody: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the proportion of those receiving a custodial remand who are black boys; and if he will make a statement. [285660]

Maria Eagle: In addition to conducting two studies of its own to map the level of young people from an ethnic minority background within the youth justice system and their particular needs, the Youth Justice Board is supporting a study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Equality and Human Rights Commission to consider evidence relating to the representation of young people from an ethnic minority background within the youth justice system. This research will inform the work the Youth Justice Board and partner organisations are engaged in to address the needs of black and other ethnic minority young people.

Remand in Custody: Young People

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of people under the age of 18 years who are remanded in custody; and if he will make a statement; [285661]

(2) if he will commission research into the reasons for the increase in the number of people under the age of 18 years of age remanded in custody since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [285662]

Maria Eagle: Figures provided by the Youth Justice Board indicate that the number of young people under 18 remanded in custody or to local authority secure care has fallen significantly over the last few years. Since the peak year of 2003-04, court-ordered secure remands have fallen by 40 per cent. and remands in custody by 21 per cent.

In each particular case it is for the court to decide, in the light of all the circumstances, whether to grant bail, to remand the young person to the care of a local authority or, if the young person is aged 17, to remand him or her in custody. (Some boys aged 15 and 16 may also be remanded in custody.)

In the Youth Crime Action Plan, we indicated our intention to strengthen the response to youth crime at a local level, by supporting local authorities to provide earlier interventions and so reduce the need for custodial places. Youth Offending Teams have a range of non-secure remand options. These include remand fostering; bail support and curfew schemes; and the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme, which includes electronic monitoring.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research into the reasons for the reduction in the use of non-secure remand to local authority accommodation for those under the age of 18 years of age since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [285663]

Maria Eagle: Figures provided by the Youth Justice Board indicate that the peak year for remands of under-18s in the period in question was 2004-05. Between then

and 2007-08, the total figure for remands of all kinds—secure and non-secure—fell by 33 per cent. Non-secure remands to local authority care fell by 36 per cent. The Youth Justice Board is monitoring these trends and is exploring ways of further incentivising local authorities to provide alternatives to custody.

Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences were committed by offenders recalled from release on licence but not yet returned to custody in each of the last 12 years; and what offences were committed in such circumstances in each such year. [286276]

Maria Eagle: The number of offences committed by offenders who have been recalled to prison and who have yet to be apprehended is not recorded centrally. To provide this information would require a manual interrogation of individual files and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Between 1 January 1999 and 30 June 2008, 81,743 offenders were recalled to custody.

Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of selling tobacco to a minor received *(a)* a fine, *(b)* a community sentence, *(c)* a custodial sentence and *(d)* an alternative punishment in each year since 1997; and what the (i) average, (ii) smallest and (iii) largest fine was in each such year. [285763]

Claire Ward: The available information is shown in the following table. Data for 2008 will not be available until "Sentencing Statistics 2008" is published later in the year.

Offenders sentenced and disposals for selling tobacco to a minor and the average maximum and minimum fine, 1997 to 2007

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fine (number)	90	115	90	113	74	67	82	50	56	51	49
Fine (percentage)	80.4	89.1	88.2	84.3	82.2	87.0	88.2	87.7	81.2	89.5	98.0
Community Sentence (number)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Community Sentence (percentage)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Custodial Sentence (number)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Custodial Sentence (percentage)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Discharge (number)	22	14	12	21	16	9	11	7	13	5	1
Discharge (percentage)	19.6	10.9	11.8	15.7	17.8	11.7	11.8	12.3	18.8	8.8	2.0
Otherwise Dealt With (number)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Otherwise Dealt With (percentage)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0
Total	112	129	102	134	90	77	93	57	69	57	50
Maximum Fine (£)	1,250	2,000	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,700	1,500	2,000	1,650	2,500
Minimum Fine (£)	40	10	10	50	50	50	50	35	30	40	60
Average (£)	238	226	237	349	301	283	322	274	328	330	324

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

The table shows the total number of persons sentenced to a fine, community sentence, custodial sentence or an alternative punishment for each year since 1997. The data also show the average maximum and minimum fine imposed on those sentenced for selling tobacco to a minor in each year. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence, the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences, the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Belarus: Human Rights

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 20-21W, on Belarus: human rights, what reports he has received of the death sentence passed in Belarus on 29 June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [285359]

Chris Bryant: The EU raised this case with the Belarusian authorities on 8 July 2009. We are disappointed that the death penalty was imposed following earlier efforts by

the Belarusian authorities to reduce its use. Belarus is the last country in Europe to use the death penalty; its abolition would be an important step in improving EU—Belarus relations. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe passed a resolution on 23 June 2009 supporting the lifting of the suspension of Belarus' special guest status after a moratorium on the execution of death penalties.

Colombia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS, on Colombia, on what projects the £250,000 which has been allocated to tackle impunity will be spent; and how much will be allocated to each such project. [286414]

Chris Bryant: Tackling impunity in Colombia is a priority for our embassy in Bogota, and over £250,000 will be spent over the next two years on the following projects:

- investigating forced disappearances (£13,000)
- identifying victims of forced disappearance (£39,000)
- strengthening access to justice for internally displaced persons (£21,000)
- Impunity in the Context of Conflict project (£60,000)
- a UN Tackling Impunity project (£210,000)
- adjustment proposals for the new Accusatorial Criminal Justice System (£29,000)

Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress the Government have made in their assessment of whether to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. [283965]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The work being undertaken within Government to examine the potential impact of the Convention against Enforced Disappearance on the law of the UK is ongoing.

This includes analysing the extent to which common law provisions may need to be replicated in statute law, the creation of one or more new criminal offences, and whether the UK required any reservations or declarations upon ratification. It is now clear that primary legislation would be necessary to permit ratification if the Government decide to pursue this course of action. This would be introduced when parliamentary time allowed.

Council of Ministers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the Government have *(a)* voted against and *(b)* abstained on a proposal at the Council of Ministers for which a qualified majority has been obtained. [277097]

Chris Bryant: The Council of the European Union publicises these figures on their website. These can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?id=551&lang=EN

The figures for 2008 are eight abstentions and zero votes against. The same report shows that 270 legislative acts were adopted in 2008.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287334]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Resource Accounts 2008-09 were laid before Parliament and published as a combined document with the Departmental Report 2009 on 30 June 2009.

Diplomatic Service: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse of his Department's consular services was in each of the last 12 years. [286156]

Chris Bryant: Consular Services are funded from fees and not from general taxation. Our aim is to ensure that we cover our costs from fee income. The exception is capital funds which are funded from tax. However the yearly cost of capital, that is depreciation and interest, is covered by fee income.

Cost of assistance to UK citizens abroad is covered by a levy of approx. £15 on all passports sold in the UK by the Identity and Passport Service and overseas by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). For around £1.50 a year, every British passport holder has at their disposal a global network of professionals who often provide the first line of support when things go wrong.

Each crisis response, as agreed by HM Treasury (HMT), which costs greater than £150,000, is funded from the Emergency Disaster Reserve (EDR). The EDR funds are made up of a small fee levied on the passport price of approximately £1. These funds are held by the Treasury. The FCO has to make a substantive case to HMT to access these funds.

For a fee we also issue passports overseas, as well as emergency and temporary passports.

We charge for legalisation services to business and the public in the UK and overseas.

There are another 60 notarial services that we provide overseas. Examples include birth and death registrations.

The cost of Consular Services for the last eight years is shown as follows. The cost of collecting data beyond this period would be prohibitive, as it is not available on our current systems.

This excludes the cost of crisis activity which is funded directly from the Treasury:

Period	*Cost (£ million)*
2008-09	126.4
2007-08	123.3
2006-07	104.1
2005-06	85.1
2004-05	93.3
2003-04	69.9

Period	Cost (£ million)
2002-03	60.6
2001-02	56.3

Consular is continually looking at ways to bring costs into closer alignment with income by delivering value-for money services, promoting efficiencies and reviewing its fees.

Eritrea: Prisoners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Eritrean Government on arrests of UK nationals in Eritrea; and how many such people have been arrested there in the last five years. [286456]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: From our consular records we are aware of four British nationals who have been arrested or detained in Eritrea since 2004.

In one case we were informed of the detention only after the individual had been released. In the other three cases we contacted the authorities to clarify the situation and requested consular access.

Of those three cases, two were subsequently released. We have been unable to confirm the release of the other individual, as the Eritrean authorities do not acknowledge the UK's interest in the person concerned (a dual British-Eritrean national resident in Eritrea) as a British national, and will not discuss the case with consular staff, despite representations.

India

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to assist the Indian Government in implementing witness protection programmes for Christians in Orissa. [285353]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no plans to discuss with the Indian Government the protection of Christians called as witnesses in trials relating to the recent violence in Orissa.

The EU maintains a constructive dialogue with the Indian authorities about human rights and minority rights issues, which includes the situation in Orissa and its neighbouring states following the violence in 2008. Officials from our high commission have an active part in these discussions.

India: Christianity

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of India to urge that Mr Manoj Pradhan, Member of the Legislative Assembly in Orissa, is brought to trial on the charges which have been made against him. [286914]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since this is a legal matter for the relevant Indian authorities we have no plans to raise this bilaterally with the Indian Government.

India: Females

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has had discussions with the Indian government on sexual violence against Dalit women in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [285343]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have not discussed sexual violence against Dalit women directly with the Indian Government in the last 12 months. However, UK officials in New Delhi have actively participated in the ongoing EU dialogue with the Indian authorities on minority rights, including Dalit related issues.

International Trade

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the UK's business competitiveness in international markets in each of the last three years; and against which competitors each assessment was made. [284023]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 190-91W.

Israel: Egypt

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of *(a)* Israel and *(b)* Egypt on the transport of goods into Gaza through crossing points. [286842]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is extremely concerned with the current humanitarian situation in Gaza. It is vital that aid reaches the people in who need it. We will continue to press the Israeli Government into easing border restrictions and ensuring there is better humanitarian access into the area. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear in his meeting with the Israeli Defence Minister—Ehud Barak on 6 July 2009 and also in his conversation with Israeli Foreign Minister—Avigdor Lieberman on 30 June 2009.

My predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), raised the issue of access through the Rafah crossing for humanitarian aid providers with the Egyptian Government when he was in Egypt on 21 May 2009. The Egyptian Government have told us that all aid to Gaza from Egypt should be channelled through the Egyptian Red Crescent.

Kenya

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will instigate a public inquiry into the conduct of the British colonial administration in Kenya during the 1950s emergency in that country; what recent representations his Department has received on the treatment of Kenyans by the British colonial administration in this period from *(a)* (i) Governments and (ii) citizens of Kenya and *(b)* others; and if he will make a statement. [286846]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is no public inquiry planned into the conduct of the British colonial administration in Kenya during the 1950s.

We are aware that a group of Mau Mau veterans, backed by the Kenya Human Rights Commission, plan to sue the Government for alleged human rights abuses carried out by the Kenyan colonial administration during the emergency period. Our high commissioner in Nairobi met their representatives before they travelled to London last month and noted their right to take their case to the courts. They have also written to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on this issue.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies on nuclear non-proliferation of the recent agreement between Russian President Medvedev and US President Obama on nuclear arms reduction. [286718]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We welcome the 'joint understanding' by Presidents Obama and Medvedev on 6 July 2009 to reduce the US and Russian nuclear arsenals to below 1,700 warheads each and their commitment to co-operate more closely on non-proliferation.

A reduction in the size of US and Russian arsenals is one of the conditions necessary for moving towards a world free from nuclear weapons. The UK will continue to work towards this long-term goal and the strengthening of all three pillars of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, while tackling the issue of nuclear security.

Sri Lanka: India

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on anti-religious conversion laws in *(a)* Sri Lanka and *(b)* India. [285354]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to monitor religious freedom in India and Sri Lanka. A wide range of issues including religious freedom were raised at the last round of the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue which took place in New Delhi on 27 February 2009. In addition the Government work bilaterally with the Government of India in supporting efforts to tackle human rights issues. We regularly raise a wide range of human rights issues with the Sri Lankan Government including any legislation that reduces religious freedoms protected by international human rights law. We are aware that the draft "Forcible Conversions Bill", relating to religious freedoms Sri Lanka, is currently awaiting further discussion in the Sri Lankan Parliament. The EU expressed its concern at the draft Bill in a statement on 23 February 2009.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what visits have been made to Tamil refugee camps in Sri Lanka by representatives of his Department in the last 12 months; and what recent representations he has made to the government of Sri Lanka on the operation of those camps. [286764]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* Representatives from our high commission in Colombo regularly visit the camps for internally-displaced persons in northern Sri Lanka, most recently on 16 to 18 June 2009. We take every available opportunity to urge the Sri Lankan Government to ensure the camps meet international standards. We continue to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to work in partnership with the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies to address the ongoing needs of internally displaced persons and to ensure they are able to return to their homes as soon as possible.

CABINET OFFICE

Eating Disorders: Death

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths resulting from an eating disorder were recorded in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008; and if she will make a statement. [286696]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths resulting from an eating disorder were recorded in (a) 2004, (b) 2005, (c) 2006, (d) 2007 and (e) 2008. (286696)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where an eating disorder was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales, from 2004 to 2008.

It is likely that these figures underestimate the actual number of deaths where an eating disorder was involved. This is because deaths registered after a coroner's inquest usually state the immediate physical condition which caused death as the underlying cause, and not any mental or behavioural disorder which may have led to that condition.

Table 1: Number of deaths where an eating disorder was the underlying cause of death,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2004-08[3,4]

	Persons
	Deaths
2004	16
2005	16
2006	21
2007	17
2008	24

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code F50 (Eating disorders).
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working age population in employment in the UK consisted of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK born people, *(c)* non-UK nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals and *(e)* non-EU nationals in (i) each year since 1992 and (ii) the last four quarters for which figures are available. [286460]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working age population in employment in the UK consisted of (a) UK nationals, (b) UK born people, (c) non-UK nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals and (e) non-EU nationals in (i) each year since 1992 and (ii) the last four quarters for which figures are available. (286460)

The available information requested is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Proportion of working age[1] population in employment by nationality and country of birth. Three month periods ending March 1995 to 2008; three month periods ending June, September, December and March, 2008 to 2009. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	UK nationals	UK born	Non-UK nationals	Non-UK EU nationals[2]	Non-EU nationals
1995 Q1	97	93	3	2	2
1996 Q1	97	93	3	2	2
1997 Q1	96	93	3	2	2
1998 Q1	96	92	4	2	2
1999 Q1	96	92	4	2	2
2000 Q1	96	92	4	2	2
2001 Q1	96	92	4	2	3
2002 Q1	95	91	5	2	3
2003 Q1	95	91	5	2	3
2004 Q1	95	91	5	2	3
2005 Q1	94	90	6	2	4
2006 Q1	94	89	6	3	4
2007 Q1	93	88	7	3	4
2008 Q1	92	87	8	4	4
2008 Q2	92	87	8	4	4
2008 Q3	92	87	8	4	4
2008 Q4	92	87	8	4	5
2009 Q1	92	87	8	4	4

[1] Men aged 16-94 and women aged 16-59.
[2] The EU comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The A8 (Czech Republic Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) joined the EU on 1 May 2004 and are included from 2005 Q1 onwards. Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007 and are included from 2007 Q1 onwards.

Note:
The above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.).

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Employment: North East

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* the North East have claimed jobseeker's allowance in each year since 1997; [286607]

(2) how many people have been unemployed for *(a)* up to six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months and *(c)* 12 months and over in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside and (iii) the North East in each year since 1997; [286340]

(3) how many people were in *(a)* part-time and *(b)* temporary work in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside and (iii) the North East in each year since 1997; [286341]

(4) how many people were self-employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* the North East in each year since 1997. [286342]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how may people have claimed jobseeker's allowance in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside and (c) the North East in each year since 1997; how many people have been unemployed for (a) up to six months, (b) between six and 12 months and (c) 12 months and over in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside and (iii) the Norm East in each year since 1997; how many people have been in (a) part-time and (b) temporary work in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside and (iii) the North East in each year since 1997; and how many people have been self-employed in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside and (c) the North East in each year since 1997.(286607,286340,286341,286342)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance is compiled for Jobcentre Plus administrative data.

Table 1 shows the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the requested geographies for June of each year since 1997. The latest data for May 2009 has also been provided.

Table 2 shows the number of people unemployed by the duration of unemployment resident in the North East. Estimates for Jarrow parliamentary constituency and South Tyneside are not available. Estimates are also not available for the 12 month period ending February 1998.

Table 3 shows the number of people in part-time and temporary work resident in the requested geographies. Estimates of temporary workers for the Jarrow parliamentary constituency are not available. Estimates of temporary workers are also not available for the 12 month period ending February 1998.

Table 4 shows the number of self-employed people resident in the requested geographies in each year.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: The number of people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance resident in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside and the North East

Thousand

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East
June 1997	3	7	91
June 1998	3	6	81

Table 1: The number of people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance resident in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside and the North East

Thousand

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East
June 1999	3	7	80
June 2000	3	6	72
June 2001	2	5	61
June 2002	2	5	58
June 2003	2	4	53
June 2004	2	4	45
June 2005	2	4	45
June 2006	2	4	50
June 2007	2	4	48
June 2008	2	4	49
May 2009	3	7	86

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 2: The number of people unemployed by duration of unemployment resident in the North East

Thousand

12 months ending	Less than 6 months	6 months to less than 12 months	12 months or more
February 1998	—	—	—
February 1999	47	14	33
February 2000	53	22	33
February 2001	47	16	28
February 2002	46	14	25
February 2003	44	12	21
February 2004	50	10	18
December 2004	44	10	16
December 2005	42	11	16
December 2006	50	14	21
December 2007	44	13	19
December 2008[1]	*56	**15	**23

'—' = not available

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV)(%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 = CV≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:
Annual Population Survey/Annual Labour Force Survey

Table 3: The number of people in part-time and temporary work resident in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside and the North East

Thousand

	Jarrow		South Tyneside		North East	
12 months ending	Part-time	Temporary work	Part-time	Temporary work	Part-time	Temporary work
February 1998	11	—	18	—	281	—
February 1999	9	—	15	5	270	79
February 2000	9	—	15	5	286	76
February 2001	9	—	16	4	278	80
February 2002	10	—	18	5	276	78
February 2003	9	—	16	5	277	71
February 2004	9	—	16	5	279	65
December 2004	7	—	13	4	284	58

Table 3: The number of people in part-time and temporary work resident in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside and the North East

Thousand

	Jarrow		South Tyneside		North East	
12 months ending	Part-time	Temporary work	Part-time	Temporary work	Part-time	Temporary work
December 2005	8	—	16	4	293	54
December 2006	9	—	15	4	285	67
December 2007	10	—	18	6	297	67
December 2008[1]	***8	****_	**15	***4	*288	*63

'—' = not available

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

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* 0 = CV≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise
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*** 10 = CV≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:
Annual Population Survey/Annual Labour Force Survey

Table 4: The number of people self employed resident in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside and the North East

Thousand

12 months ending	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East
February 1998	3	5	97
February 1999	3	5	100
February 2000	2	5	99
February 2001	2	4	92
February 2002	2	5	82
February 2003	2	4	89
February 2004	2	4	89
December 2004	2	4	95
December 2005	3	5	105
December 2006	2	5	103
December 2007	4	6	107
December 2008[1]	***4	***6	*112

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV)(%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 = CV≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise
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**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:
Annual Population Survey/Annual Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: Recruitment

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent steps her Department has taken to ensure that recruitment agencies which advertise vacancies on behalf of the Government do not require candidates to have obtained security clearance to obtain an interview. [285689]

Tessa Jowell: It is Government policy that an existing security clearance should not be specified as a pre-requisite for recruitment, except in certain defined circumstances. The Cabinet Office has regular contact with the Recruitment and Employers Confederation and the Association of Professional Staffing Companies to ensure that its membership, which includes recruitment agencies, is aware of the policy.

Statistical Indices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what statistical indices have been used to measure levels of happiness and well-being in the UK in the last 30 years. [286294]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what statistical indices have been used to measure levels of happiness and well being in the UK in the past 30 years. (286294)

The general approach to measuring happiness is to assess life satisfaction, both overall and for particular aspects of life, by survey. The question "How satisfied are you with your life overall these days?", with a response scale of 1-10, has been included in a number of studies over time, including the British Household Panel Survey, managed by the Institute for Economic and Social Research at Essex University. Summary results from these studies have been reported in the Office for National Statistics' Social Trends publication and elsewhere.

The Department for Food and Rural Affair's Sustainable Development Indicator set now includes wellbeing measures, including survey results on life satisfaction.

The new economics foundation (nef) has calculated a Happy Planet Index which combines environmental impact with wellbeing to measure the environmental efficiency with which people in the UK and in other countries live long and happy lives. The nef has also published National Accounts of Wellbeing, which use a variety of indicators to reflect aspects of how people experience their lives.

The ONS is currently reviewing these and other approaches to measuring the wellbeing of UK society, to complement the long-established measures of economic wellbeing published regularly in the economic National Accounts. We have placed a number of reports and links on the ONS website, at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15205&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=240

Lord Ashcroft: Taxation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department has received provisional recommendations from the Information Commissioner in relation to the request by the hon. Member for Pendle under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information on the assurances given by Lord Ashcroft on his tax status prior to his elevation to the peerage. [285679]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* It is not Cabinet Office practice to comment on ongoing investigations by the Information Commissioner.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment was made of the effectiveness of the City Technology College programme when developing Government policy on academies; and if he will make a statement. [285428]

Mr. Coaker: There was no formal assessment of City Technology Colleges used in the development of the Academies programme. However, the contribution of external sponsors, the use of greater freedoms and innovation in learning and ICT were all characteristics of CTCs that influenced the development of the Academies programme.

All but three of the original CTCs have converted to Academy status, and a number have sponsored new Academy projects.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will assess the effect of policies on *(a)* diplomas and *(b)* academies on (i) local democratic accountability of the education system and (ii) levels of educational inequality. [285431]

Mr. Coaker: We are currently still in the first year of diploma teaching so it is too early to assess its impact on local accountability. Each diploma line of learning will be evaluated for the first three years after roll out and we will analyse the findings of the evaluation to ensure the implementation is having a positive impact on the education system.

One of the main aims of diplomas is to widen educational participation among young people. Data on the types of learners taking up diploma places will be available for analysis later this year, and this will help us to identify and address any areas of inequality.

With regards to academies and local accountability, all academies must have a local authority governor and a parent governor. Governing bodies are bound by law to act in the best interest of the academy, its pupils and the local community. They must set out their proposals for working with other schools and the wider community in their annual development plan. All academies are inspected by Ofsted on the same basis as other schools, and their results are published along with all maintained schools.

A major goal of the academies programme is to tackle educational inequality and there are a number of measures that guarantee this is achieved. To ensure a fair admissions process, academies, like maintained schools, are required to follow the School Admissions Code. The independent PricewaterhouseCoopers evaluation said that there was no evidence that academies have a negative impact on neighbouring schools in terms of pupil profile and therefore not created any inequalities.

The School Census shows that the proportion of pupils with special education needs (with and without statements) in academies is 29.5 per cent.—compared to an average of 19.2 per cent. for all schools. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in academies is 33.8 per cent.—compared to an average of 14.4 per cent. for maintained secondary

schools. Between 2007 and 2008 the rate of improvement for pupils gaining 5 A*-C grades (including English and maths) that attend academies and are eligible for free school meals has been double the national improvement rate, 5.3 percentage points compared to 2.4 percentage points.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria Partnerships for Schools use to assess the readiness of local authorities to join the reformed Building Schools for the Future programme. [286808]

Mr. Coaker: A Readiness to Deliver assessment covers: educational transformation; project deliverability; investment strategy; affordability and value for money; local resources and capability; and benefits realisation. In essence, local authorities have to prove that they are ready to deliver a clear education vision and estate strategy that will show how the investment through Building Schools for the Future will help improve education for every young person and deliver best value to the public purse.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to paragraph 6.21, page 121, of Budget 2009, what his most recent assessment is of progress made by the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in changing its procurement model so as to enable BSF projects with Partnership for Schools to join the programme on a gradual basis. [286892]

Mr. Coaker: In March this year, we announced the revised national programme for Building Schools for the Future (BSF), in line with the proposals of our consultation last year, based on the revised expressions of interest which authorities had proposed, including initial projects from authorities which have not yet started in BSF, and prioritised on the educational and social need of schools in the projects. Partnerships for Schools (PfS) then had meetings with prioritised authorities to discuss their readiness to deliver. A total of 23 authorities provided evidence of their readiness to deliver, and PfS is evaluating this evidence with a view to recommending to me the first projects which are fully ready to start in BSF. We aim shortly to give further details.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to paragraph 14, page 8 of the National Audit Office report on Financial management in the Department for Children, Schools and Families, HC 267, Session 2008-09, for what reasons the Building Schools for the Future programme has an under spend of £2.4 billion. [286898]

Mr. Coaker: There are three key reasons for the delays in some of the early local authority Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects which caused an underspend:

the original expectations of project completion dates were over-optimistic, given the scale of the programme and the aspiration of achieving a step-change in educational outcomes from the capital investment;

many local authorities in the early waves of BSF found identifying and resourcing the necessary project management skill sets to deliver the programme more challenging than expected;

many of the local authorities selected for the early waves of BSF also had the biggest challenges to manage, were pioneering the processes, and were at the forefront of resolving unexpected difficulties with innovative solutions.

Current plans indicate that all funds made available to the BSF programme since 2005 will have been allocated to projects by March 2011.

Child Minding

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes have been made to the methods of recording the number of places provided by childminders since September 2008. [281480]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 6 July 2009:

Your parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The method used by Ofsted to record numbers of childcare places changed with the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in September 2008. Ofsted now holds two registers, the Early Years Register (for settings providing for children between birth and aged five) and the Childcare Register. The Childcare Register has two components, the compulsory register (for settings providing for children aged between five and seven) and the voluntary register (for settings providing for children older than aged eight). These registers replace the single register previously held for settings providing for children between birth and aged seven.

For providers only registered on the Early Years Register, or those registered on both the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the only change is to the breakdown of age ranges recorded on the new registers.

For those providers only registered on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, there is no maximum number of places stipulated. The maximum number of places a setting on the other registers can offer is set out in their conditions of registration.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 989W, on children: databases, by what date he expects all local authority ContactPoint teams to have been given access to ContactPoint. [283239]

Dawn Primarolo: All local authorities have had access to ContactPoint for shielding records, however, full access to ContactPoint will not be given to all local authorities until the ContactPoint management teams have completed the necessary training.

All Early Adopter local authorities and Early Adopter national partners have completed such training. For local authorities and national partners that are not early adopters, we expect ContactPoint management teams to be trained between June and August, so that all local authority ContactPoint management teams should have access to ContactPoint by autumn.

Children: Disabled

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what monitoring his Department plans to undertake to ensure that Aiming High for Disabled Children short break funding meets its objectives in respect of the provision of services to *(a)* disabled children and *(b)* disabled children with palliative care needs. [286975]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has contracted with Together for Disabled Children (TDC) to support local authority and PCT delivery of the short breaks programme. TDC tracks local area progress both in terms of the work undertaken to improve services and the growth in provision and number of additional disabled children in receipt of breaks. Local authorities are expected to collect information on short breaks provision to enable this tracking to take place. The information collected does not however distinguish as to whether breaks are received as part of a package of palliative care.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure access for local voluntary sector providers to the Aiming High for Disabled Children short breaks funding distributed to local authorities. [286976]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department is advising local authorities on short break commissioning through two intermediary bodies: Together for Disabled Children and the Commissioning Support Programme. Advisors from both agencies support local authorities in securing appropriate providers, including local voluntary sector bodies.

The Department will also shortly launch a website for short break providers and local authority and primary care trust commissioners on which local providers can advertise their short break services.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to improve child protection services in Doncaster. [284447]

Dawn Primarolo: In response to the inadequate judgments in Doncaster Metropolitan borough council's 2008 annual performance assessment, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) commissioned a comprehensive diagnostic review of the council's children's services. The diagnostic review confirmed the seriousness of inadequate performance in Doncaster and, in response, the Secretary of State issued a direction under section 497A of the Education Act 1996, to the effect that the council was directed to secure a new senior leadership team for children's services, to prepare an Improvement Plan, and to appoint an Improvement Board with an independent Chair, Tony Elson, to oversee improvements. On 1 April, the council appointed Gareth Williams, Director of Children's Services (DCS) for Leicestershire county council, as interim DCS for Doncaster on a six month secondment. The council has prepared an Improvement Plan, which is being implemented. DCSF is supporting the council to secure a new senior leadership team for children's services for the longer term.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of his Department's capital underspend in 2009-10; and how much of that sum he proposes to return to the Exchequer. [284325]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is not anticipating a capital underspend at this stage of the current financial year (2009-10).

Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* maintained comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools have applied for funding to teach the pre-U qualification; [286385]

(2) how many pupils are studying for the Cambridge pre-U examination in *(a)* maintained comprehensive schools and *(b)* independent schools. [286390]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Post-16 funding allocations to maintained schools are made on the basis of overall learners' volumes and not by qualification type. It is not possible to provide information on the allocation of funding to maintained schools for the pre-U qualification. DCSF does not fund independent schools.

It is not possible to provide information on the numbers of pupils studying for the pre-U qualification. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 535W.

Further Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the relevance of diploma qualifications to the needs of employers; and what steps he is taking to take employers' views into account when revising the content and structure of diplomas. [285425]

Mr. Iain Wright: Diplomas were created through consultation with over 5,000 employers, and employers lead the Diploma Development Partnerships responsible for developing diploma content. We have a network of over 100 Diploma Employer Champions who support Diplomas and act as champions for them in their sectors. Many employers are actively engaging in the delivery of diplomas, working directly with schools and colleges in their local areas, reinforcing the principle that diplomas are applied learning in the workplace. The Employer Task Force, which will be launched in the autumn, will provide further opportunities for employers to become involved with diploma delivery.

We are still in the first year of teaching of the diploma and so have no plans to revise content and structure. We are evaluating the first three years of delivery for each of the four phases of diplomas and this will include an evaluation of employer involvement.

Head Teachers: Age

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average age of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school head teachers was in each year since 1997. [286402]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the average age of full-time head teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England, March 1997 to 2008, the latest information available.

Average age of full-time head teachers in local authority maintained schools. Coverage: England. Years: March 1997 to 2008

	Nursery/primary	*Secondary*
1997	48	49
1998	48	49
1999	48	50
2000	49	50
2001	49	50
2002	49	50
2003	50	51
2004	50	50
2005	50	51
2006[1]	50	51
2007[1]	50	51
2008[1]	49	51

[1] Provisional.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest whole year.

Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Higher Education: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much mainstream grant funding was allocated by the Training and Development Agency for Schools to *(a)* the University of York and *(b)* York St. John University in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [285701]

Mr. Coaker: The recurrent mainstream funding amounts allocated by the Training and Development Agency for schools for academic years 1996/97 and 2009/10 are as follows:

	Funding (£)
University of York	
1996/97	471,263
2009/10	778,880
York St. John University	
1996/97	2,168,728
2009/10	3,773,560

These figures exclude grant allocated to cover student support costs and employment-based initial teacher training provision.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to provide a substantive response to the letter from a constituent of the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight of 22 April 2009, ref ART 63589019765, on that constituent's daughter. [283206]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The correspondence from the hon. Member's constituent was addressed to the Student Loans Company, and no direct contact was made with the Department.

National Curriculum Tests

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what meetings he has had in the last 12 months on the proposal to move Key Stage 2 standard assessment tests to June; and who was present at each meeting. [286082]

Mr. Coaker: The Expert Group on Assessment consulted widely before publishing its recommendations, including the proposal to move Key Stage National Curriculum tests to June. The Department has accepted the group's recommendations in full. Ministers have met regularly with officials to discuss the group's proposals, including the recommendation to move Key Stage 2 National Curriculum test dates to June.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whom he consulted on proposals to change the announced dates for Key Stage 2 standard assessment tests. [286084]

Mr. Coaker: The Expert Group on Assessment consulted widely before publishing its recommendations, including the proposal to move key stage national curriculum tests to June. The Department has accepted the group's recommendations in full.

Having taken account of advice from the Qualification and Standards Authority (QCA) and the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual), tests in 2010 will take place as planned in the week commencing 10 May. We will seek to implement the expert group's recommendation on moving the test to mid June in 2011; this will help to strengthen transition arrangements for year 6 pupils; it will also help to embed our Assessment for Learning strategy and the role of teacher assessment.

National Curriculum Tests: Public Consultation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will hold a public consultation on *(a)* the proposals in the report recently produced by the Expert Group on Assessment and *(b)* the proposal to move Key Stage 2 standard assessment tests to June; [285909]

(2) whom he has consulted on his Department's proposal to hold Key Stage 2 standard assessment tests in June. [285911]

Mr. Coaker: The Expert Group on Assessment consulted widely before publishing its recommendations, including the proposal to move Key Stage National Curriculum tests to June. The Department has accepted the group's recommendations in full.

Having taken account of advice from the Qualification and Standards Authority (QCA) and the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual), tests in 2010 will take place as planned in the week commencing 10 May. We will seek to implement the Expert Group's recommendation on moving the test to mid June in 2011; this will help to strengthen transition arrangements for year 6 pupils; it will also help to embed our Assessment for Learning strategy and the role of teacher assessment.

Ofsted: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Ofsted inspectors of children's services have degrees in social work. [282646]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 9 July 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Information relating to the academic level of qualifications held by inspectors was not provided to Ofsted when social care inspectors transferred from the Commission for Social Care Inspection in April 2007. As of 26 June 2009, Ofsted employs 44 Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) with a social care background, who manage and undertake inspections of local authority children's services. Ofsted also employs 149 social care inspectors, who regulate and inspect a range of social care providers, such as residential homes, fostering and adoption agencies.

Of the 44 HMI, 42 hold a social work qualification recognised by the General Social Care Council, the qualification required for social work practice. These qualifications were awarded at different academic levels depending on the course attended (from the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work to a Masters degree) but all hold the same professional status. The requirement to hold a degree as the minimum level of social work qualification was only introduced in 2003. One HMI holds a residential work qualification which is not recognised as a social work qualification.

The 149 social care inspectors hold a variety of social work, social care and related qualifications and had considerable experience in providing children's social care services prior to joining Ofsted.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Play: Finance

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding each local authority in Greater Manchester awarded funding under the National Play Strategy in December 2008 has received to date; and how much on average each local authority in England was awarded under the National Play Strategy in December 2008. [285380]

Mr. Coaker: Following the commitments made in the Children's Plan in 2007 and the national Play Strategy in 2008, every top-tier local authority in England will receive either play pathfinder or playbuilder funding between 2008-11 through the play capital investment programme.

Of the 152 top-tier local authorities, 30 are play pathfinder authorities and the remaining 122 local authorities are all playbuilder authorities. On average, every play pathfinder authority will receive around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding, while playbuilder authorities will receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding, over the current spending period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Play pathfinder authorities will use their allocated funding to deliver a minimum of 28 play areas plus a new staffed adventure playground, while playbuilder authorities will deliver a minimum of 22 play areas by 2011. The play areas that are delivered can be either completely new areas or existing areas which are significantly refurbished.

Local authorities have joined the programme, and so started receiving their funding, in two phases: wave 1 started in April 2008 and wave 2 in April 2009. Bolton, Bury, Rochdale and Tameside are all wave 1 authorities, while the other six authorities in the Greater Manchester area (City of Manchester, Oldham, Salford, Stockport, Trafford and Wigan) joined the programme in April 2009. Of these, 10 local authorities, both Rochdale and Wigan are play pathfinders, while the others are all playbuilder authorities.

The following tables show the capital and revenue funding allocated to Greater Manchester authorities and the phase they each joined the capital play programme. Allocations for 2010-11 are indicative and will be confirmed in February 2010.

Decisions on where the capital funding is spent within local authority boundaries are taken locally, based on grant requirements around improved play spaces being provided where they are most needed and based on a robust consultation process with local children and young people, families and wider communities.

We are encouraging all Members of Parliament to proactively engage with their local play capital programmes as they roll out, and we are asking local authorities to ensure that their local Members of Parliament and council elected members are appropriately consulted, and briefed, about where the capital funding is spent.

Wave 1 authorities

£

	Capital funding			*Revenue funding*		
Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Bolton	351,984	390,628	440,319	12,662	19,912	13,274
Bury	293,307	389,180	438,686	12,465	19,646	13,097
Rochdale	595,624	1,573,332	n/a[1]	139,346	218,794	145,863
Tameside	298,756	388,987	438,469	12,606	19,802	13,202

[1] Wave 1 play pathfinder authorities receive capital funding in 2008-09 and 2009-10 only.

Wave 2 authorities

£

	Capital funding		*Revenue funding*	
Local authority	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
City of Manchester	539,934	608,617	27,663	18,442
Oldham	532,243	599,948	27,618	18,412
Salford	531,457	599,062	27,561	18,374
Stockport	526,916	593,944	26,991	17,994

Wave 2 authorities

£

Local authority	Capital funding		Revenue funding	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Trafford	526,656	593,650	26,985	17,990
Wigan	1,117,998	1,011,522	297,747	198,498

Playgrounds: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided for the enhancement of public play facilities in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in the last 12 months. [284738]

Dawn Primarolo: Following the commitments made in the Children's Plan in 2007 and the national Play strategy in 2008, every top tier local authority in England will receive either play pathfinder or playbuilder funding between 2008-11 through the play capital investment programme.

On average all play pathfinder authorities will receive around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding, while playbuilder authorities will receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding. Play pathfinder authorities will use their allocated funding to deliver a minimum of 28 play areas plus a new staffed adventure playground, while playbuilder authorities will deliver a minimum of 22 play areas by 2011. The play areas that are delivered can be either completely new areas or existing areas which are significantly refurbished.

Local authorities have joined the programme, and so started receiving their funding, in two phases: Wave 1 started in April 2008 and Wave 2 in April 2009. Hertfordshire is a Wave 2 playbuilder authority and will receive capital funding of £541,001 in 2009-10 and £609,820 in 2010-11 and revenue funding of £27,633 in 2009-10 and £18,422 in 2010-11. Allocations for 2010-11 are indicative and will be confirmed in February 2010.

Decisions on where the capital funding is spent within local authority boundaries are taken locally, based on grant requirements around improved play spaces being provided where they are most needed and based on a robust consultation process with local children and young people, families and wider communities.

We are encouraging all members of parliament to proactively engage with their local play capital programmes as they roll out, and we are asking local authorities to ensure that their local members of parliament and council elected members are appropriately consulted, and briefed, about where the capital funding is spent.

Primary Education: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funds have been allocated to the Primary Capital Programme for the financial year *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [286799]

Mr. Coaker: Taking into account the adjustments made following requests by some local authorities to bring forward funding in support of the Government's fiscal stimulus measures, the breakdown of funding allocated to support delivery of the programme nationally is:

(a) 2009-10: £757 million;

(b) 2010-11: £893 million.

Qualification: Social Work

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the grade is of the most senior member of staff at Ofsted with a qualification in social work. [284448]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 9 July 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The grade of the most senior members of staff at Ofsted to hold a qualification in social work is Deputy Director, equivalent to senior civil service (SCS) pay band 1. Two individuals hold posts at this grade.

As part of internal restructuring announced last September, Ofsted is currently recruiting a Director, Development (Social Care). She or he is required to hold a professional qualification in social work and to demonstrate 'relevant knowledge and experience as a senior manager of social work and child protection services'.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Rehabilitation: Lincolnshire

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1069-70W, and 1434W, on rehabilitation: Lincolnshire, where the 35 residential places are located. [284146]

Dawn Primarolo: The available beds, along with details of the support offered, are set out in the following table. These places represent only a small part of residential provision that can be accessed for young people with complex needs, where substance misuse is one factor. Local authority commissioners also meet young people's needs through a combination of fostering or children's home placements and specialist substance misuse community based services. This will often allow young people to be supported in an environment closer to their own community.

Number of beds	Location	Provider	Description of support offered
5	Lincolnshire	Middlegate Lodge	Registered Children's Home. Offers residential placement with an emphasis on detox and rehabilitation. Additional education and other services are also provided.
11	Maidenhead	Huntercombe	Registered Children's Home. Combines mental health and substance misuse services. Offers detox and rehabilitation programmes.

Number of beds	Location	Provider	Description of support offered
3	Staffordshire	Companions	Registered Children's Home. Provides intensive, long-term care for young people whose complex needs are severe and include substance misuse.
16 (women only)	Peterborough	Clare Lodge	Secure Children's Home. Offers placements under Section 25 of the Children's Act 1989 for 10 to 17-year-olds with self-harm, substance misuse or other complex needs.

Religion: Education

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how the £1 million spent by his Department on strengthening the teaching of *(a)* religious education and *(b)* identity and diversity has been allocated. [286118]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The £1 million announced in January 2008 was to be spent specifically on the Religious Education Action Plan and not on the identity and diversity strand which falls within Citizenship Education. The money has been allocated as follows:

Item	2008-11 (£)
1. RE Partnership support	120,000
2. Updating and disseminating the existing guidance on RE	60,000
3. National programme of recruitment and training for local Standing Advisory Councils on RE	100,000
4. Support to National Association of Teachers of RE	240,000
5. Continuing Professional Development Handbook for RE	100,000
6. Review of materials used in schools to teach world religions and their contribution to community cohesion	300,000
7. DCSF/REC Adviser	40,000
Total	960,000

Schools

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) with reference to his Department's publication, Your child, your schools, our future, how many and what proportion of the case studies were assessed against a control group; [286883]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the quantitative analysis of data used in each of the case studies. [286884]

Mr. Coaker: The case studies used in the recent White Paper—Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system—are intended as individual examples of good practice from a range of partners and sources. They illustrate proposals within the document and support understanding through using real contexts. In using such cases, we did not consider it necessary to have a control group or to collect a full quantitative analysis of data.

Schools: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* the renewal of the primary school estate and modernising school infrastructure, *(b)* the number of secondary school classrooms adapted to improve personalised learning, *(c)* the number of schools receiving energy-saving measures, *(d)* the number of kitchens built in primary schools and *(e)* the number of rooms in primary schools converted for mother-and-baby groups and other community uses of the £800 million funding for priority schools capital programmes, brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 and 2008-09; and how much of the funding has been spent in each month since it was announced. [286655]

Mr. Coaker: The fiscal stimulus initiative allowed local authorities and schools to bring forward some of their capital allocations from 2010-11 into 2009-10. The programmes affected are: Modernisation for schools; the Locally Co-ordinated Voluntarily Aided Programme (LCVAP); Primary Capital Programme; the Targeted Capital Fund for 14-19, special educational needs and disabilities; devolved formula capital which is paid directly to schools; and children's play areas. The final overall amount brought forward was £969 million. Information on how much of the overall allocations have been invested to date, and the impact of the investment, is held locally. The Department will be carrying out a survey later this year to determine whether or not the funds are on track to be invested during the 2009-10 spending period.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to paragraph 6.14, page 120, of Budget 2009, what information his Department holds on the priority schools capital programme; and what funding his Department has allocated to the programme in financial years *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [286891]

Mr. Coaker: The fiscal stimulus initiative allowed local authorities and schools to bring forward some of their capital allocations from 2010-11 into 2009-10. This involved allocations in existing programmes announced in the comprehensive spending review 2007, but allowed for significant investment to be made earlier than had previously been anticipated. Priorities for investment on these programmes are decided and held locally. Overall, the final amount planned to be brought forward was £969 million. This can be broken down as follows:

Programme	£m
Modernisation for schools	240
Locally Co-ordinated Voluntarily Aided Programme (LCVAP)	51
Primary Capital Programme	107
Targeted Capital Fund for 14 to 19, special educational needs and disabilities	151
Devolved Formula Capital (paid directly to schools)	390
Children's play areas	30

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated to each local authority through the dedicated schools grant in each year since its introduction. [286980]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the Dedicated Schools Grant allocations made to each local authority in each year since the grant began in 2006-07. Local

authorities with schools that have converted into academies may see a reduction in their allocation in the year of conversion. Academies receive their funding direct from the Department, not through local authorities.

Dedicated schools grant allocations by local authority

£ million

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Barking and Dagenham	119,913	129,088	135,488	142,933
Barnet	173,792	185,129	195,074	202,138
Barnsley	115,173	120,431	123,795	126,271
Bath and North East Somerset	84,534	88,117	92,611	95,332
Bedford Borough[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	92,190
Bedfordshire[1]	204,772	218,084	227,692	n/a
Bexley	137,002	144,800	149,304	153,030
Birmingham	677,576	721,735	747,609	768,202
Blackburn with Darwen	97,103	102,346	103,829	105,268
Blackpool	76,268	80,419	82,572	84,223
Bolton	156,361	165,865	171,002	171,193
Bournemouth	69,596	73,397	76,431	79,039
Bracknell Forest	52,899	56,717	59,691	61,973
Bradford	291,773	312,002	326,808	336,624
Brent	159,124	173,854	185,106	189,555
Brighton and Hove	108,502	117,598	122,581	127,734
Bristol, City of	180,667	188,615	189,531	192,264
Bromley	156,417	165,628	172,412	179,600
Buckinghamshire	248,999	263,650	275,335	283,256
Bury	99,393	105,016	108,677	112,108
Calderdale	113,764	120,468	126,007	130,646
Cambridgeshire	266,456	282,595	295,795	306,375
Camden	110,974	118,313	122,965	128,449
Central Bedfordshire[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	142,303
Cheshire East[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	193,298
Cheshire West and Chester[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	185,693
Cheshire[1]	346,727	362,566	374,100	n/a
City of London	1,664	1,795	1,801	1,962
Cornwall	240,785	254,078	261,827	268,681
Coventry	170,628	181,098	186,193	191,900
Croydon	186,482	196,967	200,839	198,608
Cumbria	246,418	258,946	258,775	256,931
Darlington	53,941	55,815	56,354	58,539
Derby	130,521	138,746	142,955	147,844
Derbyshire	376,114	393,943	406,793	414,929
Devon	317,668	335,278	348,214	359,179
Doncaster	158,019	165,419	169,984	169,167
Dorset	183,557	194,215	200,381	205,848
Dudley	173,955	183,146	188,303	189,779
Durham	255,591	267,453	274,436	279,925
Ealing	170,813	185,023	194,006	203,109
East Riding of Yorkshire	158,009	166,529	171,844	176,037
East Sussex	237,085	249,423	257,367	266,665
Enfield	186,575	200,393	208,807	213,515
Essex	694,378	733,245	754,993	758,957
Gateshead	95,668	100,182	102,678	103,114
Gloucestershire	279,957	294,472	306,234	315,166
Greenwich	157,469	168,777	174,442	180,449
Hackney	140,069	146,998	149,967	155,005
Halton	71,796	75,565	77,959	79,697
Hammersmith and Fulham	78,825	82,175	84,626	88,462
Hampshire	614,145	647,530	671,582	692,510
Haringey	144,409	154,297	159,997	164,501
Harrow	119,052	127,692	132,762	137,687
Hartlepool	54,528	57,377	58,525	59,700

Dedicated schools grant allocations by local authority

£ million

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Havering	133,791	141,743	147,407	153,255
Herefordshire	78,151	82,535	83,612	84,519
Hertfordshire	565,275	597,715	621,928	642,065
Hillingdon	148,435	158,427	165,328	173,418
Hounslow	134,705	145,398	151,628	158,126
Isle of Wight	67,779	70,911	72,708	74,162
Islington	116,438	123,028	123,100	125,434
Kensington and Chelsea	56,218	60,141	62,106	64,209
Kent	718,205	751,848	773,916	791,332
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	140,699	146,437	147,321	146,344
Kingston upon Thames	73,799	78,402	81,983	86,488
Kirklees	219,243	232,480	241,262	249,965
Knowsley	91,218	94,867	96,764	98,699
Lambeth	147,071	159,303	169,033	177,221
Lancashire	606,865	634,956	649,351	659,577
Leeds	363,869	380,882	393,272	400,686
Leicester	169,484	181,366	188,698	195,111
Leicestershire	298,047	313,502	325,362	336,061
Lewisham	161,465	168,579	172,430	178,216
Lincolnshire	338,012	358,304	364,139	363,492
Liverpool	251,480	259,778	264,974	270,273
Luton	121,890	126,431	130,118	136,279
Manchester	257,322	272,581	281,132	280,993
Medway	152,202	159,669	163,836	165,319
Merton	87,087	90,758	94,740	99,162
Middlesbrough	72,479	75,378	76,886	79,098
Milton Keynes	138,460	138,853	148,576	153,392
Newcastle upon Tyne	127,051	134,112	135,613	136,846
Newham	215,377	231,764	242,480	252,635
Norfolk	376,695	397,879	411,575	419,678
North East Lincolnshire	93,904	92,859	91,129	92,952
North Lincolnshire	84,891	89,523	90,944	92,380
North Somerset	93,147	99,681	104,422	108,003
North Tyneside	96,832	101,636	104,674	107,062
North Yorkshire	285,994	299,913	310,692	318,209
Northamptonshire	338,390	358,640	373,030	376,256
Northumberland	151,545	159,219	164,015	160,909
Nottingham	145,958	154,697	159,276	156,735
Nottinghamshire	384,033	407,619	417,331	426,150
Oldham	143,869	152,671	159,029	164,960
Oxfordshire	283,527	299,770	308,566	321,677
Peterborough	104,111	106,602	108,744	111,818
Plymouth	127,125	132,906	136,886	140,166
Poole	61,136	64,386	66,954	69,013
Portsmouth	92,454	97,702	99,832	100,010
Reading	58,511	63,316	66,419	68,940
Redbridge	151,437	164,401	173,785	184,212
Redcar and Cleveland	81,483	85,036	86,737	88,472
Richmond upon Thames	80,464	85,934	91,127	95,057
Rochdale	127,281	132,078	134,857	138,430
Rotherham	155,011	163,114	167,663	170,154
Rutland	17,936	18,692	19,753	20,582
Salford	122,025	126,906	127,960	130,545
Sandwell	177,873	185,354	185,455	186,752
Sefton	148,611	154,555	157,646	160,799
Sheffield	252,981	264,759	276,119	281,394
Shropshire	133,468	139,256	143,866	147,176
Slough	75,633	83,187	87,374	91,456
Solihull	113,614	117,293	122,228	123,788
Somerset	241,427	253,489	262,927	268,946
South Gloucestershire	127,610	134,738	139,155	136,125

Dedicated schools grant allocations by local authority

£ million

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
South Tyneside	82,607	85,998	87,718	89,472
Southampton	106,923	112,679	111,002	112,163
Southend-on-Sea	93,734	98,970	102,523	105,405
Southwark	167,665	166,425	164,714	168,332
St. Helens	96,973	100,344	102,539	104,590
Staffordshire	410,346	428,460	442,498	452,378
Stockport	141,421	145,810	149,416	152,404
Stockton-on-Tees	102,936	108,129	110,984	113,204
Stoke-on-Trent	128,578	134,987	138,998	142,287
Suffolk	325,258	343,156	356,069	364,796
Sunderland	152,385	158,576	158,861	156,251
Surrey	496,045	528,566	553,065	574,114
Sutton	107,407	115,169	120,569	125,693
Swindon	99,650	103,259	107,169	110,647
Tameside	126,931	133,157	133,468	130,997
Telford and Wrekin	91,545	93,936	94,710	96,249
Thurrock	84,337	88,593	93,821	95,030
Torbay	63,331	66,919	69,227	70,612
Tower Hamlets	197,620	214,912	222,676	232,291
Trafford	115,557	122,267	129,836	134,623
Wakefield	169,213	177,316	181,551	182,151
Walsall	156,923	166,212	170,660	170,137
Waltham Forest	144,467	153,176	160,125	167,109
Wandsworth	124,128	134,423	140,411	146,237
Warrington	105,260	111,706	116,014	119,386
Warwickshire	255,186	268,812	277,924	287,519
West Berkshire	82,568	88,582	92,825	93,953
West Sussex	366,745	385,413	399,531	400,316
Westminster	86,014	89,186	89,075	90,949
Wigan	169,716	177,387	182,506	186,156
Wiltshire	215,852	228,304	237,385	243,179
Windsor and Maidenhead	66,332	70,547	73,044	75,873
Wirral	170,958	179,333	183,718	188,116
Wokingham	75,960	81,022	84,607	88,029
Wolverhampton	136,566	144,504	148,732	149,595
Worcestershire	259,678	271,961	282,736	288,576
York	79,798	83,311	86,056	88,321
England Total	26,573,622	28,031,556	28,941,547	29,620,467

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Authorities changed as a result of local government reorganisation.

Teachers: Rarely Cover Guidance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what additional support he plans to provide to teachers to help facilitate the continuation of educationally valuable visits or trips in light of the rarely cover guidelines; [285910]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the conduct of school trips of his Department's rarely cover guidance; [285912]

(3) what recent discussions he has had on the application of his Department's rarely cover guidance; with whom such discussions were held; and on what dates these discussions took place; [285913]

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance he has issued to schools on the requirement that teachers rarely cover for absent colleagues; what guidance he has issued to schools on the implementation of rarely cover guidelines for school trips; and what definition of rarely cover is used in the context of such guidance. [285722]

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of school excursions which were cancelled owing to a failure to provide sufficient levels of staff cover in the last 12 months; [286079]

Tim Farron: (2) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the requirement that teachers rarely cover for absent colleagues does not adversely affect learning activities outside the classroom. [286081]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State and my predecessor, the right hon. Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight) have discussed the issues of rarely cover individually with our social partners on the Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group on a number of occasions over the last few months.

General guidance on the rarely cover provisions was issued at the end of April. A copy of this has been placed in the House Libraries. It makes clear that teachers should, from September 2009, be required to cover for absent colleagues only rarely, in circumstances that are not foreseeable.

Since April, the Department has been working hard with social partners to produce additional guidance on the rarely cover provisions. This will include guidance on learning outside the classroom which is designed to help schools plan effectively for these activities, which we all agree are an important part of the curriculum. The additional guidance, which will be subject to a period of consultation, will be issued shortly and a copy will be placed in the House Libraries.

No estimate has been made of the number of learning outside the classroom activities that have been cancelled because of a lack of cover over the last 12 months and where schools take note of the new guidance, we do not anticipate that the rarely cover provisions will result in reduced opportunities for learning outside the classroom in the future.

Truancy: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber appeared in court on charges related to the unauthorised absence of their child from school in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [280689]

Mr. Coaker: The Ministry of Justice collects and publishes data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data, that some s444 data are also collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The information on the number of parents prosecuted by local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber for failing to secure their children's regular school attendance between 2003 to 2007 (latest available data) is detailed in the table. Data are collected on the basis of police

force regions and not local authority areas. Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Education Act 1996 S.444[1], Yorkshire and Humberside region, broken down by police force area, 2003 to 2007[2, 3]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Humberside	65	29	208	224	225
North Yorkshire	19	21	24	34	53
South Yorkshire	463	375	333	455	483
West Yorkshire	162	218	63	19	9
Yorkshire and Humberside	709	643	628	732	770

[1] Includes the following:
(a) Failure to secure regular attendance at school. (Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(B)).
(b) Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school. (Education Act 1996 S.444(B)(1a)(Ba) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72).
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Youth Crime Priority Areas: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much additional funding has been allocated by his Department to the 69 local authority areas identified as Youth Crime Priority Areas; and over what period that funding will be provided. [285554]

Mr. Coaker: The Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP), published in July 2008, sets out the Government's plans for tackling offending by young people. It is supported by close to £100 million over the three year period from 2008-09 to 2010-11, in addition to the existing investment in children's and youth services, to support local authorities in making inroads into youth crime locally.

69 local authority areas (and two in Wales) have been identified as "priority areas" under YCAP. In 2008-09, under YCAP, the 69 local authorities in England each received £65,000 to implement an intensive package of activity set out in YCAP.

Each of the 69 local authority areas in England will receive £350,000 this financial year (2009-10) and £350,000 in 2010-11 to deliver the intensive package of activity to help reduce youth crime. In addition, the two Welsh areas will receive £175,000 in each of the two years to fund those aspects of the intensive package that are not devolved.

This year, building on the success of the Home Office enforcement campaign in 2008/09 we will provide funding to the 69 areas to develop a co-ordinated plan of activity to tackle alcohol related youth crime. Areas will be provided with a grant of up to £20,000 (£1.4 million in total) to kick start activity to begin before the summer and last at least throughout the summer holidays.

TREASURY

Banks: Iceland

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings his Department's officials have had on the recovery of local authority investments in Icelandic banks since 1 May 2009. [286391]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, the Government do not disclose the outcome or results of all such meetings and discussions.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each *(a)* database and *(b)* ICT system run by his Department in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [286558]

(2) how many successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each *(a)* database and *(b)* ICT system run by his Department in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [286559]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

HM Treasury is bound by the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security, including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279398]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is no central provision for training special advisers.

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies on the banking and financial services sector of the paper presented on 8 May 2009 to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Conference on reforming financial regulation by the executive director for financial stability of the Bank of England. [286815]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's approach to reforming regulation of financial services is set out in the Government's paper 'Reforming Financial Markets', published on 8 July 2009.

Hedge Funds

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 969-87, on reforming of financial markets, what his definition is of systematically important hedge funds; and which hedge funds fall into this category. [286626]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A financial institution can be said to be of systemic importance when its failure could cause serious disruption to the financial system. In order to more closely monitor the systemic impact of hedge funds the Government are working with the Financial Services Authority to put in place a system of enhanced surveillance that can gather relevant and timely information on the funding, leverage, investment strategies and, in some cases, investment positions of individual funds managed from the UK.

Interpal

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Milton Keynes South West, *Official Report*, column 677W, on Interpal, whether he has received evidence from the US Administration on the basis for the allegations made against Interpal in its press notice of 22 August 2003. [284409]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As set out in the Treasury's written answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 677W, HM Treasury officials are in discussions with their US counterparts about how to facilitate legitimate charitable work, while protecting against the abuse of charities by those involved in terrorist finance. As part of this, HM Treasury continue to discuss the specific case of Interpal with the US authorities.

Members: Correspondence

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter of 5 March 2009, ref 6/0017/8/2009, on the banking industry and pensions from the hon. Member for Congleton on behalf of her constituents Mr. and Mrs. Brian Evans. [280715]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Operational Efficiency Programme: Met Office

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with which other public sector bodies the Operational Efficiency Programme project team plans to work in its review of the Met Office. [284455]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* As part of the joint work on the Trading Funds Review which preceded the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP), the Met Office has had initial engagement with public sector bodies including the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Natural Environment Research Council. The Met Office OEP review team is currently reviewing which further public sector bodies to consult with as part of the next phase of work.

Pay: North East

Mr. Heppell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of average earnings growth was in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* the North East in each year since 1997. [286343]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the rate of average earnings growth was in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside and (c) the North East in each year since 1997. (286343)

ONS's primary indicator of average earnings growth is the Average Earnings Index. As this does not produce regional estimates, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings has been used (ASHE). The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of information on the levels of earnings in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

The sample sizes for more detailed geographies can be small and this affects the quality of the resulting estimates, which are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ASHE results are available from 1997 and so annual growth rates are available from 1998. I attach a table showing the annual percentage change in median gross weekly earnings for the specified geographies for full-time employees in each year since 1998.

Annual percentage change of median gross weekly earnings for full-time employee jobs[1]

	Jarrow parliamentary constituency	*South Tyneside local authority*	*North East*
1998	8.2	8.7	1.0
1999	3.2	-0.4	3.8
2000	0.3	7.1	4.9
2001	7.8	4.5	1.3
2002	-3.5	-7.2	3.3
2003	-7.2	1.8	1.1
2004	6.6	14.5	7.0
2005	0.9	-2.8	3.7
2006	4.0	3.8	3.7
2007	-0.4	-0.6	2.4
2008	4.8	6.7	4.0

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics. 1998 to 2008.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the components are of the other spending line in Table 4.1, Spending Projection, on page 36 of the Long-term Public Finance Report of March 2008, identifying the components of the totals for each of the years given in the columns. [282219]

Mr. Byrne: The Long-term Public Finance Report provides a comprehensive analysis of long-term demographic developments, and their likely impact on the public finances, based on long-term projections of public spending and revenues. The latest publication, as well as previous reports, can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud08_longterm.htm

Travel: Insurance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from representatives of those with serious medical conditions and disabilities on the availability of travel insurance; and if he will make a statement. [286258]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average proportion of the cost of travel insurance to the consumer accounted for by premium insurance tax; and if he will make a statement. [286259]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Travel insurance premiums are subject to the higher rate of insurance premium tax at 17.5 per cent. Insurance premium tax therefore accounts for 14.9 per cent of the total price paid by a customer for travel insurance.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has assessed on the effect of allotments on the environment and local communities. [285423]

Mr. Malik: CLG and DEFRA officials have started discussions about jointly commissioning research to identify and collect evidence on how communities can be engaged and empowered to realise the benefits of urban green spaces (including allotments), which align with key Government priorities.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints have been submitted to the local government ombudsman on maladministration in the provision of allotments in the last five years. [285427]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is not held centrally. The Local Government Ombudsman do not record complaints regarding allotment provision separately, they fall within a wider leisure and culture category on their complaints database.

Allotments: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many allotments are provided by each district authority in Lancashire. [286688]

Mr. Malik: Information on the number of allotments provided by each local authority is not held centrally.

Collective Worship

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people attended Church of England services in each of the last 30 years. [286291]

Mr. Malik: This information is not collected by Government.

Community Relations

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps have been taken to tackle caste discrimination in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [285341]

Mr. Malik: Officials have been considering the issue of caste based discrimination and Communities and Local Government are currently engaged in a series of meetings with interested parties on the subject within the context of the Equality Bill currently before Parliament.

Council Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 7-10WS, on housing, for how long the consultation on council housing finance will last; and when he expects it to report. [287033]

Mr. Ian Austin: The consultation will be for a minimum of 12 weeks in accordance with the Government's code of practice on consultation. The Government response to the consultation will be published early next year.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by how much council tax *(a)* bills and *(b)* receipts increased in (i) absolute percentage terms and (ii) real terms in England between 1997-98 and 2009-10 according to figures held by the Office for National Statistics. [285249]

Ms Rosie Winterton: According to statistical returns made to Communities and Local Government, between 1997-98 and 2009-10, average council tax bills for a band-D property in England rose by 106 per cent. in absolute terms and by 52 per cent. in real terms. Decisions about the level of council tax are a matter for individual local authorities and will rightly reflect the priorities of their local communities.

Between 1997-98 and 2008-09 receipts of council tax in England increased by 125 per cent. in absolute terms and by 66 per cent. in real terms. Data for 2009-10 are not yet available.

The Office for National Statistics does not collect information about council tax.

Between 1997-98 and 2007-08 central Government grants, consisting of revenue support grant, redistributed national non-domestic rates, police grant, general GLA grant and special and specific grants, to local authorities in England increased by 96 per cent. in absolute terms and by 45 per cent. in real terms. Data for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are not yet available.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287339]

Mr. Malik: Communities and Local Government laid their resource accounts before Parliament on 14 July 2009.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an assessment of the standard of service provided to his Department and its agencies by contractors appointed by reverse auction. [285220]

Mr. Malik: The Department and its agencies have not appointed any suppliers by reverse auction.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285020]

Mr. Malik: CLG currently has no plans to upgrade from Internet Explorer 6. CLG will consider upgrading when the benefits for doing so outweigh any disbenefit or cost. Reasons for upgrading might include withdrawal of support by Microsoft, or significant dependencies on other versions of internet explorer by other key CLG systems.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 755W, on official hospitality, what the monetary value is above which special advisers in his Department are required to declare *(a)* hospitality and *(b)* gifts. [283979]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 755-56W.

Departmental Publications

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* original budget for and *(b)* outturn cost of production of his Department's report Getting it right, and righting the wrongs was. [284694]

Mr. Malik: The information is as follows.

(a) £100,000 was allocated to the independent Review of Redress in each of 2008-09 and 2009-10. This covered the full costs of the review, including production of the final report.

(b) Costs for the design, printing and typesetting of the "Getting it right and righting the wrongs" report and the accompanying practitioners' toolkit were £23,046 excluding VAT.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of his Department and its predecessors have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284976]

Mr. Malik: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code. Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust. Details on numbers of civil servants from this Department who have had such an attachment are not held centrally.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281512]

Mr. Malik: The Department of Communities and Local Government has not awarded any paid or unpaid graduate internships in the last six months.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many interns work in his Department; what terms of reference apply to their appointment; what remuneration they receive; and how long on average an intern appointment lasts. [286826]

Mr. Malik: The Department for Communities and Local Government currently has 12 interns working in the Department. Details of the different terms of reference, remuneration and the length of the appointment on offer are set out as follows.

Cabinet Office interns

There are four interns from this programme. All are on a training contract, with remuneration of £24,951 per annum (pro rata). The placements last on average six weeks.

Government economics interns

There are two interns from this programme. All are on causal contracts, with remuneration of £22,540 per annum (pro rata). The placements last on average six weeks.

Government legal interns

There are six interns from this programme. All are on causal contracts, with remuneration of £180 per week. The placements last two weeks.

Deposit Protection Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Deposit Protection Service's most recent monthly performance report; [286955]

(2) which key performance indicators are used by his Department to measure the performance of the Deposit Protection Service; and if he will make a statement; [286969]

(3) what rating was reported by the Deposit Protection Service in relation to each of its key performance indicators in each of the last six months. [286971]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Deposit Protection Service (DPS) is required to submit monthly reports on 11 key performance indicators, listed as follows, under the terms of its contract with Communities and Local Government. The reports are commercially confidential and will not be placed in the Library. However, I can report that in each of the last six months, the DPS met or exceeded all of the performance targets.

Key performance indicator	*Target*
1. Call answer: All calls to the helpline to be answered by a customer service representative within a monthly average of 90 seconds within the defined hours of operation	90 seconds
2. System availability: Availability of web access to the system for end users; Provision of a web/online interface available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, exclusive of scheduled downtime	99 per cent.
3. Time needed for a substantive response to written, e-mail and web-based inquiries and complaints (including to provide confirmation of deposit protection to tenants): Responses to written inquiries (including fax) dispatched within four business days (excluding the day of receipt)	4 business days
4. Confirmation of registration dispatched to landlord within three business days of receipt of a completed registration by phone, paper, or online (excluding the day of registration)	3 business days
5. Deposit funds that are given to service provider banked in a timely manner: (i.e. cheques or any other payment made to service provider) by banking close on the business day following the business day of receipt of deposit funds by the service provider	99 per cent.
6. Confirmation dispatched to landlord of deposit protection and provision of required tenancy information within two business days of funds being cleared by deposit holder (excluding business day on which funds are cleared)	2 business days
7. Deposit plus interest is returned to the appropriate recipient(s) within 10 days from the day that the service provider receives confirmation of its release (i.e. after agreement, ADR decision notification, court decision), (including day of receipt of notification).	100 per cent.
8. Deposit plus interest is returned to the appropriate recipient(s) within five days from the day that the service provider receives confirmation of its release (i.e. after agreement, ADR decision notification, court decision), (including day of receipt of notification)	98 per cent.
9. Resolution of disputes by the ADR service within 28 days from the notification of dispute (following agreement by both landlord and tenant to use the ADR service, (excluding the day of notification))	93 per cent.
10. Notification dispatched to landlord and tenant of a final ADR decision within one business day of the service provider receiving such notification from the ADR service (excluding the day of notification)	2 business days
11. All scheduled monthly reports and invoices, fully in accordance with the agreement, provided to the authority by the time specified in the Agreement	By the time specified

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of the Deposit Protection Service is for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [286970]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Deposit Protection Service is a Government authorised tenancy deposit protection scheme but is self-financing and does not receive a budget from Communities and Local Government.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* landlords and *(b)* lettings agents were registered with the Deposit Protection Service in each of the last three years. [286973]

Mr. Ian Austin: The total number of landlords and letting agents registered with the Deposit Protection Service at the end of each year since the scheme began in April 2007 is set out as follows.

	Letting agents registered (cumulative figure)	*Landlords registered (cumulative figure)*
As at 31 December 2007	7,825	66,084
As at 31 December 2008	11,920	130,550
As at 14 July 2009	14,399	163,193

Derelict Land

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what area of land designated as brown field in each county in 1997 has since been dedesignated; and what estimate he has made of the area of such land which has been built upon since 1997. [286575]

Mr. Ian Austin: No information is available on what land was designated as brownfield in 1997. Information on the stock of brownfield land by region from 1998 is available from the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land and is given in the following table:

Hectares

Government office region	*1998*	*2001 on 1998 specification*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	4,120	4,850	4,930	4,780	4,360	4,540	4,230	3,970	4,030
North West	8,370	10,390	10,710	11,770	11,390	11,830	11,860	11,060	10,910
Yorkshire and the Humber	8,930	8,880	9,010	8,800	8,070	8,230	8,170	8,580	9,110
East Midlands	5,610	5,960	6,140	6,390	5,870	5,660	5,540	6,240	6,360
West Midlands	5,040	5,600	5,850	6,560	6,420	6,250	6,980	6,050	5,930
East of England	6,950	7,560	7,820	7,540	7,930	7,360	6,830	7,190	6,890
London	2,820	3,710	4,590	3,520	3,430	3,290	3,080	3,640	3,930
South East	9,740	9,120	9,870	10,910	10,860	10,370	10,130	9,930	8,990

Hectares

Government office region	1998	2001 on 1998 specification	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
South West	6,110	6,340	6,580	6,650	7,420	6,570	6,660	6,070	5,960
England	57,710	62,420	65,500	66,110	65,760	64,130	63,490	62,730	62,130

Information at county level for land which has been de-designated and the acreage of land which has been built on could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on provision for waste bins in the design of new residential developments. [286509]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government receive a range of representations from groups and individuals on a wide range of topics including the provision of waste bins in residential developments. I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 741-42W and 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1144-45W as examples. The provision of and access to for solid waste, such as waste bins, is addressed by Part H6 of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations, and in Category 5 (Was 1) of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department and its agencies have issued to local authorities in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each London borough in relation to the use of empty dwelling management orders. [286521]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department supported the guidance on Empty Dwelling Management Orders which was launched by the independent Empty Homes Agency on 10 March. A foreword to the guidance was provided by the then Minister of State for Housing and Planning. Individual guidance is provided on demand to all local authorities by my officials.

Faith and Social Cohesion Unit

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department is giving to the Charity Commission's Faith and Social Cohesion Unit. [286105]

Mr. Malik: The Department for Communities and Local Government is part-funding the Charity Commission's Faith and Social Cohesion Unit to a total of £1.3 million over financial years 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10. The Charity Commission is also contributing £200,000 over each of these financial years through staff resources.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the latest timetable is for each of the regional fire control room to become fully operational; whether any control room is expected to go live before June 2010; and if he will make a statement; [283696]

(2) when he expects the new London fire control centre to be operational. [283833]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made to the House today which sets out the latest position on the FiReControl project.

Fire Services: Manpower

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire fighters were employed at fire stations in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [285328]

Mr. Malik: Available data on the number of firefighters are shown in the tables. These are for: *(a)* the north-east, and for *(b)* the Tees Valley areas of Cleveland and of Darlington.

Fire fighter strength data for Darlington, and both headcount and strength data for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(a) Number of firefighters, the north-east of England, 1999 to 2008

	Headcount		Strength	
At 31 March	Whole-time	Retained duty	Wholetime[1]	Retained duty[2]
1999	2,195	450	2,195	343
2000	2,213	456	2,213	371
2001	2,224	442	2,222	351
2002	2,239	456	2,239	396
2003	2,201	449	2,236	390
2004	2,140	455	2,138	393
2005	2,086	456	2,086	419
2006	2,051	485	2,049	414
2007	2,049	477	2,040	406
2008	2,031	471	2,031	393

[1] In full-time equivalents (FTEs)
[2] In 24-hour units of cover. Figures include volunteers and members of private brigades.
Source:
Annual Returns to CLG

(b) (i) Number of firefighters, Cleveland, 1999 to 2008

	Headcount		Strength	
At 31 March	Whole-time	Retained duty	Wholetime[1]	Retained duty[2]
1999	603	85	603	66
2000	589	89	589	69
2001	601	80	601	62

(b) (i) Number of firefighters, Cleveland, 1999 to 2008

	Headcount		Strength	
At 31 March	Whole-time	Retained duty	Wholetime[1]	Retained duty[2]
2002	610	85	610	66
2003	586	89	589	69
2004	570	87	570	66
2005	563	90	563	72
2006	561	84	559	66
2007	562	81	562	62
2008	542	94	542	72

[1] In full-time equivalents (FTEs)
[2] In 24-hour units of cover. Figures include volunteers and members of private brigades
Source:
Annual Returns to CLG

(b) (ii) Number of firefighters, Darlington, 1997 to 2008

	Headcount[1]		Strength[2]	
At 31 March	Whole-time	Retained Duty[3]	Wholetime[4]	Retained Duty[5]
1999	64	0	n/a	n/a
2000	64	0	n/a	n/a
2001	68	0	n/a	n/a
2002	68	0	n/a	n/a
2003	68	0	n/a	n/a
2004	68	0	n/a	n/a
2005	56	0	n/a	n/a
2006	56	0	n/a	n/a
2007	56	0	n/a	n/a
2008	56	0	n/a	n/a

n/a = data not available
[1] Figures exclude Group Manager and Station Manager grades, therefore report fire-fighter personnel only.
[2] Annual return data is for establishment only and is not broken down by station.
[3] Darlington has no retained duty fire-fighters.
[4] In full-time equivalents (FTEs).
[5] In 24-hour units of cover. Figures include volunteers and members of private brigades.
Source:
Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Fires: Domestic Waste

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps fire authorities have taken to examine the causes of wheeled refuse container fires; and if he will make a statement. [286523]

Mr. Malik: All fires are investigated by fire and rescue services and a most likely cause is determined either by the incident commander or a fire investigation officer.

Local analysis of fire data is undertaken within fire and rescue services to determine trends, such as geographical locations or types of incident, and to inform the Integrated Risk Management Planning process. These data are used internally and are not shared with Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the number of wheeled refuse container fires in England in the last 12 months. [286567]

Mr. Malik: The number of wheeled refuse container fires is not yet held centrally and so could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Data on refuse fires are calculated from aggregate monthly returns. These are limited to the total number of refuse and refuse container fires attended by each fire and rescue service. These provide insufficient information to make an estimate on the number of wheeled refuse container fires.

The total number of refuse and refuse container fires is shown in the table for the latest year for which information is available.

The recently implemented electronic incident recording system (IRS) records both the number and location of all incidents attended by fire and rescue services. The number and location of wheeled refuse container fires attended by fire and rescue services will therefore be available, with the first data being for 2009-10.

Total refuse and refuse container fires, England, 2007[1]

FRS area	2007[1]
England	108,335
Avon	1,489
Bedfordshire	911
Berkshire	831
Buckinghamshire	1,181
Cambridgeshire	941
Cheshire	2,881
Cleveland	3,853
Cornwall	320
Cumbria	1,305
Derbyshire	1,230
Devon	1,439
Dorset	525
Durham	2,419
East Sussex	862
Gloucestershire	618
Greater London	12,478
Greater Manchester	10,451
Hampshire	2,512
Hereford and Worcester	621
Hertfordshire	1,197
Humberside	3,459
Isle of Wight	130
Isles of Stilly	0
Kent	2,326
Lancashire	4,362
Leicestershire	1,429
Lincolnshire	965
Merseyside	6,493
Norfolk	861
North Yorkshire	940
Northamptonshire	1,409
Northumberland	949
Nottinghamshire	1,983
Oxfordshire	553
Shropshire	784
Somerset	541
South Yorkshire	5,563
Staffordshire	2,327
Suffolk	713
Surrey	916
Tyne and Wear	6,050
Warwickshire	816
West Midlands	7,029
West Sussex	728
West Yorkshire	8,407

Total refuse and refuse container fires, England, 2007[1]

FRS area	*2007*[1]
Wiltshire	518

[1] Data for 2007 are provisional and subject to change
Source:
CLG

Flats: Construction

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that blocks of flats of a height of 30 metres or more completed or refurbished after April 2007 are fitted with sprinkler systems. [286346]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Building Regulations 2000 require that

"where reasonably necessary to inhibit the spread of fire within the building"

automatic fire suppression systems and/or fire resisting construction should be provided in new buildings.

In April 2007, the guidance given in Approved Document B (Fire safety), which shows one way in which this requirement can be met, was amended to provide that both a sprinkler system and fire resisting construction should be provided in new blocks of flats over 30 m in height.

The building regulations apply to building work. Therefore, where a building is being refurbished and building work is being undertaken, that work will need to comply with the relevant requirements of the regulations and the rest of the building should be made no worse as a result of the work being carried out.

Furthermore, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 requires those with responsibility for the building (usually the employer, owner or occupier) to carry out a fire risk assessment based on the particular circumstances and use of the premises. Under the order, the responsible person must put in place whatever fire protection measures are adequate and appropriate to mitigate the risk to life in the event of a fire. The order is not prescriptive about what specific fire safety measures are required. This is a matter for the responsible person based on the outcome of their risk assessment.

Green Belt

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what area of land designated as green belt in each county in 1997 has since been dedesignated; and what area of land has been designated as green belt since 1997. [286473]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is not held centrally. However, statistics on the area of green belt land are published in Local Planning Authority Green Belt Statistics: England 2008-09 which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lagreenbelt2008

The table in Annex 4 provides estimates of the area of green belt by region for 1997 and 2008-09, and for selected intervening years.

Guidance for Local Authorities on Translation of Publications

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for the Wrekin of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on what date Guidance for Local Authorities on Translation of Publications was issued. [286568]

Mr. Malik: Guidance for Local Authorities on Translation of Publications was published on 7 December 2007. It is available from:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/translationguidance

Housing: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years; [285895]

(2) how many homes for social rent have been built in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [285896]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on new homes built for social rent and affordable housing is not available by constituency.

The following table shows the number of new affordable homes built in Dacorum local authority and Hertfordshire in each of the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Dacorum	140	20	20	120	190
Hertfordshire	860	690	760	1,540	1,110

The following table shows the number of new social rented homes built in Dacorum local authority and Hertfordshire in each of the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Dacorum	110	0	10	50	100
Hertfordshire	760	550	530	890	620

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Not all social rented and affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, in 2007-08, a total of 210 additional affordable homes were provided in Dacorum (new build and acquisitions), and 1,310 additional affordable homes were provided in Hertfordshire (new build and acquisitions).

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 135W, on housing: low incomes, what the average amount of

grant paid for *(a)* intermediate affordable housing and *(b)* housing for social rent in each region was in each of the last five years. [282584]

Mr. Ian Austin: The average amount of grant per unit paid through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing programme by region for social rent and intermediate affordable housing in each year 2005-06 to 2008-09 is as follows:

Social rent—average grant per unit

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
East Midlands	37,879	38,792	38,736	39,939
East of England	41,623	35,108	29,376	42,328
London	80,979	83,821	94,957	97,715
North East	53,301	45,189	59,354	46,067
North West	58,916	51,159	50,277	53,179
South East	52,325	55,190	49,973	53,444
South West	40,992	33,376	42,304	40,004
West Midlands	52,615	43,245	43,381	46,260
York and Humber	38,495	45,667	41,176	44,711
National	55,353	55,796	57,289	57,306

Intermediate housing—average grant per unit

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
East Midlands	18,846	17,626	16,417	19,006
East of England	27,631	19,427	13,849	26,369
London	46,187	41,951	41,421	44,749
North East	10,097	20,650	18,240	22,590
North West	27,996	26,921	24,937	28,226
South East	27,644	24,084	19,999	25,414
South West	18,255	15,001	16,041	21,463
West Midlands	23,095	20,228	15,556	23,581
York and Humber	15,347	17,817	21,051	27,830
National	31,795	28,927	25,524	30,313

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the 20,000 additional energy efficient affordable homes referred to on page 38 of the Building Britain's Future publication are planned to be for *(a)* social rent and *(b)* low cost home ownership. [283618]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government estimate that around 13,250 of the 20,000 additional energy-efficient affordable homes will referred to in Building Britain's Future will be for social rent, and around 6,750 for low cost home ownership.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties had been sold under the HomeBuy Direct Scheme in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point at the latest date for which figures are available. [285478]

John Healey: Provisional figures for the end of June 2009 show there were over 20 HomeBuy Direct sales completed in the Eastern region. We do not currently have statistically valid data for Essex or Castle Point.

Housing: Overcrowding

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of families living in overcrowded conditions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [287387]

Mr. Ian Austin: The latest estimate of the number of overcrowded households in England was published in January 2009 as part of the Survey of English Housing Preliminary Report: 2007-08 and is 565,000. This is based on the average of three years of the Survey of English Housing from 2005-06 to 2007-08. Overcrowding is defined according to the bedroom standard.

Housing: Single People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were living in single person dwellings in each region in each of the last 30 years. [285691]

Mr. Ian Austin: The particular data requested have not previously been published, but data on household size by tenure are published in the annual Survey of English Housing reports. The most recent data can be found in table 3 of the Survey of English Housing Preliminary Report 2007-08, available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1133551.pdf

The following table provides estimates of the number of one-person households in each region for 1999 to 2008 inclusive. Estimates by region for the years previous to this could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The overall number of one-person households in England in 1981 was 3,823,000 and in 1991 it was 5,039,000. The estimates are based on data from the ONS Labour Force Survey.

Number of one person households, England

Thousands of households

Region	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
North East	309	318	332	340	339	351	337	350	340	362
North West	784	779	784	829	778	814	824	811	873	876
Yorks and Humberside	600	610	618	636	642	646	628	632	669	688
East Midlands	439	484	447	464	482	505	467	506	536	525
West Midlands	573	583	562	618	604	585	586	586	611	631
Eastern	584	609	619	617	593	605	625	653	631	665
London	878	896	899	902	922	889	876	878	837	859
South East	883	864	881	933	976	941	996	972	942	937
South West	568	577	596	613	616	596	594	622	633	610
Total	5,619	5,701	5,737	5,953	5,953	5,931	5,931	6,009	6,073	6,154

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey.

International Comparison of Geographical Trading Models

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the terms of reference were for the Ordnance Survey report entitled "International Comparison of Geographical Trading Models"; who was responsible for commissioning the report; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report. [284789]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 316W.

The report was commissioned in April 2009 by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright).

The terms of reference were:

"To provide a broad comparison of various trading models used by a representative sample of National Mapping Agencies with the current model operated by Ordnance Survey, and to understand their impact on the range, quality, currency and provision of national mapping, and of its use."

Islam

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to paragraph 9.21 of the UK Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, Cm 7547, what projects his Department is supporting with universities to work with Muslim scholars, leaders and academics on contextualising Islam in Britain; and which universities, scholars and academics are involved. [286109]

Mr. Malik: Cambridge university, in association with the universities of Exeter and Westminster, have hosted a series of seminars to explore how Islamic theology and Muslim communities might respond to the challenges of living in modern Britain.

The discussions and debates will be captured in a report and published by Cambridge university in autumn this year. The report will feedback the views of participants on the issues discussed.

This project is being independently led by Cambridge university who have included imams, scholars and leaders from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Islam: Faith Schools

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contribution his Department has made to support the development of citizenship education in mosque schools through the Islam Citizenship Education Project. [286110]

Mr. Malik: The Islam and Citizenship Education (ICE) Project is jointly funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Communities and Local Government. The DCSF awarded a contract, worth £318,652, to the School Development Support Agency (SDSA) running from February 2008 to July 2009 to develop and pilot citizenship lessons for use in mosque schools. The SDSA, working in conjunction with Muslim communities, has successfully delivered this contract. We are currently in the process of tendering for the next stage of the ICE Project to roll out the lessons to mosque schools nationally. Apart from fulfilling their contractual obligations, the SDSA and community-based organisations have made no financial contribution towards the ICE Project.

Local Government: Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts made to gain unauthorised access to (i) databases and (ii) ICT systems run by each local authority were reported to his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286550]

Mr. Malik: This issue is a matter for individual local authorities who, like all public sector organisations are required to comply with data protection legislation.

The Local Government Association (LGA) have published "Data Handling Guidelines for Local Government" to complement the Central Government Data Handling Guidelines published by the Cabinet Office. We welcome the LGA guidelines which are available online at:

http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=9040133

Local Government: Translation Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes in levels of provision of translation and interpreting services have been made by local authorities in the last 12 months. [286724]

Mr. Malik: The Department does not collect data on this. We provided Guidance for Local Authorities on Translation of Publications and this was published on 7 December 2007. It is available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/translationguidance

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 959W, on mortgages: Government assistance, on what date *(a)* the Bank of Ireland, *(b)* GMAC, *(c)* Kensington Mortgages, *(d)* GE Money and *(e)* the Post Office joined the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme. [286972]

John Healey: GE Money joined the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme on 15 July 2009. The Department has continued to maintain close contact with Bank of Ireland, GMAC, Kensington Mortgages, GE Money and the Post Office in regard to joining the Homeowners Mortgage Support. All lenders have restated their commitment to the scheme and continue to work with the Department to implement the operational and system requirements necessary to offer the scheme to their customers as soon as possible.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to take legal action against port owners for non-payment of business rates owed as part of their cumulo rental agreements. [286121]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The collection and enforcement of rates for properties on the local rating lists is a matter for local authorities.

Public Lavatories: Disabled

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the provision of Changing Places public conveniences. [285732]

Mr. Ian Austin: We are keen to see increasing numbers of Changing Places toilets, and will be exploring in detail what role Building Regulations might play in supporting improvements in provision at a national level. In order to do this, we will shortly be commencing a review of part M (access to and use of buildings) of the Building Regulations, which includes consideration of sanitary provision for disabled people, and revised guidance would be scheduled to come into force in 2013.

In addition, this Department's Strategic Guide on 'Improving Public Access to Better Quality Toilets', published last year, highlighted what local authorities, who have powers to provide public conveniences, and their partners can do to improve public access to toilets in their area. This included a section that drew attention to the Changing Places campaign, and stressed the importance of these facilities to people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Social Rented Housing: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association homes in (i) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (ii) Dacorum and (iii) Hertfordshire met the Decent Homes standard in each of the last five years. [285897]

Mr. Ian Austin: The proportion of dwellings that met the Decent Homes standard in each of the last five years are listed in the following table. Data for Hemel Hempstead are not available as the constituency crosses several administrative boundaries.

Proportion of decent dwellings

Percentage

	Local authority					*Registered social landlord*				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Dacorum	96.7	97.1	97.3	95.9	99.20	n/a	87.6	83.7	91	91.2
Hertfordshire	84.2	83.7	83.4	80.4	83.9	n/a	87.6	87.5	90.6	88.9

Source:
Annual returns, from all LAs that retain social housing stock, to Communities and Local Government and annual return from Registered social landlords.

Social Rented Housing: Immigrants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposals relating to council and other social housing waiting lists in the Draft Legislative Programme 2009, Cm 7654, will apply to *(a)* immigrants from other EU member states and *(b)* asylum seekers from outside the EU. [283770]

Mr. Ian Austin: Our proposals will give local authorities more flexibility to take into account local needs and priorities when determining their allocation policies. In different localities, this might mean giving relatively more priority to people who:

- Can bring necessary skills to the area, as part of efforts to promote a stronger economy
- Are living in overcrowded conditions—if this is a serious local concern
- Have local family connections—if housing markets make private rental or ownership unaffordable for many
- Are engaging with training opportunities—where there is a particular need to address skills shortages and worklessness
- Have waited longest—where this is seen as the fairest means of distinguishing between otherwise similar applicants.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on bringing homes up to the Decent Homes Standard in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10 to date; and how much is expected to be so spent in 2010-11. [283971]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information from the Homes and Communities Agency and Tenant Services Authority using statistical returns submitted by local authorities and registered social landlords indicate what we expect to be spent on expenditure maintaining the condition of social housing stock, including up to the Decent Homes standard. This information is set out in the table.

£ billion

	Total investment	*LA*	*RSL*
2007-08 (outturn figures)	4.15	3.21	0.94
2008-09	4.48	3.49	0.99
2009-10	4.25	3.21	1.04
2010-11	3.75	2.85	[1]0.90

[1] Assumed figure

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Government Assistance

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1443W, on the

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, how many applications have been received for guarantees under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme to date; how many of those applications have been eligible for help under the scheme; what the monetary value of such guarantees applied for by eligible applicants to date is; how many eligible applications have been processed and approved to date; and what the monetary value of such guarantees processed and approved to date is. [270428]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 186W.

Economic Challenge Investment Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the procedure is for *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses to apply for funding from the Economic Challenge Investment Fund. [286630]

Mr. Lammy: The Economic Challenge Investment Fund (ECIF) is a Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) matched funding initiative available to higher education institutions with a total value of just over £58 million. The fund was set up to help the sector provide swift and responsive support to individuals and businesses affected by the economic downturn. Individuals and businesses can access support directly from those higher education institutions successful in securing additional funding through ECIF.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the change in numbers of Universities and Colleges Admissions Service applications from applicants in each *(a)* age group, *(b)* region and *(c)* socio-economic group between 2008-09 and 2009-10. [285716]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures published by UCAS showing applicants as at 30 June are shown in the tables. UCAS has not released any data on socio-economic group for 2009 entry.

UK domiciled applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in the UK at 30 June by age

UK domiciled students	2008	2009	Percentage change
Under 21	357,986	381,916	6.7
21-24	48,993	57,443	17.2
25 and over	54,535	66,557	22.0
Total	461,514	505,916	9.6

UK domiciled applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in the UK at 30 June by home country

Country of domicile	2008	2009	Percentage change
England	390,358	429,734	10.1
Scotland	33,890	35,892	5.9
Wales	20,577	22,839	11.0
Northern Ireland	16,689	17,451	4.6
Total	461,514	505,916	9.6

Source:
UCAS

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* places available for applicants in and *(b)* applications for entry to university in 2009. [286023]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* As of 30 June, there had been 487,356 applicants to full-time undergraduate courses for entry in 2009. This is based on UCAS data, and covers UK and EU domiciled applicants to English institutions. UCAS data do not provide a complete picture. They do not cover all institutions, or applications for part-time or postgraduate study.

We do not have an estimate of the total number of places available in 2009. This will depend on a number of factors—including growth in non-funded places and part-time provision.

In terms of HEFCE funded growth, the 2009 Grant Letter provides teaching grant for 10,000 Additional Student Numbers (ASNs) in 2009-10. ASNs refer to full-time equivalent places, and do not purely relate to entrants. They are also used to accommodate second or subsequent cohorts related to entrant expansion in earlier years. HEFCE estimate that the allocation these ASNs funds an additional 10,000 part-time entrant places (in headcount terms) and 3,000 full-time entrant places in 2009. This is in addition to the number of entrants in 2008. Data on the number of entrants in 2008 will not be available until early 2010.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many first degree undergraduates from *(a)* England and *(b)* other EU member states have been enrolled at a university in each year since 2005. [286835]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Domiciled first degree enrolments[1] UK higher education institutions

Academic year	English	Other EU
2005-06	933,690	48,040
2006-07	940,650	51,780
2007-08	954,700	56,820

[1] Cover enrolments to both full-time and part-time courses.

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding per *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate student his Department and its predecessors allocated to (i) the University of York and (ii) York St. John University in each year since 1998. [285700]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not held in the form requested. However, it is possible to provide notional figures for the amount of grant distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for teaching and research apportioned by the number of

learners (full time equivalent) in each year. It should be noted that there have been some significant changes in HEFCE's funding methodology over this period which means that the following table should not be read as a time series. In addition the data do not take account of other sources of public funding, for example from the NHS or the Research Councils. Crucially it should be borne in mind that institutions have a significant degree of freedom in terms of how their grants are distributed internally. It is for that reason that the figures given are notional and should not be read as the actual level of resource attached to any particular learner.

£ per academic year

	York St. John University			*University of York*		
Study level	*UG*	*PGT*	*PGR*	*UG*	*PGT*	*PGR*
1998-99	2,276	418	1,185	2,942	1,842	6,332
1999-2000	2,355	477	1,898	3,098	1,964	6,593
2000-01	2,540	429	1,258	3,083	2,005	6,452
2001-02	2,707	594	1,715	3,118	1,920	6,686
2002-03	2,752	222	954	3,159	1,720	7,275
2003-04	2,988	440	662	3,110	1,663	7,985
2004-05	3,522	359	1,458	3,344	1,484	8,515
2005-06	3,695	350	n/a	3,438	1,540	6,210
2006-07	3,897	509	n/a	3,668	1,672	5,149
2007-08	4,075	642	n/a	3,895	1,828	5,854
2008-09	4,078	927	n/a	4,080	1,911	5,806

Key:
UG: Undergraduate
PGT: Postgraduate taught
PGR: Postgraduate research

Islam: Higher Education

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to paragraph 9.21 of the UK Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, Cm 7457, how much of the £1 million which the Higher Education Funding Council for England has committed for work on the gaps in Islamic studies teaching and research has been allocated; and to what projects. [286114]

Mr. Lammy: In June 2007, the Government designated Islamic Studies as a strategically important subject and asked HEFCE to earmark £1 million of its existing funding to develop a programme of work to support this.

To date, HEFCE has allocated:

£100,000 towards commissioning research into Islamic Studies in higher education, building on Dr. Siddiqui's report on Islam at universities in England, and holding consultation events with the Islamic Studies community at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/aboutus/sis/islamic

£850,000 towards the development and implementation of a UK Islamic Studies network to bring the community of UK Islamic Studies scholars closer together. The Higher Education Academy (HEA) and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) are taking this forward at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/aboutus/sis/islamic/network

In the coming year, HEFCE is commissioning a symposium for Islamic Studies scholars across the UK and Europe. Hosted by the British Academy, the symposium will promote the UK as a centre of excellence in Europe for Islamic Studies.

LDV

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that employees of LDV receive employment advice and support; and if he will make a statement. [279358]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

This question has been passed to me as the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus are responsible for the action being taken to help people who are made redundant. The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking, what steps we are taking to ensure that employees of LDV receive employment advice and support. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In response to LDV entering administration, we formed a Task Force in partnership with Birmingham City Council, Advantage West Midlands, the Regional Development Agency, the Learning and Skills Council and Unity, its regional redundancy response contractor.

From 8 June, Washwood Heath Jobcentre Plus set up a telephone hotline to take new claims appointments for all those workers being made redundant. These redundant workers attended LDV's premises on 11 and 12 June to meet with representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers together with Jobcentre Plus and partners to provide advice.

Claims for Jobseeker's Allowance from the LDV Workforce were taken at Washwood Heath Jobcentre Plus on 13 and 14 June. The Pension, Disability and Carers Service, HM Revenue and Customs and Birmingham City Council attended over the weekend at the Jobcentre to give advice on pensions, tax credits, Housing Benefit, financial management and debt issues.

The former LDV workers are being offered a tailored package of support to help them get back into work as quickly as possible. This includes help and advice with their jobsearch, CV writing, interview techniques, training and identified employment opportunities. This package of help and support will be available across the West Midlands region and will be delivered by a range of partner organisations including the union Unity. The support package for LDV workers is being co-ordinated from the Jobcentre Plus Office in Washwood Heath and all LDV workers will be offered access to this help.

London Metropolitan University

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date his Department was first informed of the Higher Education and Funding Council for England's audit of student numbers and course completion rates at London Metropolitan University. [283560]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* Ministers and officials in the Department were first informed about HEFCE's audit findings in February 2008.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to protect *(a)* student places and *(b)* staff jobs at London Metropolitan University following the Higher Education and Funding Council for England's request for repayment of funds allocated to the university in previous years. [283561]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* It is an important principle set out in legislation (sections 65(1) and 68(2b) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992) that Ministers cannot intervene in the funding decisions for individual institutions made by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). As is the case with other universities, London Metropolitan University receives grant from HEFCE under a Financial Memorandum which sets out how it should properly account for its public funding. It is for the Funding Council to keep the financial health of the institutions it funds under review to protect the public interest, including ensuring that public funds are properly spent.

The University will wish to consider a bid to HEFCE's Strategic Development Fund to support its future plans. The final decision on restructuring and forward planning must rest with the University and I remain confident that Higher Education provision in general across London will be sufficient to meet the diversity of demand. No Government, however, can give a commitment to protect every course or department at any particular institution.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ensure publication of the KPMG report commissioned by the Higher Education and Funding Council for England (HEFCE) into the finances of London Metropolitan University on its receipt by HEFCE. [283562]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* The Funding Council's Board and Chief Executive commissioned a report from KPMG of the lessons to be learned from its recent engagement with London Metropolitan University. It is for the Council to take decisions on publication. I have, however, been assured that it will be made available as soon as the Funding Council has had an opportunity to consider the findings of the report. This is expected to happen before the end of July.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have had with the Higher Education and Funding Council for England on the (i) finances of and (ii) student numbers at London Metropolitan University; and on what dates those discussions took place. [283563]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 10 July 2009]:* HEFCE discussed the current situation at London Metropolitan university with Ministers in February 2008, 24 March 2009, 6 May 2009, 10 June 2009 and 8 July 2009. In addition there were discussions at HEFCE's board meeting on 28 February 2008, 8 May 2008, 17 December 2008, 22 January 2009, 26 February 2009, 1 April 2009, and 7 May 2009. A senior official from the Department was present at each of these meetings. There have been regular discussions between HEFCE and other departmental officials throughout this period.

Ministers and officials have not sought to influence decisions on the finances of or the student numbers at London Metropolitan university, which under sections 65(1) and 68(2b) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 are a matter for the Funding Council.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to ensure an independent inquiry into the finances of London Metropolitan University following the Westminster Hall adjournment debate of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 435-57WH. [283745]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* I fully supported the Funding Council's decision to commission an independent review of its own handling of the situation at London Metropolitan university. It has also always been my view that a similar review should be conducted into the actions of the university itself, and I have made that view clear in discussions with the Funding Council. I am therefore pleased that London Metropolitan has now commissioned Sir David Melville and Deloitte to conduct such a review. I believe that this must look at all aspects of what happened at London Metropolitan, including issues of governance.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in the discussions between Xafinity Paymaster and the Post Office on the payment of armed forces pensions into the Post Office Card Account. [284813]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

I will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested shortly.

Students: Fees and Charges

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the total receipts from university tuition fees debt repayments in each year from 2009-10 to 2019-20. [286228]

Mr. Lammy: Provisional figures for income contingent student loan repayments, either notified to or received by the Student Loans Company, in the financial year 2008-09 were £788.3 million[1]. It is not possible to break down this figure to amounts repaid for tuition fee loans and maintenance loans, as they are consolidated in the borrower's loan account.

Estimates of income contingent student loan repayments will depend on a number of factors, including student numbers, graduate income levels and patterns of behaviour. Estimates for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are approximately £1.2 billion and £1.4 billion respectively. Estimates for later years are not available.

Figures for financial year 2009-10 are expected be published in a Statistical First Release in summer 2010.

[1] This figure covers direct repayments to SLC, and HMRC notifications of repayments collected through the tax system sent through to SLC in that year, less refunds by SLC to customers where borrowers have over paid their loans—English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students studying in England.

Source:

SLC Statistical First Release 2002-09 published 25 June 2009.

Students: Radicalism

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to paragraph 9.22 of the UK Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, Cm 7457, what the highest priority establishments are which his Department is targeting to reduce the risk of radicalisation on campus. [286115]

Mr. Lammy: This Department prioritises support to Higher Education Institutions in local authority areas which receive specific Prevent funding to ensure that these institutions are fully linked up to local police and Prevent partnerships that already exist in these areas. Further targeted support with individual institutions will begin in the new academic year.

Training: Logistics

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Government has spent on improving the skills of the workforce in the logistic transport industry in Wales in each of the last five years. [285562]

Mr. Hain: I have been asked to reply.

UK Government funding for Skills for Logistics, the Sector Skills Council for the logistic transport industry, is provided through the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. Over the last five financial years, they have provided the following funding for the UK as a whole:

	£ million
2004-05	1.519
2005-06	2.127
2006-07	2.352
2007-08	1.940
2008-09	2.438

As Skills for Logistics is allocated resources to provide training across the UK, spending in Wales could only be disaggregated at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of people aged 24 years or under were classified as not in education, employment or training on the latest date for which figures are available are graduates. [286221]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The number of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in the first quarter (January to March) of 2009 was 935,000. Of these, 7.2 per cent. (67,000) held a degree level qualification (or a qualification equivalent to a degree, level 5) or higher.

These estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is a sample survey subject to variability so numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to one decimal place.

[1] Age used is the respondents academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between 16 and 24 years old who were classified as not in education, employment or training at the latest date for which figures are available have at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C. [286222]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The number of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in the first quarter (January to March) of 2009 was 935,000. Of these, 404,000 (43.2 per cent.) held an NQF level 2 qualification or higher. NQF level 2 is the equivalent to five GCSEs grade A*-C.

These estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is a sample survey subject to variability so numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to one decimal place.

[1] Age used is the respondents academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of people aged between 16 and 24 years old classified as not in education, employment or training on the latest date for which figures are available do not have a level 3 qualification. [286223]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The number of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in the first quarter (January to March) of 2009 was 935,000. Of these, 79.6 per cent. (744,000) did not hold a level 3 qualification.

These estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is a sample survey subject to variability so numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to one decimal place.

[1] Age used is the respondents academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question 273970, tabled on 5 May 2009, on the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow. [281292]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 432W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Elwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenditure his Department has incurred in *(a)* Helmand Province and *(b)* elsewhere in Afghanistan in 2009-10 to date.[1] [286922]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The budget for Helmand province in 2009-10 is £18 million and the rest of Afghanistan is £109.5 million. We anticipate spending our full combined budget of £127.5 million by the end of 2009-10.

The Department for International Development (DFID) publishes expenditure in its annual report and the Statistics in International Development publication. These are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Elwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated for reconstruction, development and stabilisation projects in Babaji, Helmand province following the completion of Operation Panchai Palang; and what steps his Department is taking to secure contributions

1. *[Official Report, 12 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 1MC.]*

from international and development agencies for such projects. [286921]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has set aside a total of £72 million over the next four years to promote stability and development in Helmand province as a whole, including for projects in Babaji.

DFID also works with the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to allocate additional funding to Helmand from the cross-departmental Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF). The three Departments have agreed to set aside almost £15 million of SAF funding for district stabilisation projects across Helmand in 2009-10. In the Babaji area, funds will be used to respond to identified needs in the areas of health, education, policing, elections, justice and small-scale infrastructure. Our support will enable the Afghan Government to re-engage in Babaji.

Over the next few months, DFID will provide £5 million and the SAF will provide an additional £3 million for wheat seed, fertiliser, and agricultural assistance across Helmand province, including to farmers in Babaji. From September, USAID will provide agricultural vouchers, cash for work, and small business grants throughout Helmand, which will include Babaji.

DFID support includes two long-term infrastructure projects on which we are working with our international development partners. DFID has secured co-funding from the Asian Development Bank for the construction of a 48 km road through the Babaji area, connecting Lashkar Gah to Gereshk. DFID, the Asian Development Bank and the Danish Government will also co-fund the rehabilitation of a hydro-power plant in Gereshk. The project is expected to triple electrical generation capacity, benefiting 200,000 people.

Afghanistan: Prisoners

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the implications of the custodial sentence imposed on journalist Sayed Perwez Kambaksh for his Department's plans to provide assistance to the legal and judicial sector in Afghanistan. [285356]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no plans to provide funding to the formal legal and judicial sector in Afghanistan.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) leads on UK assistance to the rule of law in Afghanistan. FCO engagement in Afghanistan, like all UK support to legal and judicial systems worldwide, is aimed at improving human rights and the rule of law. The challenges faced in the Afghan legal and judicial system demonstrate why it is so important that the UK remains engaged in this sector.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the Government's progress towards its 2005 G8 commitment to double aid for the eradication of poverty in Africa by 2010. [285368]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are on track to meet their commitments to Africa made at the Gleneagles G8 meeting in 2005. Our expenditure in Africa is projected to reach £3.4 billion in 2010-11, from a baseline of £1.26 billion in 2004-05. These spending levels were confirmed in the April 2009 Budget.

Armed Conflict

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which states he considers to be fragile. [285399]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to increasing its efforts in fragile states, and so a list is needed to monitor our progress. DFID's current list combines a mix of the World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) index and the Fund for Peace's Failed States Index (FSI). We will update the list every two years with the next update due in October this year.

CDC

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries in which CDC has investments do not meet the international tax standard. [285398]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: CDC has existing investments in six jurisdictions which, as of the progress report by the OECD Global Forum of 8 July 2009, have committed to but not yet met the international tax standard of 12 Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs). These are:

Cayman Islands
British Virgin Islands
Netherlands Antilles
Vanuatu
Singapore
Malaysia

CDC will in future only commit capital to new funds and direct investments in jurisdictions implementing the international tax standard and in the developing countries they are aiming to help.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his Oral Statement of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 701-4, on Building Our Common Future, when he expects the searchable database of his Department's funded projects will be available online. [285915]

Mr. Michael Foster: The date when this database will be available has not yet been established.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274469]

Mr. Michael Foster: Our records show that in the last five years we have had no BlackBerry devices lost and the total number of mobile phones lost was 13. We cannot break this down further as this information is not readily available and cannot be provided without incurring a disproportionate cost.

The total number of mobile phones lost in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Numbers lost
2004-05	3
2005-06	5
2006-07	4
2007-08	1
2008-09	0

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286170]

Mr. Michael Foster: In the Department for International Development's two UK offices we have as follows:

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Photocopiers	28	28	27
Scanners	7	7	8
Fax machines	72	66	63

Information on machines held in our overseas offices is not held centrally, and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

The number of fax machines has declined in recent years, as we increasingly rely on e-mail. Scanners are mainly used in relation to our electronic document management system.

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department of *(a)* press officers and *(b)* other press office staff has been in each year since 1997. [283062]

Mr. Michael Foster: The cost of press office staff salaries in 2008-09 was £940,154 and for 2007-08 was £648,516; this includes permanent and agency staff. The other requested information was provided in the answer on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1426W.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285315]

Mr. Michael Foster: There have been no changes to the Department for International Development's office equipment or stationery purchasing policy in the last six months.

Developing Countries

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the terms of recruitment and retention for the cadre of 1,000 civilians that his Department is proposing to utilise in unstable environments will be. [285400]

Mr. Michael Foster: The cadre will comprise 200 civil servants, forming the Civil Service Stabilisation Cadre (CSSC), and 800 deployable civilian experts (DCEs) from outside the civil service.

The CSSC members will remain as part of their home departments when they are on the cadre. If they are selected for a deployment overseas they will seconded to the stabilisation unit for the duration of the deployment, after which they will return to their home department.

DCEs will be recruited and remain on the database on a voluntary basis. No financial retainers will be paid. Regular communication with them will establish their continued availability and willingness to deploy.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development under what process individuals may volunteer to work for the Globalisation Unit which will undertake work in unstable environments. [285401]

Mr. Michael Foster: Individuals can apply to be part of the Stabilisation Unit's civilian capability by making an application via the Stabilisation Unit website at

www.stabilisationunit.gov.uk.

The cadre is made up of civil servants who can apply to the Civil Service Stabilisation Cadre (CSSC) and those from outside the civil service who can apply to be a deployable civilian expert (DCE). If accepted onto the roster, candidates will be considered for specific deployments.

Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the oral statement of 6 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 701-04, on his Department's White Paper, what percentage of his Department's budget will be allocated to *(a)* budget aid, *(b)* project aid and *(c)* funding multilateral institutions in each year covered by the White Paper. [285395]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) spending plans to 2010-11 will be included its annual report due to be published before the summer recess. This will be made available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has *(a)* committed to and *(b)* spent in Gaza in 2009-10. [286687]

Mr. Michael Foster: The total budget currently allocated for the Occupied Palestinian Territories for this financial year is £67 million.

In the first three months of 2009-10, the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent approximately £6 million in Gaza on support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and other organisations providing humanitarian assistance.

A further £5.5 million is in the pipeline for Gaza, including a payment that we will soon make to the Palestinian Authority (PA) through the World Bank Trust Fund. This will help pay teachers, doctors and engineers, and keep basic services running. In addition, this financial year we expect to spend a further £7.6 million on early recovery assistance in Gaza.

We have earmarked the remaining £20 million for reconstruction when access restrictions are eased and it is possible for projects to start.

Since the political situation in Gaza remains fluid, we cannot give exact figures on how much will be spent this year. However, we aim to maintain flexibility so that we can respond at short notice if possible. The amount of further support to the PA for this financial year, which would also benefit Gaza, is still to be decided.

Remittances

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help reduce the cost of foreign nationals sending home remittances; and if he will make a statement. [285396]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) White Paper published on 6 July 2009 and available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website

www.dfid.gov.uk

outlines our new commitments on remittances.

DFID will work with the World Bank co-ordinated Global Remittances Working Group, set up by the G8 this year. We also have a number of country partnerships focused on reducing costs and developing new products for remittances.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to monitor whether aid recently allocated by his Department to Zimbabwe reaches its intended recipients. [285369]

Mr. Thomas: All UK bilateral assistance to Zimbabwe is provided through trusted partners, mainly the United Nations and non-governmental organisations who have robust monitoring and financial accounting systems to ensure aid reaches its intended recipients. In addition, we review all our contributions regularly to ensure our funds meet the objectives for which they were intended. This is done through quarterly reporting and annual reviews in addition to field visits.

We do not pass funds directly to the Government of Zimbabwe or through the government financial management system, nor do we make payments to partners through the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Alcohol

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people, *(b)* under 18 year olds, *(c)* under 16 year olds and *(d)* under 12 year olds (i) attended and (ii) were admitted via accident and emergency departments for excessive consumption of alcohol in each primary care trust area in England in each year since 1997-98. [285525]

Gillian Merron: The information for alcohol-related attendances at accident and emergency departments is not collected centrally. Information on alcohol-related hospital admissions is collected centrally. Tables which show the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions via accident and emergency departments has been placed in the Library. These relate to numbers of admissions rather than individuals.

A small proportion of alcohol-related hospital admissions relate to chronic conditions which, based on research evidence, are attributed to alcohol consumption within the Government's lower risk guidelines for regular consumption.

It should be noted that information on alcohol-related hospital admissions is only available for the years 2002-03 to 2007-08 and that because of patient confidentiality data for under 18s have not been broken down into the age groups requested. Additionally, primary care trust boundaries changed between 2005-06 and 2006-07, so separate tables have been provided for the two periods.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many minors received treatment for alcohol addiction in each primary care trust area within the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years; and what estimate his Department has made of the average cost per patient of treatment for alcohol addiction in each such year. [286279]

Gillian Merron: Information about the number of minors receiving treatment for alcohol addiction is not collected centrally. Therefore, the Department is unable to estimate the average cost per patient of treatment for alcohol addiction.

Carers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State, Department of Health on 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 976, on carers, what the basis is of his Department's estimate of the number of carers in England. [285939]

Phil Hope: The main source of information that the Department uses for the number of carers is the 2001 Census.

Nomis, a web-based database, run by the university of Durham on behalf of the Office for National Statistics, shows that there were 4.85 million carers in England.

We recognise the importance of having up-to-date information on carers. That is why we have recommended to Parliament that a question on carers is included in the 2011 Census. This will provide a 10-year comparison with 2001 for the number of carers in each local area and the number of hours of care they provide.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* initial orthodontic assessment and *(b)* subsequent orthodontic treatment was in the North East region in each of the last five years. [286247]

Ann Keen: The following tables show the median in-patient waiting time for elective admission in weeks for oral surgery, orthodontics between the time periods shown (table 1) and the median out-patient waiting time for a first out-patient appointment in weeks for the time periods shown (table 2).

Table 1: In-patient commissioner hospital-based waiting list statistics: specialties—oral surgery, orthodontics

Weeks

		Month ending					
Area	Specialty	March 2003	March 2004	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	September 2007
North East	Oral surgery	8.4	8.4	6.6	6.6	6.5	7.1
North East	Orthodontics	8.0	8.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = No orthodontic waiters were declared for the time periods specified.

Notes:
1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. The last time this data was collected was for period ending September 2007.
4. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
5. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QF01 and MMRCOM.

Table 2: Median out-patient waiting time for first out-patient appointment not seen, 2005-07 (commissioner-based), out-patient commissioner hospital-based waiting list statistics: specialties—oral surgery, orthodontics

Weeks

		Month ending			
Area	Specialty	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	September 2007
North East	Oral surgery	4.5	4.7	4.1	3.8
North East	Orthodontics	5.4	5.6	4.4	4.5

n/a = No orthodontic waiters were declared for the time periods specified or there were very low numbers.

Notes:
1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. Out-patient waiting times are measured from referral by the general practitioner (GP) to first out-patient appointment to the consultant.
3. From 2004-05 all timebands for out-patients not seen were first collected so only average waiting first out-patient times can be made from this point in time.
4. The last time this data was collected was for period ending September 2007.
5. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

Source:
Department of Health Waiting List Collections QM08R and MMRCOM.

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their GP or dentist to start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer. The 18-week commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care, including orthodontics, which is now recorded under the oral surgery speciality.

Latest data show that since January 2009, the national health service has been delivering the operating standards for 18 weeks to ensure that no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their consultant-led treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the standard of service provided to his Department and its agencies by contractors appointed by reverse auction. [285219]

Phil Hope: The Department and its two executive agencies, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, do not use reverse auctions as part of procurements within their own budgets.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what databases which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will contain personal information are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* expected to go live in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286504]

Phil Hope: Planned application developments which will contain personal information on members of the public or departmental staff are summarised in the following table. Year relates to expected year of implementation.

Any personal data stored on the Department's databases are subject to the Data Protection Act and to our own, internal data protection policy.

Following the publication of the cross government data handling review in June 2008, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

	Year	Database	Description
	2009-10	Hospitality Reporting	Staff hospitality details and declarations of interest
	2009-10	Public Bodies	Data on the membership of all the Department's sponsored public bodies
	2009-10	Third Sector Funding	Grant applications and award monitoring process
	2009-10	The National Pandemic Flu Service	Pandemic flu information management system
	2011-12	Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI)	Details of medical treatment received while abroad and evidence of entitlement. System to be jointly managed with Department for Work and Pensions and Customs and Revenue

	Year	Database	Description
	n/k	e-Directory	Contact details for departmental staff and external contacts. Under consideration, but on hold; likely to be implemented sometime within the next five years
NHS Choices	n/k	Contact management system	Information on service providers who support the NHS Choices programme. Timing uncertain but likely to be in the next two years
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)	MHRA are not developing, and have no plans to develop, any databases containing personal information in the next five years		
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA)	PASA are not developing, and have no plans to develop, any databases containing personal information in the next five years		
NHS Connecting for Health	There are a number of programmes which are either in the planning or initiation phase. The datasets for these programmes will be developed as a consequence of the detailed analysis within each specific programme and it is, therefore, not possible to provide the requested detail at this stage. NHS Connecting for Health operate a comprehensive Information Governance programme with which all programmes must comply. The specific detail of future datasets will be submitted to the Information Standards Board for review and evaluation at the appropriate time within each programme		

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286545]

Phil Hope: We are aware of only one attempt to gain unauthorised access to departmental databases or information and communication (ICT) systems in each of the last five years. A web page defacement resulted in a website page being altered without permission. There was no data loss, nor were any sensitive files compromised.

Unauthorised access

	Attempts		Successful attempts	
	Databases	ICT Systems	Databases	ICT Systems
2004-05	0	0	0	0
2005-06	0	0	0	0
2006-07	0	1	0	1
2007-08	0	0	0	0
2008-09	0	0	0	0

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284400]

Phil Hope: The Department maintains over 600 internal databases. Many of these are for local use and contain a limited amount of personal data. To provide an up-to-date and accurate list of all maintained databases would require analysis at disproportionate cost. The most significant are listed in the following table.

Databases managed by the Department of Health not holding personal information

Database	Information
Business Management System—(BMS) Financial	Departmental financial information
FIMS	NHS financial information
Refcosts	NHS financial information
UNIFY	NHS statistical data
VAXX	Public Health vaccines data

All databases maintained by the Department are managed in compliance with the Data Protection Act. The categories of data held, and the purposes for which they are used, are detailed in the Department's entry in the Information Commissioner's Data Protection Register. This can be viewed at:

www.ico.gov.uk/ESDWebPages/DoSearch.asp?reg=4295533

The following databases contain personal information. Where the title of the database does not on its own explain its content, a brief note of explanation has been added.

Databases managed by the Department of Health holding personal information

Database	Information
Abortion Notifications	Forms required by the Abortion Act 1967
Agenda for Change Prison Service Database	Job evaluation data
Briefing material (LINUS)	The Department's policy lines
Business Management System (BMS)—HR	The Department's Human Resources data
Business Management System (BMS)—Procurement	The Department's procurement data
Certificate of Free Sales	Medical technology company name and address details
Clinical Excellence Database	Medical consultants employed by the NHS in England and Wales, and NHS employers
Contact	Correspondence management system including ministerial correspondence, parliamentary questions, and freedom of information requests
Distribution of Business	Departmental Business Pages
Dignity Champion Database	Dignity in Care
Directors of Estates and Facilities	—
Directory (Internal)	The Department's staff lists
Electronic Staff Record	NHS employees
External Directory	Details of external contact
Extra Care Housing Fund	Bid and award information for Extra Care Housing Scheme grants
Healthy Start Issuing Unit Database	Individuals who may receive financial assistance
Healthy Start Reimbursement Unit	Retailer register for the Healthy Start Scheme
Honours Material	Personal and staffing information
MEDBEN	Medical benefits overseas health claims
Mental Health Service Users Personal Data	Individual casework data under mental health legislation
Modernising Medical Careers	Contacts from Doctors applying for speciality training posts in the NHS
National Child Measurement Programme	Primary school children weight assessment data
National Research Register	Research projects funded by or of interest to the NHS (archived from July 2009)
National Stakeholder Forum Membership and Contacts	—
Nursery Milk Redemption Unit	Day care provider details

Databases managed by the Department of Health holding personal information

Database	*Information*
Occupational Health Smart Card System	Pre-employment checks of doctors
Payroll	The Department's staff payroll
Personal Medical Services (PMS) Pilots Central Return	—
POPPI and PANSI Registered Users Database	POPPI (Projecting Older People Population Information), PANSI (Projecting Adult Needs and Servicing Information)
Prison Probation Ombudsman (PPO) Death in Custody Reports	—
Private Contact Data for Mental Health Stakeholders	—
PROTOBS	Private Office and Top of the Office Business System
Injury Cost Recovery (ICR) Schemes	Recovery of insurance payments in respect of treatment to accident victims provided by the NHS
Security Vetting Database	Staff clearance details
SHA Very Senior Managers (VSM) Salaries and Performance Markings	Data about managers in the NHS and arm's length bodies

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286172]

Phil Hope: A managed print service was introduced in 2007, which included the deployment of multi-functional devices, many of which have scanning and fax capabilities and which replaced most of our photocopiers. Prior to the introduction of this service, the Department had 93 photocopiers.

The Department also has local reprographic units on its London estate, which are used for bulk copying. These local reprographic units have a total of nine photocopiers for this purpose.

Historical information regarding the numbers of scanners and fax machines is not held. As at July 2009, there are 179 faxes and 98 scanners on the estate.

Since the managed print service has been introduced no new scanners and four fax machines have been purchased in the last three years.

Departmental Hospitality

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department maintains a record of gifts and hospitality declared by its staff. [286674]

Phil Hope: All staff in the Department are bound by the Civil Service Management Code to declare gifts and hospitality received. A record of these declarations are maintained on the Department's register of interests.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many persons his Department *(a)* employed directly and *(b)* engaged as external contractors to work on press and public relations matters in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each such year; [285465]

(2) how many persons his Department's non-departmental public bodies *(a)* employed directly and *(b)* engaged as external contractors to work on press and public relations matters in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each such year. [285466]

Phil Hope: The available information is shown in the following tables.

Number of press officers employed by the Department's Media Centre, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Number of staff
2007-08	28
2006-07	26
2005-06	30
2004-05	30
2003-04	26

Costs for the Department's Media Centre Staff, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Cost (£ million)
2007 - 08	1.369
2006 - 07	1.765
2005 - 06	1.772
2004 - 05	1.471
2003 - 04	1.284

Figures exclude social security and pension costs. We are unable to give figures for 2008-09 as they have not yet been audited.

These figures only relate to activity by the Communications directorate and not to other areas of the Department as this would incur disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to include figures for non departmental public bodies as these figures are not held centrally.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the rules on movements of his Department's staff to commercial companies under the business appointments procedures. [286636]

Phil Hope: Rules on civil servants taking up outside business appointments are published in the Civil Service Management Code (section 4.3) which can be found at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

Section 4.3 Annex A contains the full guidance on accepting outside business appointments. The Department complies fully with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code in ensuring adherence to the business appointments procedure.

These rules are also referred to in the Directory of Civil Service guidance, available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/civil_service/civil_service_guidance.aspx

Standard employment contracts for all senior civil servants refer to the rules on outside business appointments.

Departmental Policy

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which third party organisations *(a)* he and his predecessors, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* senior officials in his Department have met in the last 12 months to discuss matters relevant to the formulation of his Department's policies. [285938]

Phil Hope: Ministers and officials meet a wide range of organisations throughout the year and the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct the Food Standards Agency to issue briefing material to United Kingdom Members of the European Parliament on progress in establishing maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; and if he will make a statement. [285676]

Gillian Merron: No specific levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements have yet been proposed by the European Commission or discussed in Commission-led working group meetings with member states.

At this stage there are no plans for the Food Standards Agency to provide briefing material to United Kingdom Members of the European Parliament on progress in establishing maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his announcement of 25 June 2009 on the European Working Time Directive, what *(a)* the 200 rotas recommended for a derogation from the Directive for doctors in training and *(b)* the two rotas not recommended for such a derogation are; and what the reasons for the decision were in each case. [286600]

Ann Keen: All rotas recommended for derogation are listed in the Statutory Instrument that was laid before Parliament. The services were recommended for derogation, as they were unlikely to be able to provide working arrangements for junior doctors of the complaint with the requirements of the directive in time to meet the deadline of 1 August and would require further support to become compliant.

The two rotas not recommended for derogation were outside of the scope of directive as they did not refer to junior doctors in training posts.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his announcement of 25 June 2009 on the European Working Time Directive, which 62 trusts made applications for derogations from the Directive for doctors in training; what reasons were given in each application; and whether or not a derogation was granted in each case. [286601]

Ann Keen: 202 services applied for derogation. 200 were recommended for derogation as they were unlikely to be able to provide working arrangements for junior doctors of the complaint with the requirements of the directive in time to meet the deadline of 1 August and would require further support to become compliant. Two services were not recommended because they were outside of the scope of directive as they did not refer to junior doctors in training posts.

All services are listed within the Statutory Instrument, which was laid before Parliament and is in the public domain.

Drinking Water: Fluoride

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the fluoridation of water supplies in *(a)* England and *(b)* West Derbyshire. [286409]

Ann Keen: We consider that fluoridation of water is capable of reducing inequalities in oral health, but strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for decisions on proposals for new schemes. The SHAs have to take account of assessments of oral health needs conducted by their primary care trusts (PCTs), the configuration of the water distribution system and the outcome of local, public consultations. We understand that PCTs across the East Midlands, including Derbyshire County PCT, are conducting a feasibility study to assess the costs, benefits and technical options of fluoridation.

Drugs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of obtaining out of stock medicines in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [286532]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: While the Department has not specifically made an estimate of the costs to the national health service of obtaining out of stock medicines, the Department is in discussions with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee regarding the difficulties pharmacies are facing in obtaining some medicines.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of patients treated by the NHS for drug addiction in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk were no longer addicted at the end of their treatment in each of the last three years. [286274]

Gillian Merron: The number and percentage of people treated by the national health service for drug addiction in the East of England and Suffolk is shown in the following table.

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Eastern region						
Completed treatment	793	19	856	21	1,620	32
Total discharged	4,232	100	4,052	100	5,047	100

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Suffolk						
Completed treatment	98	19	81	19	138	29
Total discharged	522	100	424	100	481	100

Notes:
The data covers adults-only as young people are not considered to be drug-dependent; adults are defined as over 18s; the data is for all those who completed treatment and are therefore assessed as being no longer dependent on drugs; and the data covers all specialist drug treatment, not just NHS.
Source:
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse.

Drugs: Risk Assessment

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Patient Safety Agency has undertaken a risk assessment of proposals for generic drug substitution. [286848]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No such formal assessment has been undertaken.

Patient safety will be paramount in taking forward the work on generic substitution. It has long been the Department's policy to encourage generic prescribing where possible, for reasons of good professional practice and because of the opportunities for more effective use of national health service resources. However, we have always recognised that there are circumstances in which it may be clinically appropriate to prescribe a particular brand of drug even where a generic is available if the prescriber considers it essential for the patient to receive that specific product. This position will need to be maintained under any new specific proposals made as part of the work on generic substitution.

Eating Disorders: Finance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on treating eating disorders in the period 2004 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [286714]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for providing local health services and together with their strategic health authorities are responsible for deciding which services to plan, commission and develop to meet the health needs of their local communities.

Since 2001-02, real terms investment in adult mental health services increased by 44 per cent., or £1.7 billion, putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. The national health service spent £5.53 billion on these services in 2007-08 compared to £3.844 billion in 2001-02.

Epilepsy: Medical Treatments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 886-7W, on epilepsy: medical treatments, if he will consider the merits of making specific exclusions to his policy of generic substitution. [286769]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No decisions have yet been made on whether any medicines and, if so, which should be excluded from the arrangements for generic substitution.

Food: Chemical Analysis

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on trends in their budgetary provision for the chemical analysis of food over the last five years. [285696]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not held such discussions with local authorities. The Food Standard Agency (FSA), however, as the central competent authority in the United Kingdom for controls on feed and food (safety and standards) uses statutory powers to monitor and audit local authority performance which include reporting on sampling activities by local authorities. Local authorities are measured against responsibilities set out in the Statutory Food Law Code of Practice (separate parallel codes of practice exist for each of the four UK countries). Local authority monitoring and audit information is available from 2000, and can be found at:

www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/mondatabyyear/

Food: Safety

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a system of standard food sampling rates in consultation with food authorities. [285211]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standard Agency (FSA) as the Central Competent Authority in the United Kingdom for controls on feed and food (safety and standards), has no plans to set sampling rates for local authorities. Local authority food sampling responsibilities are set out in the statutory Food Law Code of Practice (Separate parallel Codes of Practice exist for each of the four UK countries). Local authorities are required to put together a sampling programme which details their intended food sampling priorities, taking into account the number, type and risk rating of premises in their area and any national or local consumer issues that may influence sampling rates. Also important are any responsibilities under the originating or home authority principle.

Local authorities may be audited against the Code of Practice requirements as part of the FSA's audit scheme (as part of the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement).

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an evaluation of the cost effectiveness of food screening laboratories. [285212]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standard Agency has not carried out an evaluation of the cost effectiveness of food screening laboratories. However, the cost effectiveness of the analytical provision for local authorities is assured as a result of the current requirement for local authorities to appoint a public analyst through competitive tender. This allows local authorities to choose to send samples to laboratories that are competitive in terms of price and quality of service.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has given to local authorities on levels of their budgets for chemical analysis of food. [285245]

Gillian Merron: Local authority food sampling responsibilities are set out in the Food Law Code of Practice (separate parallel Codes of Practice exist for each of the four United Kingdom countries). Local authorities are required to put together a sampling programme which details their intended food sampling priorities, taking into account the number, type and risk rating of premises in their area and any national or local consumer issues that may influence sampling rates. Also important are any responsibilities under the originating or home authority principle.

Local authorities must ensure the resources necessary to carry out the food sampling programme are made available.

General Practitioners: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the likely effect on the number of GP surgeries upgraded to training practices of the £100 million in capital funding brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 and 2008-09; and how much of the funding has been spent in each month since it was announced. [286650]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Our initial indications are that over 700 general practitioner practices have made bids for funding to upgrade their practices. It is too early in the programme to indicate the amount of money spent.

Health Hazards: Mobile Phones

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations he has received on *(a)* the adequacy of recommended safe levels of exposure to electromagnetic radiation and *(b)* the adequacy of guidelines for protection from such radiation established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection; [285235]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to implement the recommendations of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones; and what measures are in place to protect children under the age of 12 years from exposure to potentially harmful radiation from mobile telephones; [285236]

(3) what discussions he has had in the Council of Ministers on the recommendations concerning EU member states contained in the European Parliament's Resolution of 2 April 2009 on health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields; and if he will make a statement; [285239]

(4) what steps he is taking to *(a)* identify and *(b)* protect against the effects of mobile telecommunications radiation emissions those categories of people who have particular susceptibilities to them. [285241]

Gillian Merron: Between 1 June 2009 and 8 July 2009 the Department received one letter and one e-mail, both from the same member of the public, that mention guidelines for exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

In 2004 the National Radiation Protection Board (NRPB) recommended adoption of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) exposure guidelines for occupational and public exposure to electromagnetic fields between zero and 300 gigahertz (GHz). The NRPB's recommendations can be found in the document "Advice on Limiting Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (0-300 GHz)" Documents of the NRPB volume 15 number 2, on the Health Protection Agency (HPA) website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733817602?p=1219908766891

The NRPB's scientific review underpinning their recommendations is entitled "Review of the Scientific Evidence for Limiting Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (0-300 GHz)". Documents of the NRPB volume 15 number 3 are on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733787839?p=1219908766891

The Government response to the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (Stewart) report was reviewed in the report "Mobile Phones and Health 2004: Report by the Board of NRPB" Documents of the NRPB volume 15 number 5 which is on the Health Protection Agency (HPA) website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733821582?p=1219908766891

A departmental leaflet on mobile phones and health, published following the Stewart report recommendation for further public information, includes advice concerning children's use of mobile phones and can be seen on the Department's web site at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4123979

A copy has been placed in the Library.

In response to the Stewart report, the Government have supported research on exposure to radio waves in the independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme (MTHR). A copy of the MTHR report of 2007 has already been placed in the Library. Information on a further phase of research is available on the MTHR website at:

www.mthr.org.uk/research_projects/MTHR2_projects.htm

The HPA report on electrical sensitivity "HPA-RPD-010—Definition, Epidemiology and Management of Electrical Sensitivity. Report for the Radiation Protection Division of the Health Protection Agency" cab be found on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733810369?p==1197637096018

United Kingdom Health Ministers have not had any discussions in the Council of Ministers on the recommendations concerning European Union member states contained in the European Parliament's Resolution of 2 April 2009 on health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was *(a)* claimed and *(b)* recovered from each partner nation for medical claims under the provisions of (i) form E111 and (ii) the European Health Insurance Card in each of the last five years. [285456]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the amounts actually claimed to date by the United Kingdom against other European economic area (EEA) member states and the actual amounts paid to date against those claims for each of the last five calendar claim years.

The amounts are combined claims for temporary visitors (via European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC), or form E111 prior to its replacement in 2005 by the EHIC), posted workers (via form E106) and referrals for treatment in other EEA countries (via form E112). Due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not possible to disaggregate these data consistently for all member states by either type of claim or type of treatment. The figures in the tables reflect the fact that EEA medical costs are typically submitted by member states (including the UK) one to three, and sometimes more, years in arrears.

EEA health care cost claims: Claims under Article 93 of Regulation (EC) 1408/71: UK claims against member states

		2004[1]	2005	2006	2007	2008
Austria	Initial claims total	101,281	14,617	—	14,673	50,750
	Total paid to date	101,281	14,617	—	14,673	14,929
Belgium	Initial claims total	1,295,401	1,394,748	1,369,548	6,277	36,075
	Total paid to date	1,295,401	1,394,748	1,369,548	6,277	32,976
Bulgaria[3]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Cyprus[2]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	382	4,515
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	0	0
Czech Republic[2]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	2,260
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	2,260
Denmark[4]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Estonia[2,6]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Finland[7]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	148	1,873
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	148	0
France	Initial claims total	2,164,442	2,164,442	2,223,048	2,223,048	—
	Total paid to date	2,164,442	2,164,442	2,223,048	2,223,048	—
Germany	Initial claims total	18,431	15,265	74	12,633	53,611
	Total paid to date	0	15,265	74	12,633	45,774
Greece	Initial claims total	398,318	581,601	36,410	108,948	594,653
	Total paid to date	274,413	489,230	0	0	0
Hungary[2,7]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	10,658	8,219
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	10,658	8,219
Iceland	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	24,942
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	24,942
Ireland[8]	Initial claims total	10,504,622	11,365,387	10,023,000	12,174,837	12,488,558
	Total paid to date	8,633,491	9,339,096	8,092,946	9,407,794	10,370,960

EEA health care cost claims: Claims under Article 93 of Regulation (EC) 1408/71: UK claims against member states

		2004[1]	2005	2006	2007	2008
Italy	Initial claims total	1,804,107	912,920	131,826	147,251	708,649
	Total paid to date	1,443,286	730,336	105,461	117,801	566,919
Latvia[2]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Liechtenstein	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Lithuania[2]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Luxembourg[5]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Malta[2,7]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	Initial claims total	5,414	—	—	6,691	41,428
	Total paid to date	0	—	—	0	0
Norway[7]	Initial claims total	—	968	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	0	—	—	—
Poland[2]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal	Initial claims total	22,773	44,614	—	12,887	172,331
	Total paid to date	9,097	20,251	—	3,481	0
Romania[3]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Slovakia[2]	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
Slovenia[2]	Initial claims total	434	—	—	—	5,991
	Total paid to date	434	—	—	—	5,991
Spain	Initial claims total	1,762,209	2,234,214	2,489,817	65,005	85,501
	Total paid to date	1,588,438	2,017,951	2,237,251	0	74,829
Sweden	Initial claims total	[illegible]	17,710	—	—	18,160
	Total paid to date	[illegible]	17,710	—	—	18,160
Switzerland	Initial claims total	—	—	—	—	—
	Total paid to date	—	—	—	—	—
	Initial claims (all countries)	18,078,766	18,746,486	16,273,723	14,783,438	14,297,517
	Total paid to date (all countries)	15,511,616	16,203,647	14,028,328	11,796,512	11,165,960

[1] Under European Union regulations claims are made on a calendar year basis. Totals for each calendar year are based on actual claims submitted to date.
[2] Acceded to the European Union in 2004
[3] Acceded to the European Union in 2007
[4] Total waiver.
[5] Previous total waiver, expired on 30 June 2008.
[6] Waiver, excepting Article 22.1c (patient referral) and Article 55.1c (industrial injury) claims.
[7] Waiver, excepting Article 22.1c (patient referral) claims
[8] Totals for Ireland for 2008 and previous years are estimated and subject to negotiations.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the net effect on the public purse of the termination of the reciprocal health agreement with the Isle of Man in the 12 months following termination; and if he will make a statement. [285960]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not yet given formal notice on the bilateral agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man but it has informed the Isle of Man of the intention to do so. Because of a perceived imbalance in the numbers of tourists being treated by both parties, under the bilateral agreement the UK has provided the Isle of Man with an annual allocation, to fund clinical referrals to the UK, of around £2.5 million in recent years. The UK will no longer provide this, once the agreement is terminated. Following the end of the agreement, UK residents will require travel insurance when visiting the Isle of Man, likewise Isle of Man residents visiting here.

Health Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients diagnosed with *(a)* cancer and *(b)* heart disease waited for treatment for over six months in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years. [286339]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

Cancer patients from the Tamworth constituency area would receive treatment from the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust or Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. For quarter four 2008-09 for Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, of the 235 cancer patients treated, 233 or 99.1 per cent. of them began their first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis and agreeing a care plan. For quarter four 2008-09 for Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, of the 180 cancer patients treated, 179 or 99.4 per cent. of them began their first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis and agreeing a care plan.

Tamworth constituency is within the South Staffordshire primary care trust (PCT) area. Information on the number and percentage of admitted and non-admitted patients with heart disease for 2008-09 is shown in the following tables.

Referral to treatment (RTT) waiting time figures for the number and percentage of patients who are admitted and not admitted to hospital for the treatment of heart disease at South Staffordshire PCT

		Admitted pathways		
			Of which:	
	Treatment function	*Total number of admitted pathways*	*>26 weeks*	*Percentage >26 weeks*
2007-08	Cardiothoracic surgery	231	20	9
2007-08	Cardiology	799	91	11
2008-09	Cardiothoracic surgery	400	13	3
2008-09	Cardiology	1,185	31	3

		Non-admitted pathways		
			Of which:	
	Treatment function	*Total number of non-admitted pathways*	*>26 weeks*	*Percentage >26 weeks*
2008-09	Cardiothoracic surgery	388	4	1
2008-09	Cardiology	4,412	97	2

Notes:
1. RTT waiting times figures are collected separately for patients who are admitted to hospital for treatment and for those for whom a decision not to admit is made.
2. Data on non-admitted patients has only been collected since August 2007, so the only full year for which figures are available is 2008-09.

Source:
Department of Health Monthly Referral to Treatment Statistics

Health Visitors: Crimes of Violence

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many physical assaults on health visitors were recorded in each of the last five years. [287375]

Ann Keen: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2004-05, the NHS Security Management Service has collected information on the number of physical assaults reported against national health service staff in England. Tables showing the number of assaults reported by each health body have already been placed in the Library.

Health: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent in supporting scientific and medical research undertaken by charities in the last 12 months. [285195]

Gillian Merron: The Department's National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network (CRN) provides the health service infrastructure to support clinical trials and other studies funded by both commercial and non-commercial organisations. All eligible studies funded by research charities are automatically entitled to CRN support. The network is currently supporting 850 such studies. They comprise some 38 per cent. of the total CRN portfolio.

The cost of the CRN in 2008-09 was £158 million. It is not possible separately to identify what part of that expenditure was attributable to the support given to research charity funded studies.

Heart Diseases: Death

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mortality rate for heart disease in Tamworth constituency was in each of the last five years. [286337]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mortality rate for heart disease in Tamworth constituency was in each of the last five years. (286337)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate, where ischaemic heart disease was the underlying cause of death, for Tamworth parliamentary constituency, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population,[1,2] where ischaemic heart disease was the underlying cause of death,[3] Tamworth parliamentary constituency,[4] 2003-07[5]

	Rate	Rate per 100,000 population 95 per cent. confidence interval
2003	134	(113-155)
2004	120	(100-139)
2005	95	(79-112)
2006	106	(88-124)
2007	107	(89-124)

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.
[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.
[3] Cause of death for ischaemic heart disease was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes I20-I25.
[4] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed spaces on average there were at *(a)* Addenbrooke's, *(b)* West Suffolk and *(c)* Ipswich hospital in (i) 1997, (ii) 2002 and (iii) the latest period for which figures are available. [286185]

Phil Hope: The average daily number of available and occupied beds by sector, national health service organisations in England, 1997-98, 2002-03, 2007-08, is shown in the following table.

	1997-98		2002-03		2007-08	
	Total (Available)	Total (Occupied)	Total (Available)	Total (Occupied)	Total (Available)	Total (Occupied)
Addenbrookes NHS Trust Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (formerly known as Addenbrookes)	1,302	1,110	1,026	898	1,079	927
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	761	623	707	600	682	542
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	713	496	638	577	491	393

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital bed days there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in (i) England and (ii) each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [286250]

Ann Keen: The hospital bed days data for 2007-08 for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and all respiratory disease in England and each primary care trust (PCT) are given in the following table.

Primary care trust of responsibility code	Primary Care Trust Of Responsibility Description	Respiratory diseases	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease[1]
	Total (England)	3,663,569	794,363
99898	Not Applicable	18,317	2,599
99999	Unknown	846	152
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	15,684	2,921
5A4	Havering PCT	16,619	3,542
5A5	Kingston PCT	12,189	2,325
5A7	Bromley PCT	21,462	3,791
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	15,953	4,079
5A9	Barnet PCT	15,252	2,149
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	13,615	2,424
5C1	Enfield PCT	14,407	2,658
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	13,669	3,662
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	13,283	2,583
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	19,863	5,021
5C5	Newham PCT	17,209	3,783
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	14,543	2,095
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	8,775	2,302
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	13,256	2,994
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	13,391	2,680
5D7	Newcastle PCT	27,936	6,886
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	24,401	5,367
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	8,683	2,177
5E1	North Tees Teaching PCT	15,866	3,900
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	14,068	3,552
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	22,086	4,620
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	7,104	1,920
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	16,303	3,054
5F5	Salford PCT	23,151	5,478
5F7	Stockport PCT	24,645	5,296
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	14,423	2,651

Primary care trust of responsibility code	Primary Care Trust Of Responsibility Description	Respiratory diseases	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	13,889	2,317
5GC	Luton PCT	12,646	2,081
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	12,624	2,357
5H8	Rotherham PCT	22,540	5,310
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	26,903	5,739
5HP	Blackpool PCT	15,124	4,136
5HQ	Bolton PCT	24,164	5,309
5HX	Ealing PCT	22,372	3,761
5HY	Hounslow PCT	16,341	2,980
5J2	Warrington PCT	14,603	3,304
5J4	Knowsley PCT	20,321	5,844
5J5	Oldham PCT	18,168	4,054
5J6	Calderdale PCT	19,300	4,921
5J9	Darlington PCT	7,755	1,664
5JE	Barnsley PCT	25,035	7,872
5JX	Bury PCT	11,168	1,959
5K3	Swindon PCT	12,103	2,576
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	14,731	2,112
5K6	Harrow PCT	9,184	1,691
5K7	Camden PCT	13,011	3,301
5K8	Islington PCT	16,898	4,100
5K9	Croydon PCT	21,626	5,416
5KF	Gateshead PCT	22,194	5,353
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	17,520	4,300
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	30,087	7,240
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	14,285	2,578
5L1	Southampton City PCT	18,703	4,219
5L3	Medway PCT	15,540	2,731
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	8,761	1,954
5LC	Westminster PCT	12,388	2,401
5LD	Lambeth PCT	17,368	3,480
5LF	Southwark PCT	16,837	3,640
5LF	Lewisham PCT	17,304	3,807
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	16,950	3,305
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	22,573	3,714
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	15,377	2,673
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	32,019	6,788
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	21,136	3,994
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	25,384	5,933
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	12,081	1,836
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	24,628	5,212
5M8	North Somerset PCT	14,644	2,792
5M8D	Coventry Teaching PCT	26,177	5,040
5M8K	Telford and Wrekin PCT	11,932	2,032
5M8V	Wolverhampton City PCT	30,363	4,389
5M8X	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	20,056	3,067
5N1	Leeds PCT	67,297	15,326
5N2	Kirklees PCT	32,632	6,489
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	30,323	8,644
5N4	Sheffield PCT	61,707	11,683
5N5	Doncaster PCT	29,778	6,935
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	59,126	12,179
5N7	Derby City PCT	19,012	2,598
5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	42,962	7,260
5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	50,826	10,949
5NA	Redbridge PCT	16,458	2,371
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	16,611	2,739
5ND	County Durham PCT	43,452	11,588
5NE	Cumbria Teaching PCT	43,338	9,973
5NF	North Lancashire Teaching PCT	30,343	7,307

Primary care trust of responsibility code	Primary Care Trust Of Responsibility Description	Respiratory diseases	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	37,259	7,243
5NH	East Lancashire Teaching PCT	24,085	6,602
5NJ	Sefton PCT	26,084	7,202
5NK	Wirral PCT	29,083	6,167
5NL	Liverpool PCT	58,955	15,384
5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	30,452	8,097
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	19,924	3,664
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	34,896	7,328
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	16,899	3,391
5NR	Trafford PCT	18,193	3,693
5NT	Manchester PCT	50,077	10,544
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	50,917	10,175
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	25,403	5,843
5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	28,833	7,902
5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	54,182	6,565
5P1	South East Essex PCT	21,131	6,260
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	24,893	5,328
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	30,711	6,794
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	32,126	5,529
5P5	Surrey PCT	69,523	11,194
5P6	West Sussex PCT	48,195	8,318
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	25,107	5,312
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	15,180	3,096
5P9	West Kent PCT	44,126	8,586
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	41,832	7,552
5PC	Leicester City PCT	24,960	4,712
5PD	Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	39,055	8,378
5PE	Dudley PCT	25,571	4,380
5PF	Sandwell PCT	28,089	5,754
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	58,567	9,151
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	16,758	3,914
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	24,872	5,384
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	36,106	6,371
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	40,747	5,344
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	36,583	6,702
5PN	Peterborough PCT	9,682	1,426
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	39,227	6,942
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	47,936	7,369
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	15,867	3,702
5PT	Suffolk PCT	34,918	5,192
5PV	West Essex PCT	21,918	4,549
5PW	North East Essex PCT	18,881	4,645
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	34,897	2,677
5PY	South West Essex PCT	28,657	7,864
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	46,053	8,932
5QC	Hampshire PCT	81,730	14,848
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	27,560	4,198
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	38,480	7,579
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	23,584	3,679
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	22,066	4,595
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	51,048	8,559
5QJ	Bristol PCT	31,729	7,649
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	36,063	6,668
5QL	Somerset PCT	34,343	7,525
5QM	Dorset PCT	34,911	5,652
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	30,619	5,572
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	39,821	8,212

Primary care trust of responsibility code	Primary Care Trust Of Responsibility Description	Respiratory disease	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease[1]
NQQ	Devon PCT	30,216	11,591
NQR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	12,999	2,870
NQT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	6,824	1,313
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	27,489	6,403
TAE	Bexley Care Trust	13,343	2,681
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	9,695	1,681
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	14,400	2,463
TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	10,240	4,979

[1] The chronic obstructive pulmonary disease figures are a subset of the figures for respiratory diseases.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to *(a)* West Suffolk, *(b)* Addenbrookes and *(c)* Ipswich hospital as a consequence of (i) alcoholic liver disease and (ii) cirrhosis in each of the last five years. [286262]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the count of finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of alcohol liver disease or cirrhosis of the liver for Cambridge university hospitals NHS foundation trust (Addenbrook NHS trust pre 2004-05), Ipswich hospital trust and West Suffolk hospitals NHS trust.

	Alcoholic liver disease	Cirrhosis of the liver
2007-08		
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	399	404
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	83	68
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	30	27
2006-07		
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	490	447
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	98	80
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	36	29
2005-06		
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	449	310
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	47	24
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	26	18
2004-05		
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	302	232
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	43	35
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	27	46
2003-04		
Addenbrookes NHS Trust[1]	372	412
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	46	37
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	28	29

[1] Addenbrookes NHS trust becomes Cambridge university hospitals NHS foundation trust (post 2003-04).

Notes

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03, to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

Secondary diagnoses

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 6 prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

PCT/Strategic health authority (SHA) data quality

PCT and SHA data was added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Unprocessed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are unprocessed. Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Individualised Budget Programme

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which schemes his Department has chosen for the pilot of the individualised budget programme; how many patients will participate in the pilot programme; and what methodology will be used in the assessment of individualised budgets. [285769]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Following an application process earlier this year, we have provisionally selected 70 pilot sites, subject to a further progress check. A full list of provisional pilot sites is available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Highqualitycareforall/DH_098018

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Pilot sites will initially only offer models of personal health budget that do not involve direct payments to the patient. Subject to the passage of the Health Bill, direct payments would become an additional option for pilots during 2010.

We have not set any expectations about numbers of patients in each pilot site. This will be for local sites to decide as they develop their proposals.

We are currently in the process of selecting an evaluation team. We published an invitation to tender in April, describing what areas the evaluation should explore and inviting bidders to propose a suitable methodology.

Influenza

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many of the cases of H1N1 flu reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) by 16 June 2009 were recorded by the HPA as *(a)* male, imported, *(b)* female, imported, *(c)* male, indigenous and *(d)* female, indigenous H1N1 cases; in how many such cases the patient was aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10 to 19, (iii) 20 to 29, (iv) 30 to 39, (v) 40 to 49, (vi) 50 to 59 and (vii) over 60 years; in how many such cases the HPA has recorded (A) the date of symptom onset, the date of obtaining the blood sample from which the H1N1 diagnosis was made and the date of the H1N1 case report and (B) the date of symptom onset, the date of obtaining the blood sample from which H1N1 diagnosis was made, the date of the H1N1 case report and the date on which the H1N1 antiviral prophylaxis or treatment was started; [285833]

(2) how many of the cases of H1N1 flu reported to the Health Protection Agency by 16 June 2009 were recorded as having been hospitalised by 30 June 2009; and how many such patients were aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 19, *(c)* 20 to 29, *(d)* 30 to 39, *(e)* 40 to 49, *(f)* 50 to 59 and *(g)* over 60 years; [285834]

(3) how many of the cases of H1N1 flu reported to the Health Protection Agency by 16 June 2009 were recorded as being *(a)* imported, *(b)* indigenous and *(c)* not assigned or not known. [285835]

Gillian Merron: The cases reported by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) are shown in the following tables.

Not all of the data requested are currently available. This is because:

testing for swine flu is based on swabs, not blood samples;

data for Scotland are not currently available for the period requested;

complete data on the commencement of antiviral treatment or prophylaxis is not available. This is because once detailed data on the first few hundred cases had been collected, the HPA stopped collecting that level of detailed information; and

verified data on hospitalisations is only available up to 16 June.

Pandemic influenza A(H1N1) 2009 cases reported by 16 June 2009, England, Wales and Northern Ireland (PQ285833)

		Age group								
Counts	*Gender*	*Under 10*	*10 to 19*	*20 to 29*	*30 to 39*	*40 to 49*	*50 to 59*	*Over 60*	*Unknown*	*Grand total*
Imported	Female	8	10	25	18	11	2	6	1	81
	Male	9	12	35	18	12	8	6	7	107
	Unknown	1		3		2			1	7
Imported total		18	22	63	36	25	10	12	9	195
Indigenous	Female	62	64	19	16	14	9	2	5	191
	Male	64	123	17	11	6	1	2	3	227
	Unknown	10	2	2	1		1		1	17
Indigenous total		136	189	38	28	20	11	4	9	435
Unknown	Female	48	46	16	7	12	3	2	30	164
	Male	50	70	16	17	6	3		26	188
	Unknown	17	10	6	2	1	1		33	70
Unknown total		115	126	38	26	19	7	2	89	422
Grand total		269	337	139	90	64	28	18	107	1,052
Date of onset not known		143	139	62	43	22	6	5	76	496
Date of onset known		126	198	77	47	42	22	13	31	556
Grand total		269	337	139	90	64	28	18	107	1,052

Pandemic influenza A(H1N1v) 2009 cases reported by 16 June 2009, England, Wales and Northern Ireland (PQ285834)

Number of cases hospitalised

	Age group								
Hospitalisation	*Under 10*	*10 to 19*	*20 to 29*	*30 to 39*	*40 to 49*	*50 to 59*	*Over 60*	*Unknown*	*Grand total*
Yes	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	6

Pandemic influenza A(H1N1v) 2009 cases reported by 16 June 2009, England, Wales and Northern Ireland (PQ285835)

Route of infection imported	*Total*
Imported	195
Indigenous	435
Unknown	422
Grand total	1,052

KPMG

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS paid to KPMG in each of the last five years. [286709]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect the specific information requested centrally.

Methadone

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people prescribed methadone were from socio-economic group *(a)* C, *(b)* D and *(c)* E in each year since 1997. [285695]

Gillian Merron: These data are not collected centrally.

National Dementia Strategy: Primary Care Trusts

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy by local primary care trusts. [286411]

Phil Hope: The Department has not assessed the effectiveness of the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy by local primary care trusts. However, improving services for people with dementia is a Government priority, and we have already identified it as a priority for the national health service in the operating framework. That will help to ensure that dementia is prioritised locally where further improvement may be needed.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published on 3 February this year, and will be implemented over a five-year period. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

NHS Purchasing and Supply Team: Pay

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Team; and what the annual salary bill is for *(a)* all its employees and *(b)* its senior management team. [286370]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of people employed by NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency for 2008-09 was 257 (whole time equivalent). The annual salary bill for 2008-09 was as follows:

	£
Employees	13,640,000
Senior management team	874,318

NHS: Dental Services

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of the *(a)* child and *(b)* adult population in (i) the East of England region and (ii) Suffolk who attended an appointment with an NHS dentist in each of the last five years. [286261]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of adults and children registered with a national health service dentist in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex A of the 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006'. Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA). Annex B contains this information expressed as a percentage of the population.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen in the previous 24 months, in England, is available in Table D1 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 3: 31 December 2008' report. Information is available for both adults and children at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2008 and is provided by PCT and SHA. Table D2 contains this information expressed as a percentage of the population.

This report, published on 21 May 2009, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q3

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS whistle-blowing policy applies to foundation trusts. [286622]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 applies to staff employed by national health service foundation trusts. The Act provides protection to employees raising concerns, where they do so in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to implement the recommendations contained in his Department's document Coding for Success. [286624]

Ann Keen: The question relates to a specific recommendation of the Health Select Committee in its report which was published on 3 July. The Government will be considering carefully all of the Committee's recommendations and will respond in due course.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 348-49W, on NHS: manpower, which employment agencies supply staff under each National Framework Agreement. [286309]

Ann Keen: The information requested is as follows.

Suppliers on NHS PASA Medical Locums Framework Agreement

Accident and Emergency Agency Ltd.
Ambition Recruitment Services Ltd.
Arthur Rai Medical Services Ltd.
Athona Ltd.
Britannic Medical Services Ltd.
Capital Care Services (UK) Ltd.
Care Providers
Castlerock Care Services Ltd.
Clinical Employment Services Ltd. (CES)
Corrigan's Door Ltd.
Doctors On Call Ltd.
dr-locums
DRC Locums Ltd.
Evergood Associates Ltd.
First Medical Staffing Solutions Ltd.
Geneva Health International Ltd.
G4S Integrated services (UK) Ltd. (formerly GSL UK Ltd.)
Hays Healthcare
Holt Medical Recruitment
ID Medical
InterAct Consulting (Reality HR)
kcare nursing agency Ltd.
Medacs Healthcare Services plc
Medecho Ltd.
Medical Professional Personnel Ltd.
Medicspro Ltd.
Medicure Ltd.
Mediplacements Ltd.
Medpro Group
Medsol Healthcare Services Ltd.
Medteam Healthcare Ltd.
Merco Recruitment Ltd.
Mild Professional Care Ltd.
Minutes Medical Staffing Ltd.
Mylocum Ltd.
Nationwide Locum Services Ltd.
Northwest Locums Ltd.
Orion Locums Ltd.
Pioneer Recruitment Ltd.
Pulse Healthcare Ltd. trading as Pulse Doctors
Reed Healthcare
Resuscitate Medical Services Ltd.
Richmond Medical Agency
RMR Recruitment Ltd.
Scanloc
Serving The Nation Locums Ltd.
Sonographers Medical Ltd.
Templars Medical Agency
Thames Medics (HCL)
The Anaesthetists Agency
The Consultants Agency Ltd.
Total Assist Recruitment Ltd.
United Medicare Ltd.

Suppliers on NHS PASA Allied Health Professionals/Health Science Staff Framework Agreement

1st 4 Locums
Advantage Healthcare Group Ltd.
Ambition Recruitment Services Ltd.
Apex International Recruitment Ltd.
Ashbourne Healthcare Services
Athona Ltd.
Atlantis Medical Ltd.
Beresford Blake Thomas
CAMCO Scientific Ltd.
Capital Care Services (UK) Ltd.
CK Associates Ltd.
Clinical Employment Services Ltd.
Countrywide Medical Selection
Dream Group Ltd.
Elite Recruitment
Geneva Health International Ltd.
Goldteam Recruitment Ltd.
Hays Healthcare
HCL Healthcare
Holt Medical Recruitment
Jennie Reeves Radiographers Agency
JustPhysio Ltd.
Locum Placement Group Ltd.
Maxxima
Medacs Healthcare Services plc
Medic International Ltd.
Medical Management Services Ltd.
Medical Technical Ltd.
Medicspro Ltd.
Mediplacements Ltd.
Morgan Hunt
Orchard Medical
Orion Locums Ltd.
Physio Services Ltd.
Piers Meadows Recruitment Ltd.
Pinnacle Podiatry Services
PJ Locums
PL-UK Recruitment
PPLS International Ltd.
PULSE Staffing
R&S Medical and Allied Services Ltd.
Recruitment Specialist Group
Reed HealthCare
RIG Medical Recruit Ltd.
Sanctuary Health Ltd.
Sonographers Medical Ltd.
Star Angel Care Ltd.
Sugarman Medical Ltd.
The Locum Partnership
The Medical Room Ltd.
Your World Recruitment

Nursing suppliers on NHS PASA Multi Regional Framework Agreement

Advantage Healthcare Ltd.
Allied Healthcare Group Ltd.
Apex Nursing and Care Services Ltd.
Arcadia Recruitment Ltd.
Ashbourne Group Ltd.
Care Providers (AD) Ltd.
Celsian health and Social Care

Direct Nursing Associates Ltd.
ENS Recruitment Ltd.
Excel Direct Nursing Agency
Fowler Group Ltd.
Healthcare Recruiters Ltd.
Jark Healthcare Ltd.
Kcare Nursing Agency Ltd.
Key Care and Support Ltd.
L S Care Ltd.
NL Group Ltd.
Medacs Healthcare plc
Medical Professional Personnel Ltd.
Medicall (Northampton) Ltd.
Montagu Nursing Agency
Pinnacle Primcare Services Ltd.
Pulse healthcare Ltd.
R & S Medical and Allied Services Ltd.
Servoca Nursing and care Ltd.
Team Medical Ltd.
The Flame Lily Nursing Agency
Twenty Four Seven Recruitment (Yorkshire) Ltd.

Nursing suppliers on NHS PASA London Framework Agreement

Advantage Healthcare Nursing and Care Ltd.
Advantage Healthcare Overseas Staffing
Allied Healthcare Group
Capital Staffing Services Ltd.
Care Providers (AD) Ltd.
Castlerock Care Services Ltd.
Direct Nursing Associates Ltd.
ENS Recruitment Ltd.
Firstpoint Healthcare Ltd.
Geneva Health International Ltd.
Hays Specialist Recruitment Ltd.
Health Professionals Recruitment Services Ltd.
Kaidy Ventures Ltd.
London Nurses Agency Ltd.
Medical Professional Personnel Ltd.
Montagu Nursing Agency
Nursing 2000 Ltd.
Paediatric Nursing Link Ltd.
Pertemps Recruitment Solutions
Pinnacle Health Care Ltd.
Pulse Healthcare Ltd.
Qualified Cancer Care Ltd.
R & S Medical & Allied Services Ltd.
Reed Health Ltd.
Standard Nursing Agency
Star Nursing Agency
Strand Nurses Bureau Ltd.
Tempaid Recruitment Ltd.
Top Carers Nursing Agency
Vera Nursing & Employment Agency

NHS: Procurement

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what efficiency savings were *(a)* anticipated and *(b)* generated under the Framework for Procuring External Support for Commissioning programme in each year of the programme. [286633]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Efficiency savings could not be anticipated in advance of national health service use of the framework. These will be determined on a case-by-case basis, dependent upon type of support required by each individual commissioning authority.

Some commissioning authorities stipulate a requirement for Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners (FESC) suppliers to commit to the generation of a degree of savings. This differs from procurement to procurement, and will be dependent upon the type of commissioning service being procured. To date, in those contracts where this stipulation has been made, FESC suppliers have committed to guaranteed savings totalling £18 million. This figure does not include any additional incremental savings subsequently achieved during the course of a contract.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the net cost of the Framework for Procuring External Support for Commissioning programme has been to date. [286634]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To date, the total net cost to the national health service for procurements through the Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners (FESC) is £15 million. In some cases, dependent upon the type of services being procured, there are likely to be additional incremental savings, which will be shared between the commissioning authority and the FESC supplier.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has paid to KPMG as part of the Framework for Procuring External Support for Commissioning programme to date. [286635]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To date, no contracts have been signed with KPMG by commissioning authorities through the Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners (FESC). Therefore, to date, the amount paid to KPMG in relation to provision of services through FESC is £0.00. KPMG did provide the central FESC team with some assistance in developing some elements of the generic template documentation. This was a short-term consultancy arrangement to a total value of approximately £25,000.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 590W, for what reasons he has not yet published the information requested; and if he will publish the information before the House rises for the summer adjournment. [286927]

Ann Keen: We will publish the information when we communicate to the European Commission on the provisions of the Working Time (Amendment) Regulations, (Statutory Instrument 2009 No 1567 Terms and Conditions of Employment) which is currently before Parliament.

Nutrition

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the criteria are for entitlement to access a nutritionist on the NHS. [283933]

Gillian Merron: There are no nationally prescribed criteria for entitlement to see a nutritionist on the national health service, rather it is a matter for each individual health practitioner to make a clinical decision to refer a patient if they think it advisable, in line with any locally determined guidelines that may apply.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines on Nutrition Support in Adults covers the care of those patients with malnutrition or at risk of malnutrition at hospital and at home.

Patients: Discharges

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed nights in each hospital trust were spent by patients who were ready for discharge but remained in hospital in the financial year *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of such delayed discharges in each such year. [286348]

Phil Hope: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

No estimate has been made of the costs to the national health service of delayed discharges.

Radon Gas: Houses

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number and location of households liable to be affected by high levels of radon gas; and if he will make a statement. [284406]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) estimate that approximately 100,000 homes in the UK exceed the action level of 200 Bequerels/m^3 and the location of houses above the action level is shown in a map taken from the 2008 HPA Indicative Atlas of Radon in England and Wales (see following web link). The complete atlas has more detailed information if needed. Only 0.2 per cent. of houses are above the action level.

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733749409?p=1158934607718

The HPA is currently carrying out a public consultation exercise on whether the action level should be reduced, among other questions.

Householders and employers are able to find out the risk of a high radon gas level in a property from the radon probability maps of the United Kingdom published by the HPA and, for England and Wales, the British Geological Survey.

Safeguarding Patients and Trust Assurance and Safety

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what programmes his Department has initiated to deliver policies outlined in "Trust, Assurance, Safety and Safeguarding Patients" since 2007; and what further such programmes are planned for the period to 2012. [286731]

Ann Keen: The Government have established the Professional Standards Programme to take forward the recommendations contained in "Trust, Assurance, Safety and Safeguarding Patients".

Between now and 2012 the Government plan to continue with this programme of reform. Elements of the programme that are planned to be implemented in this period include establishing the Office of the Healthcare Professions Adjudicator and designing and introducing systems of revalidation for regulated health care professionals, starting with doctors.

Social Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have received care packages part-funded by the NHS following an assessment by social services in each local authority in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286989]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of people receiving care packages part-funded by the national health service following a social services assessment is not collected.

Suffolk NHS Trust: Manpower

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* dentists and *(d)* non-medical staff Suffolk NHS Trust employed in each of the last five years. [286563]

Ann Keen: Information as to how many doctors, nurses, dentists and non-medical staff Suffolk NHS trust employed in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in the West Suffolk hospitals NHS trust by specified staff group, as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
West Suffolk NHS Trust	3,140	3,068	2,825	2,805	2,928
Medical and Dental staff	274	283	285	274	284
Medical staff	266	273	281	268	280
Dental staff	8	10	4	6	4
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,296	1,307	1,228	1,237	1,305
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,013	986	919	932	984
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	283	321	309	305	321
Qualified Allied Health Professions	143	141	130	122	125
Qualified Healthcare Scientists	62	67	70	74	72
Other Qualified Scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	78	113	109	109	124
Support to clinical staff	1,005	971	863	845	870
Support to doctors and nursing staff	839	835	745	731	754
Support to ST&T staff	166	136	118	114	116

NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in the West Suffolk hospitals NHS trust by specified staff group, as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
NHS infrastructure support	565	507	449	449	469
Central functions	111	99	100	109	116
Hotel, property and estates	381	332	297	285	291
Managers and senior managers	73	76	52	55	62

Notes:
Data Quality
Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
Sources:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census and The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Swine Flu: Schools

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* special schools have been closed as a result of an outbreak of swine influenza. [286316]

Gillian Merron: Information provided to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), initially by the Health Protection Agency and subsequently by Government offices, shows that a total of 100 schools, including six special schools, had closed by 9 July 2009. Of those schools, 93 had reopened by 9 July, leaving seven schools closed, including five special schools.

There is no statutory duty on schools to report their closure to DCSF, so this data is not necessarily complete.

Swine Flu: Teesside

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the NHS is taking to *(a)* assist those resident in Teesside who have been diagnosed with swine influenza and *(b)* prevent to further spread of swine influenza in Teesside. [285332]

Gillian Merron: The North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has advised that so far the North East has not experienced the high number of cases seen in other areas of the country.

Now that the management of swine flu has moved to the treatment phase, testing for confirmation of individual cases is no longer taking place, the Health Protection Agency will not have statistics about number of cases and where they are occurring.

In line with national and regional plans, Teesside's public health team is continuing, through effective communications to ensure the public is kept fully informed about swine flu, what to do if a person believes they might have swine flu, and how to keep good hygiene to reduce the risk of further spread.

Tattooing: Plastic Surgery

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women (i) over 25 years old and (ii) 25 years old and under have had tattoos removed by the NHS in each year since 2000; and how many and what proportion were aged 25 years and under. [284410]

Gillian Merron: Information on the numbers of tattoo removal procedures carried out by the national health service requested is not collected centrally, as hospital episode statistics do not contain specific or diagnosis codes for tattoo removal.

Tattoo removal may be available on the NHS, according to local primary care trust policies, if a clinician considers that an individual patient's health requires it.

Telemedicine

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of his Department's Preventative Technology Grant *(a)* was spent on telecare in 2006-07 and *(b)* he estimates will be spent on telecare in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [286968]

Phil Hope: The £80 million Preventative Technology Grant was granted to local authorities with social care responsibilities to provide telecare services, however this funding was not ring-fenced. Specific details of how this money was used by individual local authorities was not gathered, however it is known that the number of new telecare and telehealth users have increased by over 200,000. Any residual Preventative Technology Grant money was allowed to be carried over into 2008-09 to help sustain momentum. No money has been recovered by the Department and local authorities are expected to have used grant funding for telecare purposes.

During the period of the grant over £80 million worth of business has been procured through the PASA Telecare National Framework Agreement.

vCJD

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1021W, on vCJD, if he will publish the results of the evaluation of vCJD prototype assays; and if he will make a statement. [286480]

Gillian Merron: Evaluation of prototype variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease blood assays is ongoing, and interim results will not be issued at this stage. Results will eventually be published under the auspices of the CJD Resource Centre Oversight Committee.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 16 July 2009

WALES

Public Expenditure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the draw-down by the National Assembly for Wales of its allocation under EU structural funds on top of its Barnett-determined budget resulted in a reconciliation deduction in the overall block grant for Wales in each year since 2005. [287273]

Mr. Hain: Until 2005-06 departmental expenditure limits only included the expenditure element of EU structural funds and additions were made to the Wales departmental expenditure limit beyond the Barnett Formula. The receipts were paid separately to the National Assembly for Wales and were therefore identified separately in the calculation of the block grant.

From 2006-07 the budgeting arrangements for EU receipts changed and departmental expenditure limits were expressed net of EU receipts. Thus no deduction is now necessary. The receipts continue to be paid into the Welsh Consolidated Fund and are additional to the block grant.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average length of the growing season was in each county of England in *(a)* 1978, *(b)* 1988, *(c)* 1998 and *(d)* 2008. [286363]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The growing season is the period of time each year during which plants can grow. The thermal growing season length is defined as beginning when the temperature on five consecutive days exceeds 5° C and ending when the temperature on five consecutive days is below that threshold.

Meteorological Office information shows that the average length of growing season in central England was *(a)* 223 days in 1978 (249 days on average 1969 to 1978) *(b)* 258 days in 1988 (248 days on average 1979 to 1988) *(c)* 213 days in 1998 (270 days on average 1989 to 1998) and *(d)* 249 days in 2008 (279 days on average 1999 to 2008). It should be noted that there can be considerable variation from year to year. Data on the length of growing season at county level are not available.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to *(a)* assess and *(b)* tackle the environmental and social effects of intensive meat and dairy industries; and if he will make a statement. [286770]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We constantly strive to maximise the positive and mitigate the negative effects of all agricultural production by working closely with industry to ensure our food is produced in a sustainable and affordable way. We are also keen to maintain a thriving farming and food sector which can improve its net impact on a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

For example, in addition to ensuring compliance with new environmental regulations, DEFRA is working with the agricultural industry to deliver improvements through the Milk Roadmap and the industry led Beef and Lamb Roadmap, as well as stimulating initiatives on enhancing environmental performance in the pig industry through the work of the Pigmeat Supply Chain Task Force. Each activity aims to target the reduction of environmental and climate change impacts and assess the positive benefits to the landscape and biodiversity of animal husbandry while also highlighting any areas for further research and improvement.

Batteries: Recycling

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of batteries were recycled in each year since 1997; [286351]

(2) how many *(a)* car batteries and *(b)* alkaline batteries were purchased in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such batteries were (i) disposed of by (A) landfill, (B) incineration and (C) other means were (ii) recycled and (iii) reused in the last year for which figures are available; [286360]

(3) how many spent batteries other than vehicle batteries entered the waste stream in the last 12 months; what mass of each heavy metal was used in those batteries; and what percentage of such batteries were recycled. [286361]

Dan Norris: This information has not been collected centrally in the past. The new Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations (SI 890/2009) will provide such data in the future. Our best estimates for the quantity of batteries on the UK market and recycled are contained in the Impact Assessment published with the Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20090890_en.pdf

We estimate that the annual UK market for portable batteries is around 30,000 tonnes. Market reports suggest that more than 70 per cent. of retail sales are alkaline batteries. Only about 3 per cent. of waste portable batteries are thought to be recycled currently.

The most recent estimate of the car batteries market is that about 181,000 tonnes of car batteries were placed on the market in 2006. This is thought to be rising annually.

About 143,000 tonnes of waste arise from car batteries annually. About 60 per cent. of a lead-acid battery—the type typically used in cars—is lead. We estimate that about 99 per cent. of this is recycled annually.

The amount of industrial batteries sold in the UK in 2006 is estimated to be about 69,000 tonnes.

About 34,000 tonnes of waste arises from industrial batteries annually and it is estimated that about 32,000 tonnes are recycled. We do not have estimates of the amount of heavy metals in industrial or portable batteries.

Few if any batteries will be reused when they become waste because common practice is to dispose of batteries when they are spent.

Birds: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many birds were seized by HM Revenue and Customs under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species in each year since 2000. [284513]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The following table provides data, from HM Revenue and Customs central records, for specimens seized for years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Birds

	Number of specimens seized
2005-06	310
2006-07	3
2007-08	0

These birds were seized using customs enforcement powers in relation to live animals listed as endangered species under Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora.

For the years 2000 to 2004-05 information on all CITES specimens seized by the former HM Customs and Excise can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/trade-crime/cites/action-uk.htm#enforcement

Further breakdown of the 2000 to 2004-05 figures can be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

Coastal Areas: Flood Control

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the procurement of timber for use in sea defence projects; and if he will make a statement. [286476]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since 2000, UK Government Departments have sought to procure products made from timber that is legally harvested and grown in sustainably managed forests or plantations. From April 2009, UK Government departments will now only accept timber that has been verified as legal and sustainable, or licensed under Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreements.

Most of the work on sea defences is undertaken by the Environment Agency and they purchase all timber in accordance with the Government's timber procurement policy. In addition, timber is purchased whenever available, from one of the five Category A accredited certification scheme sources recognised by the Central Point of Expertise on Timber. Limited evidence prohibits this approach being used for tropical hardwood, here, in line with Government policy; the Environment Agency obtain evidence demonstrating legality, sustainability and traceability through the supply chain (Category B evidence).

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sea defence projects involving the use of timber for construction his Department plans to fund in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2011-12. [286479]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows coastal defence projects on which authorities are likely to incur expenditure in any of the years 2009-11, 2010-11 and 2011-12 and where timber is likely to form a significant part of the works. The table is based on forward planning project information, so should be regarded as indicative rather than definitive.

Project Title	*Lead authority*	*Estimated construction start*
East Clough	Environment Agency	2010-11
Brightlingsea Tidal Defences Phase 2	Environment Agency	2011-12
Broadland	Environment Agency	Ongoing
Broomhill Sands Coastal Defence Scheme	Environment Agency	2011-12
Denge	Environment Agency	2009-10
Denver Little Eyes Sluice	Environment Agency	2008-09
Donna Nook	Environment Agency	2010-11
Dymchurch	Environment Agency	2011-12
Folkestone To Cliff End Schemes Package	Environment Agency	2011-12
Great Yarmouth	Environment Agency	2010-11
Happisburgh/Winterton 3B Works	Environment Agency	2011-12
High Knocke to Dymchurch Sea Defence	Environment Agency	2009-10
Hunstanton/Heacham Beach Management	Environment Agency	2007-08
Lancing Brook Outfall Reconstruction	Environment Agency	2010-11
Lincshore 2005 to 2010	Environment Agency	2005-06
Lincshore 2010 to 2015	Environment Agency	2010-11
Med merry Managed Realignment	Environment Agency	2011-12
Pett Shingle Renourishment Phase 2-6	Environment Agency	2011-12
Pevensey Bay Outfalls	Environment Agency	2010-11
Pevensey Bay	Environment Agency	Ongoing
Redcar	Environment Agency	2010-11
Sandwich Bay Sea Defences (Deal) (Note start may be early 2012-13)	Environment Agency	2011-12
Seasalter	Environment Agency	2010-11
Shaldon and Ringmore	Environment Agency	2010-11
Stanah Sea Defences	Environment Agency	2008-09
Steart Managed Realignment	Environment Agency	2011-12
Swinefleet	Environment Agency	2009-10
Teignmouth Estuary (Back Beach)	Environment Agency	2011-12

Project Title	Lead authority	Estimated construction start
Thornton - Cleveleys (Local Authority led scheme with Environment Agency Contribution)	Environment Agency	2011-12
Walberswick to Dunwich Frontage	Environment Agency	2010-11
Ageing Groynes - Selsey – 9-10	Chichester Council	2009-10
Worthing	Worthing Council	2009-10

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 484W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies have paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282325]

Dan Norris: The Department does not hold information regarding payments made to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1988 by the Department's Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB). Each NDPB is required to publish such payments in their independent annual accounts.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what categories of personal information on members of the public are contained on each database which contains such data managed by his Department and its agencies; when each category of information was first collected; and if he will make a statement. [284896]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) Information Asset register provides detail on many of the databases, including those containing personal data, managed by the Department. This register is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/opengov/defra/available/iar/index.htm

The additional details requested about these assets, and full details of databases not included in the Information Asset Register, are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All databases containing personal data maintained by DEFRA are in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Following the publication of the cross Government data handling review in June 2008, staff establishing new projects and programmes in the Department that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if he will make a statement. [285975]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA's) information asset register provides detail on many of the databases, including those containing personal data, managed by the Department. This register is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/opengov/defra/available/iar/index.htm

The additional details requested about these assets, and full details of databases not included in the information asset register, are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All databases containing personal data maintained by DEFRA are in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Following the publication of the cross-Government data handling review in June 2008, staff establishing new projects and programmes in the Department that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the planned databases that will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will hold personal information on members of the public are expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286145]

Dan Norris: Information about which of the planned databases that will be managed by the Department or any of its agencies and which will hold personal information on members of the public that are expected to become operational in each of the next five years can be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Routine assurance of database developments during the business planning cycle ensures that any planned databases containing personal information are identified before development commences and referred to the departmental data protection team to ensure that they adhere to the Data Protection Act.

Moreover, following the publication of the cross-Government data handling review in June 2008, staff establishing new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281516]

Dan Norris: In each of the last six months the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has awarded no graduate internships, on either a paid or unpaid basis.

Five graduate internships commenced placements with DEFRA on 6 July 2009, three via the Cabinet Office Summer Development Programme (ethnic minorities) and two from the Summer Placement Scheme (disability). All interns are engaged on a paid basis at executive officer level.

DEFRA is actively exploring ways of increasing its graduate internship numbers via HMG's Public Sector Jobs imperatives, and we are registered as an organisation with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Graduate Talent Pool online matching programme.

We anticipate recruiting graduate interns via the Cabinet Office schemes mentioned above in 2010.

EC Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281865]

Dan Norris: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union.

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately one third of the total administrative burden.

The important thing is not the origins of a legislation, which could of course be a devolved administration or a local authority, as well as the Government or the EU, but the quality of the regulation. All regulations, irrespective of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. Regulations should be risk based, proportionate and well designed, so as to achieve their objectives while also keeping costs to a minimum. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

Environment Protection: Public Opinion

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what publicly-funded research has been undertaken by his Department into *(a)* levels of public interest in and *(b)* public attitudes towards environmental issues in the last five years. [287125]

Dan Norris: The list details the research projects that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has undertaken to assess levels of public interest in and public attitudes towards environmental issues in the last five years.

This list includes projects commissioned by DEFRA's Sustainable Behaviours Unit and also projects commissioned through the Central Office of Information.

2004-05

Climate Change Desk Research (attitudes)

2005-06

Public Attitudes to Climate Change Waves 1, 2 and 3

Public tracking

2006-07

Public attitudes to Climate Change Waves 4 and 5

Youth Climate Change omnibus

Approach to ecosystems

Public understanding of sustainable finance and investment

Public understanding of sustainable consumption of food

Public understanding of sustainable energy consumption in the home

Public understanding of sustainable leisure and tourism

Public understanding of sustainable transport

2007-08

Public Understanding of Links between Climate Change and Energy and Food consumption in the Home

Per Capita Carbon Footprints

Public Understanding of Sustainable Clothing

Public attitudes to Climate Change Waves 6 and 7

Natural Environment Desk Research

Natural Environment Qualitative Research

DEFRA survey of public attitudes and behaviours towards the environment 2007

Carbon Offsetting Qualitative Research

Young People Climate Change Tracker

Public attitudes towards wildlife management

ACT ON CO_2 Tracking

Desk research on conservation volunteering

2008-09

Public Understanding of Sustainable Water Use in the Home

Public perceptions of short term actions government could take to mitigate climate change

Tracker survey of public attitudes and behaviours towards the environment 2009

Environment Protection: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* specific purpose and *(b)* monetary value was of each special environmental grant awarded by his Department to City of York Council in each year since 2003. [285755]

Dan Norris: There are a number of environmental grants in existence and it is unclear which special environmental grants are being referred to.

The city of York council received £359,838.71 in 2008-09 and £361,122.65 for 2009-10 as part of a waste infrastructure capital grant. Waste infrastructure capital grants are paid to local authorities in recognition of the need to get front-end waste infrastructure, e.g. recycling and composting facilities, on the ground in time to help England meet landfill targets.

Agri-environment schemes are administered by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA. There have been no Countryside Stewardship Scheme or Higher Level Scheme agreements with the city of York council since 2003.

Flood Control: Expenditure

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on flood protection measures in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the City of York in each year since 2003. [285756]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The table shows:

Total expenditure by DEFRA—including by DEFRA through the Environment Agency, local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards—on flood and coastal risk management in England from the 2004-05 financial year; and

Environment Agency investment of grant in aid (from DEFRA) through its regional flood defence committee for the Yorkshire region and expenditure in respect of the city of York.

£ million

	Total for England	Yorkshire and Humber region	City of York
2004-05	405.5	33.4	0.75
2005-06	506.4	40.7	0.95
2006-07	497.3	34.0	0.76
2007-08	499.8	35.2	0.69
2008-09	564.1	41.8	0.73

Notes:
1. The figures do not include Government funding to local authorities by means of revenue support grant nor funding DEFRA has retained for the implementation of the Pitt Review recommendations, adaptation, resistance and resilience measures. These data are published on the DEFRA website.
2. The totals for England include resource and capital funding to the Environment Agency and funding to the Environment Agency to grant aid local authority and Internal Drainage Board flood risk management capital improvement projects.
3. The resource budget funds maintenance and operational costs of the Environment Agency's flood and coastal erosion risk management activities, and the capital programme funds new and improved defences and projects.
4. The totals for England for 2004-05 to 2007-08 are based on outturns, data for 2008-09 on budgeted amounts.
5. The totals for England for 2004-05 and 2005-06 include capital grant and supported capital expenditure (resource) to local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards.

Flood Control: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has allocated to the Environment Agency for flood defence grants in each year since 1997; and what expenditure his Department has incurred on flood defences in each such year. [286474]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows total funding from DEFRA (and its predecessors) to the Environment Agency for flood and coastal erosion risk management. This includes funding for grants to internal drainage boards and local authorities for capital improvement projects.

Until 2004-05 the flood risk management function of the Environment Agency was funded primarily through a combination of grants from DEFRA (and its predecessors) for specific projects and levies on local authorities. The data shows funding from DEFRA and does not include funding from other sources, such as local government investment using settlement funding and levies to the Environment Agency.

The figure for 2008-09 is based on budgeted amounts, subject to confirmation of final outturns.

	Funding (£ million)
1997-98	87.1
1998-99	78.3
1999-00	75.5
2000-01	71.4
2001-02	84.7
2002-03	128.4
2003-04	135.5
2004-05	405.5
2005-06	506.4
2006-07	497.3
2007-08	499.8
2008-09	564.1

Flood Control: Standards

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of BSI Kitemark-approved products in reducing flood risk; and what the cost to the Environment Agency was of sponsorship of the Kitemark; [285992]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of BSI Kitemark for products to promote flood defence and flood resilience; and if he will make a statement. [285993]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The kitemark scheme is a British Standards (BSi) accreditation scheme for products meeting specified standards. In the case of flood protection products, accreditation is given to those that comply with publicly available specification (PAS) 1188. To gain the BSi kitemark, products must undergo rigorous testing to demonstrate that they are able to provide effective property level flood protection.

A working group with representatives from the flood resilience product manufacturers, the flood protection association, the Association of British Insurers, insurance companies, DEFRA and HR Wallingford has recently assessed the current BSi kitemark scheme for flood protection products. It was agreed that the scheme is necessary to ensure product quality compliance, and as a result it was re-issued in April this year.

The cost to the Environment Agency of the working group assessment and revising and re-issuing a test scheme was £72,000.

Floods

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1087W, on floods: Canvey Island, if he will make it his policy to estimate the number and proportion of buildings in flood risk areas which *(a)* are not flood-resistant and *(b)* are flood-resistant. [285534]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have no plans to require assessments of whether properties have flood resistant products. These will typically only be made by householders for their own purposes or where it is relevant to the development of a flood management scheme.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 380W, on fluoride: drinking water, what assessment the Drinking Water Inspectorate made of the adequacy of the remedial action taken by Severn Trent Water following the addition of excessive levels of fluoride to the water supply in 2000. [286594]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In January 2009, the Drinking Water Inspectorate sent Severn Trent Water its full assessment of the incident that occurred in 2008; it made 14 recommendations for improvement. In February 2009, the Inspectorate carried out an independent audit of Dimmingsdale Water Treatment Works and made eight recommendations and three comments about best practice. On 3 February 2009, Severn Trent Water wrote formally to the inspectorate confirming the action it had taken, and will be taking, to comply fully with the Inspectorate's findings. Scrutiny of company actions by the Inspectorate continues.

Forestry

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the last meeting of the UK Forestry Ministers' Group took place; and when the next meeting of the group is scheduled. [286181]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The last meeting of the UK Forestry Ministers' Group took place on 20 October 2005 to discuss forestry and climate change.

Forests

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of each county was covered by ancient woodland in *(a)* 1988, *(b)* 1998 and *(c)* 2008. [286364]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Figures for the years requested are not held.

The original ancient woodland inventory was carried out in the mid-1980s and was based on manual measurements of maps. The percentage by county recorded at that time is shown in the following table.

The original data was transferred to a digital map basis in the mid-1990s when it was updated and it has continued to be revised as new information becomes available. The current percentage by county is shown in the following table.

Although ancient woodland cannot be recreated, areas have been added and removed from the inventory to reflect new information on the status of the woodland. The vast majority of the changes in the inventory over this period are due to such corrections and adjustments to boundaries from the digitising process, and do not represent actual change on the ground.

Percentage of ancient woodland by county

	Original inventory	*Current inventory*
Avon	2.4	2.1
Bedfordshire	2.1	2.2
Berkshire	4.6	4.4
Buckinghamshire	4.5	4.7
Cambridgeshire	0.8	0.8
Cheshire	0.7	0.8
Cleveland	2.5	2.3
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	1.9	2.0
Cumbria	2.3	2.5
Derbyshire	1.7	1.9
Devon	2.2	2.3
Dorset	2.9	2.8
Durham	1.7	1.5
East Sussex	10.4	11.4
Essex	2.4	2.4
Gloucestershire	6.7	6.8
Greater Manchester	0.6	0.7
Hampshire	6.8	7.6
Hereford and Worcester	4.7	4.8
Hertfordshire	3.3	3.5
Humberside	0.2	0.2
London	1.6	1.6
Isle of Wight	4.1	4.2
Kent	8.0	7.4
Lancashire	0.9	1.0
Leicestershire	1.0	1.0
Lincolnshire	1.0	1.1
Merseyside	0.2	0.0
Norfolk	0.5	0.5
North Yorkshire	1.7	1.8
Northamptonshire	2.7	2.9
Northumberland	1.0	1.0
Nottinghamshire	1.0	1.2
Oxfordshire	2.9	3.0
Shropshire	2.7	2.7
Somerset	2.6	2.7
South Yorkshire	2.9	2.9
Staffordshire	2.1	2.1
Suffolk	1.1	1.2
Surrey	5.8	5.8
Tyne and Wear	2.0	2.2
Warwickshire	2.1	2.1
West Midlands	0.8	0.8
West Sussex	8.5	9.2
West Yorkshire	1.7	1.9
Wiltshire	3.7	3.7

Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many businesses in each region produced hazardous waste in each year since 1997. [286352]

Dan Norris: This data from the Environment Agency shows the number of premises in each region producing hazardous waste in 2006 and 2007. Data for 2008 is not yet available.

	Sites	
Region	*2007*	*2006*
Unclassified[1]	4,346	5,135
East Midlands	27,611	27,014
East of England	38,383	39,207
London	35,827	37,312
North East	13,850	12,915
North West	36,759	36,047
South East	56,485	57,096
South West	33,137	33,209
Wales	17,229	16,271
West Midlands	29,741	30,226
Yorkshire and the Humber	29,752	27,791
Total	323,120	322,223

[1] This information cannot be allocated to regions because of poor quality postcodes reported by operators in their quarterly returns.

These data are derived from the hazardous waste management system and database which was introduced in July 2005 to coincide with the introduction of the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005.

The Environment Agency is unable to provide information for the period 1997 to 2004. Information prior to this is held on an archived system which defined hazardous waste differently. Information is therefore not directly comparable with that held after 2005.

Landfill

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* complaints were made, *(b)* prosecutions were brought and *(c)* fines were levied against landfill site operators in each region for offences related to (i) odour, (ii) water pollution, (iii) air pollution and (iv) effect on human health in each year since 1997. [286362]

Dan Norris: Following is a table from the Environment Agency (EA) showing the number of *(a)* complaints made, *(b)* court cases brought, and *(c)* fines levied against landfill operators in each region for offences related to (i) odour, (ii) water pollution and (iii) air pollution in each year since 2001. The data provided show that from 2001 only as this is when the EA's National Incident Recording System came on line. Interrogating systems which hold information prior to 2001 would incur disproportionate cost.

The EA does not hold specific data relating to the effect of such offences on human health, but it is taken into account when determining the nature of the incident.

Number of incidents

	Total number related to landfills	*Air pollution—odour related*	*Air pollution—not odour related*	*Water pollution*	*Number of court cases*	*Total fines (£)*
2001						
Anglian	60	28	19	3	3	20,000
Midlands	71	48	14	5	3	3,000
North East	96	35	25	6	0	0
North West	762	332	378	9	2	13,000
Southern	75	42	26	7	6	38,000
South West	33	10	15	6	0	0
Thames	31	18	13	3	0	0
EA Wales	101	46	56	3	5	16,000
2002						
Anglian	77	40	23	5	3	75,000
Midlands	124	51	27	10	1	1,250
North East	116	45	14	14	0	0
North West	445	369	82	10	3	31,000
Southern	75	50	16	4	1	8,500
South West	36	8	12	6	2	4,500
Thames	56	19	22	8	0	0
EA Wales	92	43	24	12	2	9,500
2003						
Anglian	54	31	20	3	1	15,000
Midlands	104	57	28	5	5	12,500
North East	94	43	16	8	2	5,500
North West	155	93	45	6	3	12,000
Southern	58	45	20	5	1	6,000
South West	25	2	3	5	0	0
Thames	51	27	20	2	0	0
EA Wales	49	22	13	4	2	12,000
2004						
Anglian	85	34	26	2	0	0
Midlands	103	40	42	10	5	42,000
North East	121	40	35	13	1	2,000
North West	109	64	47	4	2	20,000
Southern	62	45	9	2	1	30,000
South West	45	18	9	9	4	17,000
Thames	67	48	36	1	1	10,000
EA Wales	41	21	13	7	1	250

Number of incidents

	Total number related to landfills	*Air pollution—odour related*	*Air pollution—not odour related*	*Water pollution*	*Number of court cases*	*Total fines (£)*
2005						
Anglian	76	44	20	3	0	0
Midlands	57	20	26	10	2	42,000
North East	93	46	32	4	3	2,000
North West	78	51	22	5	2	8,000
Southern	28	19	16	1	1	10,000
South West	22	15	6	1	0	0
Thames	42	32	27	3	0	0
EA Wales	50	25	16	11	3	12,500
2006						
Anglian	73	47	20	4	2	47,500
Midlands	43	12	18	7	1	4,000
North East	41	13	9	3	4	28,800
North West	41	23	14	0	0	0
Southern	13	5	4	0	4	12,500
South West	45	15	8	9	1	35,000
Thames	37	13	6	7	1	0
EA Wales	53	29	16	9	3	6,000
2007						
Anglian	60	32	13	8	11	41,000
Midlands	51	24	21	8	0	0
North East	72	28	25	5	3	22,000
North West	28	18	10	4	0	0
Southern	33	30	15	2	0	0
South West	63	37	31	4	3	42,000
Thames	36	18	14	5	9	38,249
EA Wales	84	52	44	6	2	15,500
2008						
Anglian	51	32	8	4	2	13,000
Midlands	51	24	18	5	1	16,000
North East	117	73	46	8	4	4,000
North West	17	10	6	2	0	0
Southern	66	27	13	4	2	7,400
South West	41	34	17	4	5	92,875
Thames	39	31	12	3	1	20,000
EA Wales	153	131	67	5	0	0

Local Government Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which *(a)* specific and *(b)* area-based grants are distributed to local authorities by each division of his Department; [285047]

(2) what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to *(a)* his Department of distributing each grant made by it to local authorities and *(b)* local authorities of administering each such grant; [285048]

(3) what *(a)* eligibility conditions and *(b)* compliance measures are in place in respect of the expenditure by local authorities of each grant distributed by his Department; and what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to his Department of monitoring the compliance by local authorities with such measures in respect of each such grant. [285123]

Dan Norris: The Government believe in giving local authorities greater flexibility to take decisions on local priorities. The introduction of the area based grant has reduced ring-fencing, giving councils increased flexibility to manage their budgets. Alongside this, the new local performance framework has provided a simplified and more effective structure for priority setting and performance measurement.

The following specific revenue grants are being paid by this Department direct to local authorities in 2009-10:

Policy area	*Grant*
Waste Strategy	London Waste and Recycling Board Fund
Exotic Disease and Agency Relationship Portfolio	Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement
Atmospheric Quality and Industrial Pollution	Air Quality Monitoring Equipment
Soils	Contaminated Land

Policy area	Grant
Water	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Area based grant is paid by Communities and Local Government on behalf of the Government as a whole, in monthly instalments. Funding streams from this Department which are being paid through area based grant in 2009-10 are:

Policy area	Grant
People and Landscapes	Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
Waste Strategy	Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant

The Department does not routinely estimate the costs of distributing grants each year, although it does consider the cost effectiveness of proposals as part of the policy development process. It also assesses whether there will be any new burdens on local authorities, and ensures that these are fully funded when a policy is implemented.

As area based grants are not ring-fenced, they come with no specific conditions or compliance requirements.

Eligibility conditions and compliance measures vary with each specific revenue grant.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the oral answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 700, what mechanisms exist for the independent Marine Management Organisation to report to Parliament. [287435]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is required to prepare an annual report for each financial year detailing how it has discharged its functions. The MMO must send this report to the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who must lay a copy of it before Parliament.

The Secretary of State will be formally accountable to Parliament for the activities and performance of, and public money spent by, the MMO. He will be advised by a cross-government MMO sponsorship group which will allow UK Government Departments' interests to be represented without compromising the clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

Natural England: Manpower

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many qualified *(a)* lepidopterists, *(b)* botanists, *(c)* lichenologists, *(d)* bryologists and *(e)* mycologists are employed by Natural England. [287177]

Huw Irranca-Davies: With the exception of botany, there are no nationally-recognised qualifications in the fields covered by this question. Natural England employs the following numbers of nationally-recognised experts:

	Number
(a) Lepidopterists	1
(b) Botanists	3
(c) Lichenologists	1
(d) Bryologists	1
(e) Mycologists	2

Origin Marking: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) with reference to the round table meeting on 31 March 2009 with representatives from food retailers and trading organisations on food labelling, what steps his Department is taking in the preparation of voluntary guidance to supermarkets on country of origin labelling of produce from Israeli settlements; [287173]

(2) pursuant to the answer from the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak, of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 856W, on Israel: imports, when he expects to announce the next step in public consultation on the labelling of goods imported into the UK from Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories. [287174]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following the meeting on 31 March, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is currently working with other Departments including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Revenue and Customs, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Food Standards Agency with the intention of carrying out a public consultation on the labelling of produce from the Occupied Palestinian Territories shortly.

Rivers: Pollution

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at what locations *(a)* acid and *(b)* other discharge from (i) mines, (ii) landfill sites, (iii) radioactive waste storage sites and (iv) animal burial mounds have been identified as (A) exceeding permitted levels and (B) resulting in poor river quality in nearby river courses in each year since 1997; and what steps his Department takes when such sites are identified. [286465]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Details of locations where acid and other discharge from mines, landfill sites, radioactive waste storage sites and animal burial mounds have been identified as exceeding permitted levels and resulting in poor river quality are as follows:

(i) Working mines are subject to discharge controls under Water Resources Act consents or Environmental Permitting Regulations permits issued and enforced by the Environment Agency. Permits are set to ensure that, when complied with, relevant EU Directive standards are met. Where permits are not complied with it is for the Environment Agency to take appropriate action.

Since 1994, over 100 discharges from abandoned coal mines to rivers have been assessed and prioritised by the environment agencies in England and Wales and Scotland. The Coal Authority has built some 50 minewater treatment plants which have cleaned up or protected more than 400 km of rivers and protected drinking water supply

aquifers. A prioritised programme to deal with remaining pollution from abandoned coal mines is in place.

Research commissioned recently by my Department and the Environment Agency has addressed the impacts of abandoned non-coal mines on watercourses. It identifies those posing the greatest risk to achievement of the aims of the Water Framework Directive by assessment of impacts on water quality, ecology, fish and groundwater. It is estimated that, out of a total of some 8,000 water bodies, 221 are impacted by non-coal minewater pollution related primarily to high concentrations of metals in discharges. As a first step, my Department is currently commissioning research to identify the most cost-effective passive treatment options from which to develop appropriate remedial measures within future river basin management planning cycles. This research will be published in due course.

Relevant annual data since 1997 are not held centrally and I will ask the Environment Agency to provide such information as is readily available to be placed in the Library of the House.

(ii) The regulation of landfills has changed significantly since 1997 when landfills were regulated by a waste management licence. Discharges of site drainage and treated leachate were controlled through a separate authorisation. Since the introduction of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act in 1999, permits have controlled both the landfill and discharges to surface water at operational sites.

The Environment Agency records inspections carried out at landfill and breaches of licence conditions. Since 2004 the Environment Agency has recorded data on breaches of licence conditions on a national system. Information prior to this is not held centrally.

The following table summarises the number of landfill non-compliances related to discharges to surface water, for each Environment Agency region.

Region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Anglian	230	401	73	15	13	6	738
Midlands	156	173	72	13	21	15	450
North East	286	362	147	53	19	1	868
North West	109	98	30	19	18	1	275
South West	62	33	29	13	19	—	156
Southern	266	253	106	8	26	1	660
Thames	49	121	108	6	5	9	298
Wales	26	31	24	14	29	7	131
Total	1,184	1,472	589	141	150	40	3,576

While the Environment Agency records details of the type of breach, it is unable to provide a summary of the breakdown of these incidents by substance.

(iii) Low level radioactive waste is disposed of at the Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg in Cumbria. The Environment Agency and the Food Standards Agency monitor the environment and food around this facility. Since 2002, the Environment Agency has published its environmental monitoring results annually in the Radioactivity in Food and Environment (RIFE) Report series; prior to that the results were published in the Agency's Radioactivity in the Environment series of reports. Based on these monitoring results the Environment Agency assesses the radiation doses received by members of the public. The radiation dose to members of the public living near the Low Level Waste Repository is much less than the annual 1 millisievert (mSv) legal dose limit. The results of these dose assessments are also published in the RIFE report series.

Small quantities of low level radioactive waste are disposed of to some landfill sites. The Environment Agency monitors groundwater and leachate from a number of landfill sites and its assessments of radiation doses based on the monitoring results show that doses to members of the public are much lower than the annual 1 mSv legal dose limit. These results are also published in the RIFE report series.

The disposals of radioactive waste did not exceed permitted levels at the low level radioactive waste repository near Drigg or at landfill sites. Radioactive waste disposals did not result in poor river water quality.

(iv) The Environment Agency is not aware of any significant impact from animal burial mounds. The only significant burial of animals occurred during the 2001 Foot and Mouth emergency where there were 992 on-farm disposals of carcases in England and Wales. Due to the precautions taken at the time to identify suitable sites and the removal of material in some cases, very few residual risks were identified in the comprehensive review that was subsequently undertaken by DEFRA. Monitoring was found to be necessary at approximately 3 per cent. of the original burial sites. No unacceptable impact on the environment has been found.

Following the outbreak, DEFRA, in consultation with the Environment Agency, commissioned an independent review of each site using a source>pathway>receptor staged approach. The consultants concluded that none of the 992 sites posed an unacceptable risk to the environment but recommended that 32 of the sites be subject to ongoing water quality monitoring. Monitoring of these sites commenced in 2003 and is ongoing. The results are made available to the Environment Agency on a quarterly basis. This ongoing monitoring has identified that although there have been occasional exceedences of the precautionary threshold levels at a number of sites, they are often one-off spikes and are not consistent. These exceedences are considered to reflect the fact that samples are obtained from natural bodies of water in agricultural settings and reflect agricultural practice in the vicinity rather than results from the carcase disposal.

Since 2001, DEFRA has retained and managed four animal burial sites. Of these sites, only one (Watchtree, Cumbria) releases processed water into the watercourse. This is treated water from the burial cells finished using reed-bed technologies which is subject to a managed discharge consent issued by the Environment Agency. While there have been isolated instances of permitted levels being breached, these have almost been exclusively due to unseasonal rainfall which increases the suspended solids content, and none have resulted in poor river quality being reported. The three remaining sites (Tow Law, Co Durham, Ridgeway Ground, Worcestershire and Birkshaw Forest, Dumfries and Galloway) are closed sites with water products been stored and tanked to an appropriate location for treatment. Ground water run-off surrounding the sites is also monitored with the results shared with the Environment Agency, no recurring breaches have been reported and any isolated breaches have been actively resolved in conjunction with the appropriate regulatory agencies.

Roads

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last reviewed the powers available for control of the use of the public highway for the sale of motor vehicles. [286953]

Dan Norris: In 2005, DEFRA introduced further provisions within The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act to tackle nuisance parking. Specifically, section 3 of Act makes it an offence for a person to place two or more vehicles for sale (for the purposes of a business) on roads where they are within 500 metres of each other. The offence is not intended to target individual private sellers of single vehicles, rather the nuisance that is caused by the presence of numbers of vehicles being offered for sale by the same person or business. Any person found guilty of such an offence can be fined up to £2,500.

Rural Payments Agency: Freedom of Information

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which requests for information received by the Rural Payments Agency under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2008 were *(a)* classified as not resolvable and *(b)* refused in full. [286134]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Most requests for information received by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) are dealt with under the provisions of the environmental information regulations (EIR). Figures provided include requests dealt with in 2008 by RPA under the EIR and Freedom of Information Act (FOI). Requests classified as not resolvable by RPA are those where information is not held by RPA.

	FOI	*EIR*
Requests not resolvable	8	12
Information withheld in full	7	12

Squirrels

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Natural England has spent on red squirrel conservation in the last five years. [286689]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From 2004-5 to 2008-9, Natural England and its founding bodies spent £94,300 on red squirrel conservation. In addition, a three-year rural enterprise scheme grant of £148,000 was made by the Rural Development Service in July 2006. Responsibility for this scheme was transferred to the Regional Development Agencies on the establishment of Natural England.

Trees

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of trees in each region *(a)* had full crowns, *(b)* had slight defoliation, *(c)* had moderate defoliation, *(d)* had severe defoliation and *(e)* were dead in the latest survey conducted on behalf of his Department into tree health. [286358]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The last complete survey of forest condition was conducted by the Forestry Commission between June and September 2006. The total number of trees assessed was 8,184 and these included Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Scots pine, oak and beech.

The data are not readily available by region but the total percentages are provided in the following table.

Class	*Percentage of trees*
Full crowns	26.1
Slight defoliation	48.0
Moderate defoliation	23.9
Severe defoliation	1.1
Dead	0.9

A limited survey of the condition of two forest tree species (Scots pine and oak) was undertaken between June and September of 2007. The total number of trees assessed was 3,744. The data are not readily available by region but the total percentages are provided in the following table.

Class	*Percentage of trees*
Full crowns	26.5
Slight defoliation	47.5
Moderate defoliation	23.8
Severe defoliation	1.1
Dead	1.1

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps *(a)* have been taken recently and *(b)* are planned to be taken to improve tree health. [286365]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The need to maintain, and improve where necessary, the health and vitality of trees remains integral to the Government's approach to sustainable forest management.

Forest Research, the Research Agency of the Forestry Commission that is responsible for carrying out investigations into and providing advice on tree health issues, has recently been restructured to give greater emphasis to the impact of climate change on tree health. Its new Centre for Forestry and Climate Change researches the effects of environmental and climate change on forestry, and how the sector can play its part in adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The centre also develops entomology, pathology and environmental sciences in order to deliver holistic understanding of climate change and forestry.

As well as investigating the potential impacts of climate change, research is ongoing into a number of pests and diseases of current concern. These include:

Red Band Needle Blight which can affect a wide range of pines and other conifers.

Acute Oak Decline which is widespread and of complex cause, often involving recurrent drought, attack by root disease fungi and episodes of insect defoliation or mildew attack.

The horse chestnut leaf miner moth which causes browning and an autumnal appearance during the summer months and the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *aesculi* as the causal agent of a serious, sometimes lethal, bleeding canker of horse chestnuts.

Oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) for which the Forestry Commission initiated a contingency plan and is working in partnership with officials from the affected London boroughs and the Health Protection Agency, in an effort to eradicate the pest before it gains a firm foothold.

Phytophthora ramorum and *Phytophthora kernoviae* for which we have already announced a £25 million package which will support a five-year programme to manage and contain the risks of these two plant diseases.

Looking to the future, the Forestry Commission has recently announced plans to develop a risk management strategy and action plan to respond to the increasing biotic threats to UK trees and forests. It is aiming to have this in place later this year.

Waste Disposal

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the number of sanitary products have been disposed of by *(a)* landfill, *(b)* incineration and *(c)* other means in the last year for which figures are available; [286433]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of disposable nappies have been disposed of by *(a)* landfill, *(b)* incineration and *(c)* other means in the last year for which figures are available. [286434]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Data on individual waste streams such as nappies or sanitary products are not routinely collected. However, a report of an updated life cycle study on disposable and reusable nappies prepared for DEFRA by consultants ERM and published in 2008 contained an assumption that 86 per cent. of disposable nappies were landfilled in 2005-06, with the remainder going to energy from waste installations.

Water Charges

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average proportion of income spent on water charges by households in *(a)* the bottom decile, *(b)* the bottom 50 per cent. and *(c)* the highest decile for household income in (i) 1990, (ii) 2000 and (iii) 2008. [286302]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This information is held by the Office for National Statistics. The average percentage of income spent on water charges by households is provided in the following table.

Water bills as a percentage of household disposable income[1]—United Kingdom

	Percentage of income for group names		
	Bottom decile group[2]	*Bottom 50 per cent[2]*	*Top decile group[2]*
2000-01	3.5	1.8	0.5
2006-07	3.5	1.9	0.5

[1] Unequivalised household disposable income.
[2] Ranked by equivalised disposable income.

2006-07 is the latest period for which estimates are currently available. The next publication is scheduled for 29 July and will cover the period 2007-08.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many customers of each water supply company were on a vulnerable groups tariff in each of the last three year. [286472]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of customers on a vulnerable groups tariff in each of the last three years by water company is set out in the following table.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Anglian and Hartlepool Water	904	3,385	3,068
Dwr Cymru	580	899	1,070
United Utilities	1,565	2,286	2,551
Northumbrian and Essex and Suffolk	898	1,077	1,403
Severn Trent	1,508	2,385	3,399
South West	3,857	5,837	6,782
Southern	280	197	641
Thames	2,053	2,333	2,747
Wessex	751	837	972
Yorkshire and York	1,663	2,090	2,702
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	222	274	381
Bristol	478	511	620
Cambridge	108	128	163
Dee Valley	36	73	83
Folkestone	106	176	270
Portsmouth	30	43	73
South East Water (incl. Mid Kent)	143	249	[1]156
South East Water (excl. Mid Kent Water)	102	97	—
Mid Kent Water	41	152	—
South Staffs	198	259	364
Sutton and East Surrey	91	110	113
Tendring Hundred	425	468	533
Three Valleys	316	504	788
Industry	16,212	24,121	28,723

[1] In 2008-09 Mid Kent merged with South East Water

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of average monthly cost to *(a)* metered and *(b)* unmetered consumers of (i) water supply and (ii) sewerage services in each (A) water supply area and (B) region in 2007-08. [286470]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage sector in England and Wales, does not hold data for the average metered and unmetered water and sewerage bills broken down by month and region.

The following table sets out the average annual bills for 2007-08 in 2009-10 prices.

Information on 2009-10 water and sewerage bills is available from the Ofwat website at:

www.ofwat.gov.uk

The average annual unmetered and metered, water and sewerage bills for 2007-08 (in 2009-10 prices)

	Unmetered water	*Metered water*	*Unmetered sewerage*	*Metered sewerage*	*Combined unmeasured*	*Combined measured*	*Combined total water and total sewerage*
Water and sewerage companies							
Anglian	204	149	247	188	451	336	381
Dwr Cymru	184	119	246	164	430	284	390
North West	171	151	200	177	371	327	361
Northumbrian (incl. Essex and Suffolk)							
Northumbrian	138	109	175	142	314	250	302
Essex and Suffolk	193	138					
Severn Trent	157	135	148	143	305	278	297
South West	257	163	433	227	690	391	506
Southern	131	119	245	191	376	310	353
Thames	188	160	121	109	309	269	299
Wessex	217	163	214	174	431	337	395
Yorkshire (incl. York)	160	133	178	145	339	278	319
Water only companies							
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	161	130	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol	158	136	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridge	132	116	—	—	—	—	—
Dee Valley	141	102	—	—	—	—	—
Folkestone and Dover	223	161	—	—	—	—	—
Mid Kent	186	133	—	—	—	—	—
Portsmouth	91	82	—	—	—	—	—
South East	191	142	—	—	—	—	—
South Staffs	124	116	—	—	—	—	—
Sutton and East Surrey	178	144	—	—	—	—	—
Tendring Hundred	214	152	—	—	—	—	—
Three Valleys (incl. North Surrey)	168	144	—	—	—	—	—

Note:
Figures may not total due to rounding

Water Supply

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 532W, on water meters, how many households receive water supplies from *(a)* Severn Trent Water and *(b)* South Staffordshire Water. [285878]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of households that receive their water supplies from Severn Trent Water and South Staffordshire Water.

Company	*Connected properties*
Severn Trent Water	3,167,600
South Staffordshire Water	521,300

Source:
Ofwat—service and delivery report 2007-08. Supplementary information available from:
www.ofwat.gov.uk

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Graduate Job Prospects

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of job prospects for graduates in the current economic downturn. [287052]

Mr. Lammy: These are undoubtedly tough times for graduates but we should not forget that a degree remains a strong investment. Businesses are continuing to recruit through the downturn, and the Government are committed to helping graduates. Working with employers and universities, we are boosting the number of internships and offering more loans to support further study. So graduates should remain positive.

British National Space Centre

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has allocated to the British National Space Centre for 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [287070]

Mr. Lammy: Provisional indicative planning assumptions are that in 2010-11 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will allocate to the British National Space Centre £1.5 million in programme budget, and £1.123 million in administration budget.

Construction Industry

21. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to assist the construction industry during the recession. [287072]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Government are offering the real help that construction companies and workers need now.

We are ensuring that companies struggling to obtain finance are supported through a package of support including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and the Working Capital scheme.

We are helping the industry ensure it has the right skills, for example by agreeing a Train to Gain compact which will make available £133 million over three years to meet the identified priority skills needs of the industry.

And we are boosting demand by bringing forward £3 billion expenditure from 2010-11 to 2008-9 and 2009-10.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Spring: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Suffolk aged 60 or more years have declared themselves bankrupt in each year since 1997. [286264]

Ian Lucas: The available information on the number of bankruptcies in England and in Suffolk, aged 60 or more years, may be seen in Table 1 as follows. Information prior to 2000 is not available on this basis.

Table 1: Bankrupts aged 60 and over[1, 2]

	Location	
	England	*Suffolk*
2000	802	12
2001	947	19
2002	1,154	26
2003	1,464	26
2004	1,915	23
2005	2,898	51
2006	4,394	61
2007	4,911	69
2008	5,189	89

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (between 90-93 per cent. of cases over the period covered).
[2] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (increasing from 88 per cent. of cases in 2000 to 97 per cent. in 2008).

Insolvency

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 97W, on insolvency, how many reports from insolvency practitioners alleging misconduct have been received by the Insolvency Service in each of the last three years; and how many such reports have been pursued to investigation stage. [285747]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The information is as follows:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Unfitted returns received	4,120	3,991	4,752
Investigations	1,260	1,691	1,073

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many company directors have been disqualified from the Insolvency Service following an investigation in each of the last three years; and what the average disqualification period was in each such year. [285774]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The Insolvency Service obtains disqualifications under sections 6 and 8 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 (CDDA). Some disqualifications are obtained under section 2 of the CDDA following criminal proceedings that have resulted in directors being convicted of an indictable offence in connection with the promotion, formation, management, liquidation or striking off of a company.

Directors disqualified	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
(a) Under section 6			
Directors disqualified	1,149	1,066	1,204
Average period in years	5.5	5.9	6.3
(b) Under section 8			
Directors disqualified	26	28	23
Average period in years	6.5	6.2	6.3
(c) Under section 2			
Directors disqualified	51	79	48
Average period in years	n/k	n/k	5.7

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 97W, on insolvency, what estimate he has made of the cost of regulating compliance with Statement of Insolvency Practice 16; and from which budget such costs will be met. [285850]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The cost of the Insolvency Service's monitoring of Statement of Insolvency Practice (SIP) 16, relating to pre-packaged administrations, has been estimated at £100,000 for the current financial year. The monitoring is undertaken on a cost recovery basis, and will therefore be recovered from the recognised professional bodies that regulate insolvency practitioners by way of levy.

The cost of regulating insolvency practitioners' compliance with SIP 16 in terms of considering and implementing appropriate regulatory and disciplinary actions remains with the relevant recognised professional bodies.

Internet: Censorship

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will restrict or prohibit the supply to Zimbabwe by UK companies of technologies capable of use to monitor, inspect or filter internet content. [285279]

Ian Lucas: There are currently no plans to restrict further or prohibit the supply to Zimbabwe by UK companies of technologies capable of use to monitor, inspect or filter internet content. The export of these technologies would already be controlled if they employed cryptography or were specially designed for military use. European Union sanctions against Zimbabwe, outlined in Council Regulation (EC) No 314/2004, also allow Communications Intercept Devices to be controlled where they might be used for internal repression.

In such cases, all export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and a licence would not be issued if to do so was inconsistent with the criteria.

Jaguar Land Rover

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in discussions between his Department and Jaguar Land Rover in respect of loan guarantees; and when he expects the discussions to be completed. [284262]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff) on 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 980W.

London Metropolitan University

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) when he was first informed of the inaccuracies relating to student data and funding at London Metropolitan University; [276990]

(2) on what date the Higher Education Funding Council for England first raised concerns with London Metropolitan University about its non-completion rates data for the 2005-06 academic year; [276991]

(3) what reasons representatives of the London Metropolitan University provided to the Higher Education Funding Council for England for its return of incorrect data on completion rates for the academic years *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; [276992]

(4) what recent procedures he has put in place to ensure the accuracy of data on non-completion rates provided by universities to the Higher Education Funding Council for England; [276993]

(5) if he will commission an independent investigation into the recent submission of data on non-completion rates by London Metropolitan University to the Higher Education Funding Council for England. [276994]

Mr. Lammy: I will answer these questions on the current situation at London Metropolitan university (LMU) together. In doing so it should be borne in mind that responsibility for resolving these issues falls to the funding council and the university. Ministers are precluded in legislation from decisions on the funding of individual institutions. In answer to the specific questions:

First, Ministers were first informed about by the funding council about issues with audit of LMU's data in February 2008.

Second, the funding council first raised concerns with LMU about its 2005/06 data in April 2007.

Third, LMU reported non-completions for each of these years based on its own interpretation of the funding council rules.

Fourth, the funding council already has a number of processes in place to ensure the accuracy of the data institutions provide which inform their funding. It was these processes that identified the problems at LMU.

Fifth, it is for the funding council to account for the funds it distributes. It has itself decided to commission an independent report into its handling of the situation at LMU. It will report to its board in July and will be made public. In addition the National Audit Office will be undertaking a study of the financial health of the HE sector later this year. It is likely to include LMU in that study. As such I will not be commissioning a separate investigation.

Skilled Workers

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of skills shortage in each *(a)* industrial sector and *(b)* region. [284619]

Kevin Brennan: The National Employer Skills Survey 2007 report, published in May 2008, provides the most recent data available on the skills shortages in each sector and region.

(a) Table 1 shows the number and proportion of Skills Shortage Vacancies (SSVs) by Sector Skills Council sector (LSC, 2008: p.56):

Table 1

	Vacancies[1]	*SSVs*[1]	*Percentage of vacancies that are SSVs*	*SSVs per 1,000 employees*
Unweighted base	*52,867*	*10,399*		
All England	619,675	130,000	21	6
Lantra	8,450	2,475	[2]29	8
Cogent	6,650	1,400	21	4
Proskills UK	3,975	950	24	[3]3
Improve Ltd.	5,300	550	[3]10	[3]2
Skillfast-UK	3,875	975	25	5
Semta	23,200	7,150	31	6
Energy and Utility Skills	6,100	500	[3]8	[3]2
ConstructionSkills	36,700	14,625	[2]40	[2]14
SummitSkills	8,075	2,000	25	9
Automotive Skills	11,200	2,975	27	6
Skillsmart Retail	52,675	7,250	14	[3]3
People 1st	67,725	12,675	19	8
GoSkills	10,825	2,475	23	6
Skills for Logistics	11,000	2,075	19	[3]3
Financial Services Skills Council	30,450	4,725	16	5

Table 1

	Vacancies[1]	*SSVs*[1]	*Percentage of vacancies that are SSVs*	*SSVs per 1,000 employees*
Asset Skills	24,725	5,125	21	6
e-skills UK	22,650	6,275	28	10
Government Skills	9,750	1,475	15	4
Skills for Justice	3,900	275	[3]7	[3]1
Lifelong Learning UK	19,500	2,625	[3]13	[3]3
Skills for Health	30,500	3,850	13	[3]2
Skills for Care and Development	29,800	4,700	[3]16	5
Skillset	7,075	2,900	[2]41	[2]23
Creative and Cultural Skills	7,325	1,650	23	8
SkillsActive	7,000	1,375	20	5
Non-SSC employers	171,275	36,875	22	6

[1] Denote base sizes of 25 to 49 and should be treated with caution.
[2] Indicates particularly high values
[3] Indicates particularly low values.
Notes:
Figures rounded to the nearest 25.
'*' Used where the base size was less than 25.

(b) Table 2 shows the number and proportion of Skills Shortage Vacancies (SSVs) per region (LSC, 2008: p.48):

Table 2

	Vacancies[1]	*SSVs*[1]	*Percentage of vacancies that are SSVs*	*SSVs per 1,000 employees*
Unweighted base		*10,399*		
Overall	619,675	130,000	21	6
Region				
Eastern	64,225	12,475	19	5
East Midlands	40,975	8,450	21	5
London	126,875	32,850	26	8
North East	23,400	4,600	20	5
North West	75,225	13,000	17	4
South East	115,450	25,650	22	7
South West	58,575	12,750	22	6
West Midlands	61,350	9,975	16	4
Yorkshire and The Humber	53,600	10,250	19	5

[1] Denote base sizes of 25 to 49 and should be treated with caution.
Base: All employment
Notes:
Vacancy and SSV figures rounded to the nearest 25.

Space Technology: Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of Government research and development (R and D) funding was allocated to civil space R and D in each year since 1986. [284881]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* This information is published in SET statistics and can be found at

http://www.dius.gov.uk/science/science_funding/set_stats

The most recent figures available are set out in the following table. This shows the percentage share of Government funding of net research and development funding in each year from 1986-87 to 2005-06 which was allocated to civil space.

Percentage share of Government funding of net R and D allocated to civil space

	Percentage
1986-87	2.8
1987-88	2.9
1988-89	3.2
1989-90	3.0
1990-91	3.0
1991-92	2.5
1992-93	2.9
1993-94	3.5
1994-95	3.1
1995-96	2.7
1996-97	2.8
1997-98	2.8
1998-99	2.5
1999-2000	2.3
2000-01	2.3
2001-02	2.1
2002-03	1.9
2003-04	2.0
2004-05	2.0
2005-06	2.2

Students: Loans

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have complained to the Student Loans Company (SLC) that money deducted by HM Revenue and Customs from their salaries for repayment of student loans has not been allocated to their accounts with the SLC in each of the last three years; how long on average it took the SLC to reply to such complaints in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [284610]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 201W.

Tax Havens

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit directors of companies registered in the British Virgin Islands from becoming directors of UK companies. [284650]

Ian Lucas: I have no plans to do so.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question 280005, tabled on 10 June 2009, on the Capital for Enterprise Fund. [281285]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 186W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287797]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture Media and Sport awarded the following number of contracts to businesses with fewer than 50 members of staff with the following total monetary values:

April to March each year	*Number of contracts*	*Total spend (£)*
2006-07	120	3,589,211.10
2007-08	93	1,999,166.68

Notes:
1. Data for April 2004-March 2005 and April 2005-March 2006 are not held.
2. Data for April 2008-March 2009 will be available within the next two months.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what categories of personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each category of information began to be collected; and if he will make a statement. [283984]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Personal information about members of the public held in databases managed by my Department began to be collected when each one became operational. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 245-46W.

Detailed explanation of all the fields in these databases could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286177]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In each of the last three years the Department has had the following equipment, excluding multi-function devices.

	Photocopiers	*Scanning devices*	*Fax machines*
2007	*11	4	17
2008	2	4	17
2009	2	4	17

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to his Department of (a) press officers and (b) other press office staff has been in each year since 1997. [283063]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost of press officers is available only from 2002-03 and the cost of other press office staff is available only from 2003-04. The information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The costs were:

£

	Press officers	*Other press office staff*
2002-03	459,932	—
2003-04	552,677	174,576
2004-05	466,206	157,245
2005-06	[1]550,124	110,864
2006-07	[1]733,412	165,170
2007-08	[1]682,858	187,576
2008-09	[1]706,643	185,715

[1] This includes press officers working on the Olympics

Digital Broadcasting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of digital switchover in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England. [286061]

Mr. Simon: A total of £603 million for the Digital Switchover help scheme and £200 million for Digital UK's marketing and communications were ring-fenced in the current TV licence fee agreement, which runs to March 2013. These figures cover the UK as a whole and have not been divided between nations, regions or individual constituencies.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse of digital switchover has been in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England to date. [286063]

Mr. Simon: As detailed in the Help Scheme Agreement, the £603 million estimated cost of the help scheme will be divided into annual amounts for the purpose of funding the scheme. The ITV Yorkshire region (covering the Vale of York and North Yorkshire) does not switch until 2011, therefore to date there has been no spend in this region. It is not possible to estimate the total cost of running the scheme to date in England since a large proportion of the costs are fixed costs that are associated with developing and running the scheme across the UK as a whole.

There has been no regional cost incurred by Digital UK activity in Yorkshire as this will commence in spring 2010. In England the cost to date of all Digital UK switchover communications and operations, which excludes Wales, Northern Ireland, STV Central and STV North is £57 million.

Digital Broadcasting: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to bring the level of take-up of digital broadcasting in Northern Ireland up to average levels in the rest of the UK. [284161]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* As digital switchover in Northern Ireland in 2012 draws closer, Digital UK will run a communication programme in the area covered by the Ulster TV region about switchover and what people need to do to ensure that they can receive digital television services.

There are no steps envisaged to increase digital radio take-up specifically in Northern Ireland, or in any other part of the UK. However, as set out in the recently published Digital Britain White Paper, the Government recognise that building out a Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) infrastructure across the UK which meets the needs of broadcasters, multiplex operators and listeners, including improving the quality of the signal, will require additional investment. We will work closely with the BBC, transmission providers and Ofcom to agree a plan for the extension and improvement for local DAB coverage, and where the cost would most appropriately fall.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the extent of coverage of digital radio in *(a)* Powys, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* each region will be after the analogue radio switch-off; [286371]

(2) when the analogue radio signal will be switched off in *(a)* Powys, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* each region. [286372]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Details of the extent of digital radio coverage and when the Digital Radio Upgrade will be implemented in *(a)* Powys, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* each other UK region following the Digital Radio Upgrade programme are not currently available.

In the coming months we will be working with broadcasters and transmission providers to consider how and when the coverage of DAB will be extended and improved. The intention is to give a clearer indication of future coverage in the spring 2010 review which was proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper.

However, we have been clear from the outset that coverage of DAB needs to be at least comparable to current FM coverage before the Upgrade can begin. We are also aware that in Wales specific regard needs to be made to those listeners that only have access to radio via MW.

No date has been set for the Digital Radio Upgrade programme. The top-level principle of the upgrade programme is that it should not result in reduced access to radio services. The Digital Britain White Paper set out our intention to deliver a Digital Radio Upgrade programme across the UK by the end of 2015, when we would expect all analogue services also carried on the national and local DAB multiplexes to cease broadcasting on analogue. The Digital Radio Upgrade will be implemented on a single date, which will be announced at least two years in advance.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provision will be made for radio reception by residential properties where digital radio signals cannot be received after the discontinuance of analogue radio signals in *(a)* Powys, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* each region of England, (d) Scotland and (e) Northern Ireland. [287169]

Mr. Simon: The Digital Britain White Paper made clear our intention that the Digital Radio Upgrade programme should not result in listeners losing access to radio. We have also been clear that before the upgrade can begin DAB coverage must be comparable to the existing FM coverage, particularly for the BBC's services. In the case of Wales, we are also examining closely the impact of ceasing radio broadcasts on MW, which many listeners in Wales rely upon.

Therefore we are not, at this time, planning specific provisions to address residential properties in *(a)* Powys; *(b)* Wales; *(c)* each region of England; *(d)* Scotland; and *(e)* Northern Ireland which are not able to receive digital radio signals once services migrate to digital. However, we will keep this under review.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of people eligible for assistance under the Digital Switchover Help Scheme in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England; and if he will make a statement. [285757]

Mr. Simon: Those eligible for the help scheme can only be broken down by ITV regions. The Help Scheme estimates around 640,000 people in the ITV Yorkshire region will be eligible to receive help, although this number is likely to change between now and when the region switches in 2011. It is estimated that around seven million people in the UK will be eligible to receive help from the Switchover Help Scheme.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when it became a requirement to have a television licence to receive television signals on mobile telephones in the home; how many prosecutions there have been of people who have received signals on mobile telephones without a licence; and if he will make a statement. [286187]

Mr. Simon: The legislation on TV licensing refers to television receivers and does not refer specifically to mobile phones.

Government do not hold figures on what particular type of television receiver was being used in any particular breach of the television licensing regulations.

The interpretation of the TV licensing legislation, including an assessment of whether a mobile phone meets the definition of a television receiver under the legislation, is a matter for the BBC.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the armed forces rules of engagement in Afghanistan were last reviewed. [284852]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK's Rules of Engagement are reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain effective and compliant with international law.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to deploy in Afghanistan helicopters which are out of service for repair or maintenance work on completion of that work. [287186]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: On completion of repair or maintenance work, helicopters are returned to the Forward Fleet where they are used for operational or training purposes.

Those aircraft which are equipped to Theatre Entry Standard are likely to be deployed to Operational Theatres to allow other airframes to return to the UK to undergo regular, programmed servicing and maintenance.

The remaining aircraft in the Forward Fleet are with Front Line Squadrons, primarily for training purposes.

Armed Forces

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving officers there are in each of the three services. [287198]

Bill Rammell: As at 1 May 2009 the trained strength of UK Regular Forces[1] included 6,480 officers in the Naval Service, 13,800 in the Army and 8,420 in the Royal Air Force.

A full breakdown of the strength of UK Regular Forces by officer/other rank, training indicator and service can be found in Tri-Service Publication 1, which is published on a monthly basis at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=32&date=2009-06-23&type=html&PublishTime=09:30:00

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all strength statistics are provisional and subject to review.

[1] UK Regular Forces excludes Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve personnel and mobilised reservists.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions officials of his Department have met Scottish Executive health officials in each year since 2007; and at how many such meetings *(a)* the care of soldiers and veterans and *(b)* the sharing of best practice between the Defence Medical Services and NHS Scotland have been discussed. [282937]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The main forum for discussions between the Ministry of Defence and Scottish Executive health officials is the MOD/UK Health Departments Partnership Board, at which a range of issues of mutual interest are discussed. The board meets three times a year, with a core remit to ensure that the MOD and UK Health Departments share best practice and work together to improve the health and healthcare of the UK armed forces, plus dependents and veterans, and such issues form the basis of its discussions. The Senior Medical Officer at the Scottish Executive is a standing member of the board and attends, or is represented at, its meetings.

In addition, there are three official level working groups that take forward specific works strands identified by the Partnership Board, and which meet on average four times a year. Scottish Executive officials are members of each of these Working groups, and attend meetings either in person or by video link.

Finally, numerous other official level discussions, both formal and informal, take place as required at both national and local level, to address the health needs of service personnel and their dependants across the entire patient care pathway.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281076]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1669W, by my right hon. Friend the previous Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Mr. Ainsworth) to the hon. Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer).

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287136]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD is working with other Government Departments toward the implementation of all 12 key recommendations of the Glover Report. The MOD is participating fully in the Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Office of Government Commerce (OGC) led Glover Programme Board which oversees the implementation of the recommendations across Government.

Departmental Property

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more bedroom properties are owned by or managed for his Department in inner London boroughs; and what his most recent estimate is of the average annual net cost of managing properties in each category. [287190]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For accommodating single Service personnel, this Department owns some 1,586 Single Living Accommodation (SLA) units in the inner London boroughs.

For accommodating entitled Service families in the same area, the Department currently holds the following number of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties, the majority of which are leased from Annington Homes Ltd:

Property Type	Number of Bedrooms	Number of Properties
Officers		
I	4/5	6
II	4/5	3
III	4	1
IV	4	86
V	3	46
Other Ranks		
D	4	103
C	3	252
B	2	285
A	1	6

No separate estimate is made of the costs of living accommodation broken down by location and type.

In, cases where SFA or SLA is required but not available, substitute accommodation might be sourced from the commercial rental markets. The Department currently rents 1,245 Substitute Single Service Accommodation and 41 Substitute SFA properties in the inner London boroughs at an approximate monthly cost of £1.47 million.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the future aircraft carrier programme in each of the next five years. [284532]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 667W.

Following the equipment examination (EE) we decided to delay the carriers by one to two years, recognising that this would add cost. The new cost will be at least £4.6 billion but we are not yet able to provide a final estimate.

We do not release annual funding profiles as these are planning assumptions that are inevitably subject to a significant amount of variation, and their availability could also prejudice commercial interests.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual crew number for each helicopter type was in each of the last five years. [284543]

Bill Rammell: Historical figures for helicopter crew numbers are not held in the format requested. The numbers of aircrew personnel for each helicopter type are provided in the following tables.

Royal Navy

As at 1 July 2009	Required strength	Actual strength
Lynx Mk3/8	133	124
Lynx Mk7/9	20	20
Merlin Mk1	189	174
Sea King Mk4/6	139	139
Sea King Mk5	68	65
Sea King Mk7	46	43

Army Air Corps

As at 6 July 2009	Required strength	Actual strength
Apache AH Mk1	100	80
Lynx Mk7/9	100	106
Gazelle Mk1	34	34
Dauphin N3 AH Mk1	7	6
Bell 212	24	24
SAAVN[1]	46	41

[1] SAAVN figures cannot be split by aircraft type (AH/Squirrel/Lynx/Gazelle).

Royal Air Force

As at 6 July 2009	Required strength	Actual strength
Chinook	262	222
Merlin Mk3/3a	159	130
Puma	127	129
Sea King Mk3/3a	140	132

Defence Helicopter Flying School

As at 6 July 2009	Required strength	Actual strength
Squirrel	20	18
Griffin	62	61

Required and actual strengths will both vary with time due to many factors including operational requirements, the introduction of newly trained crew on completion of training courses at set times during the year, the number of trained personnel assigned to non-flying duties (as part of the necessary broader career development), injuries, and service leavers.

In addition, the RAF is going through a high level of change with aircrafts drawing down, going through structure change, forming new squadrons or bringing new aircraft into service. Therefore, crew figures are fluctuating on a daily basis.

The helicopter fleet is managed to ensure that our operational and other commitments are met, including an 84 per cent. increase in flying hours in Afghanistan between November 2006 and April 2009.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of pilots in the armed forces is for the Sea King HAR3/3A helicopters. [284780]

Bill Rammell: The required and actual number of pilots in the armed forces for the Sea King HAR3/3A helicopters is given in the following table:

Aircraft type: Sea King HAR3/3A

	Number
Required pilots	66
Actual pilots	64

A difference between the 'required' and 'actual' number of pilots is to be expected. The variation is due to a number of factors such as promotion, assignment to other aircraft or ground posts, medical downgrading and leaving the service.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the merits of deploying single propeller-driven aircraft in theatre for ground attack and surveillance. [286440]

Bill Rammell: Commanders on the ground already have access to a broad range of surveillance and ground attack capabilities and, while we keep our requirements under constant review, there are currently no plans to deploy manned, single propeller-driven aircraft for ground attack or surveillance. We have though deployed the unmanned single propeller aircraft, UK Reaper and Hermes 450, in surveillance roles, with UK Reaper also providing a ground attack capability.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Board of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how the performance of the Board of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority in meeting its first priority to consumers is measured. [286256]

Mr. Kidney: The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the authority) and its executive arm, Ofgem, have a primary duty to protect the interests of existing and future consumers.

The authority is an independent economic regulator and is accountable to Parliament rather than to the Government. The Government nonetheless works closely with the authority and Ofgem in order to assess the operation of the market and outcomes for consumers, while respecting the regulator's independence.

Carbon Sequestration

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the statement on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 382-84, on coal carbon capture and storage, whether any recent changes have been made to his Department's policy for the phased scaling of carbon capture and storage demonstration plants. [283180]

Mr. Kidney: The detailed terms of the competition are not yet finalised. The overarching objectives of the CCS demonstration competition remain as stated in the Project Information Memorandum. A copy can be found at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energymix/ccs/CCS_demonstrat/CCS_demonstrat.aspx

Carbon Sequestration: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with Scottish energy companies on carbon capture and storage at power stations in Scotland. [285957]

Mr. Kidney Energy companies are key stakeholders of the Department of Energy and Climate Change and have an active interest in almost every aspect of the Department's work. The Department has regular and wide-ranging discussions with organisations and power companies about carbon capture and storage, including those with power stations based in Scotland.

Coal Investment Aid

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much Coal Investment Aid has been paid out in each parliamentary constituency. [285090]

Mr. Kidney: A total of £52.8 million of Coal Investment Aid was paid to 12 mines during 2003-04 to 2008-09. Payments by constituency were as follows:

Constituency	*Mine*	*Operator*	*CIA paid (£)*
Bassetlaw	Harworth[1]	UK Coal plc	4,201,556
	Welbeck	UK Coal plc	7,785,898
Berwick upon Tweed	Ellington[1]	UK Coal plc	849,620
Cynon Valley	Tower[2]	Goitre Tower Anthracite Ltd	2,991,764
NE Derbyshire	Eckington	Eckington Colliery Partnership	176,171
Don Valley	Rossington[1]	UK Coal plc	2,687,075
Neath	Aberpergwm	Energybuild Mining Ltd	3,501,977
Pontefract	Kellingley	UK Coal plc	9,500,653
Rother Valley	Maltby[3]	UK Coal plc	5,148,254
Sherwood	Thoresby	UK Coal plc	4,973,282
Wakefield	Hay Royds	Hay Royds Colliery LLP	137,300
Warwickshire North	Daw Mill	UK Coal plc	10,863,398

[1] Mine closed or mothballed before total awarded was drawn down in full.
[2] Mine closed owing to exhaustion of viable reserves in 2008.
[3] Mine sold to present operator after CIA drawn down in full under UKC.

Committee on Climate Change

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what remuneration his Department provides for the *(a)* Chair and *(b)* Chief Executive of the Committee on Climate Change; what the contracted hours of work of the Chairman are; and if he will make a statement. [284494]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* The chair of the Committee on Climate Change involves an average time commitment of approximately four days per month with a payment of £1,000 a day.

The chief executive's current salary is £85,000 plus a bonus of between 10-20 per cent. of salary subject to performance targets being exceeded.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287336]

Joan Ruddock: DECC expects to publish the 2008-09 resource accounts on 20 July 2009.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what databases which will be managed by his Department or its agency and which will contain personal information are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286501]

Joan Ruddock: No such databases are under construction or expected to become operational within the next five years.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information databases his Department *(a)* maintain and *(b)* uses which contain personal information. [284397]

Joan Ruddock: The Department holds a large number of databases ranging in size. These include corporate databases, access databases held by units within the Department and a large number of spreadsheets of data of which certainly the larger and more sophisticated could be described as fulfilling a database function. The vast majority of these databases and systems can be expected to a greater or lesser extent to contain personal data. It is not possible due to disproportionate costs to identify those databases which do not contain personal data.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what categories of personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each category of information began to be collected; and if he will make a statement. [285985]

Joan Ruddock: The Department for Energy and Climate Change has registered all the purposes for which it processes personal data in form of a notification which is held by the Information Commissioner's Office, and is publicly available on the Data Protection Registry. The notification contains categories of data subject for each registered purpose; recipients to whom DECC intends to disclose the data and name or a description of any countries or territories outside the European economic area to which DECC transfers or intends to transfer the data.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each database expected to become operational in the next five years and which will be managed by his Department; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286138]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has no such databases under construction or expected to become operational within the next five years.

Departmental Press

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279417]

Joan Ruddock: The private office group within the Department receives copies of *The Financial Times, Observer, Guardian, Independent, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, The Sun, The Times, Daily Telegraph, Evening Standard, Economist, Spectator* and *New Statesman*. The costs of the newspapers are met by the communications group as part of a central contract.

EC Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281866]

Mr. Kidney: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union.

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately one-third of the total administrative burden.

The important issue is not the origins of legislation, which could of course be a devolved Administration or a local authority, as well as the Government or the EU, but the quality of the regulation. All regulations, irrespective of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. Regulations should be risk based, proportionate and well designed, so as to achieve their objectives while also keeping costs to a minimum. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

Energy

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage the development of products and services designed to meet the energy needs of older people. [284644]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has negotiated a voluntary agreement with energy companies under which they will contribute £125 million this year and £150 million in 2010-11 to measures designed to address the energy needs of vulnerable consumers including the elderly.

Energy companies must meet at least 40 per cent. of their carbon emissions reduction target obligations in a priority group of low-income consumers who are in receipt of benefits or are aged 70 and over. The DECC funded warm front scheme offers energy efficiency measures to householders, including those over 60, in receipt of qualifying benefits. In addition, the Department is developing its approach to the roll-out of smart metering, which will take into account its impact on the elderly.

Energy Supply

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 122W, on energy supply, on what dates since October 2008 Ministers in his Department have met representatives of *(a)* Ofgem, *(b)* energy suppliers and *(c)* energy consumer groups. [286186]

Mr. Kidney: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the normal practice of Government to make public details of such meetings.

Energy: Conservation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to encourage use of energy-efficient circulator pumps in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties. [285064]

Joan Ruddock: Two energy-efficient circulator models are supported through the Government's flagship household energy efficiency policy, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target.

Energy efficiency measures for households are also supported by a reduced rate of VAT for the professional installation of certain energy saving products, including "hot water system controls" and "central heating system controls". Where circulator pumps fall within this description they will be eligible for the reduced rate.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what further steps he plans to take to ensure that households with pre-payment meters are not charged more for energy than households without such meters. [286757]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The Government believe that differences in charges relating to the method of payment should reflect the costs of servicing that method, and should not discriminate unfairly against any group of customers. Therefore, we strongly support the regulator Ofgem's work putting in place rules to ensure that prices paid by consumers are cost reflective.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on the communication data from smart meters. [286861]

Mr. Kidney: My officials have had discussions with Ofcom officials about the roll out of smart meters in Great Britain and will continue to do so during the preparation for roll out.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many representations he has received on the clarity of information on energy bills and tariffs since the Ofgem Energy Supply Probe was launched in February 2008. [283276]

Mr. Kidney: To provide an exact count of all items of correspondence or other communications received by Ministers in the last 17 months referring to information for energy consumers and/or tariffs could be provided only at disproportionate cost, since that information is not held centrally.

DECC believes that it is vital that consumers have access to the best possible information on bills and tariffs. The detailed provisions relating to energy bills and tariffs are a matter for the independent regulator Ofgem who has consulted widely on new measures to improve the clarity and nature of billing and tariff information available to consumers. Ofgem is currently considering consultation responses and working with consumer bodies including *Which* and Consumer Focus and with other organisations to develop new rules.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with energy supply companies the development of green energy tariffs designed to meet the needs of older people. [284125]

Mr. Kidney: Ministers discuss with energy suppliers various measures to support renewable energy and energy efficiency. Ministers are open to representations about how best to meet the needs of different groups of consumers.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of trends in domestic energy prices; and if he will make a statement. [285570]

Mr. Kidney: Global energy demand and wholesale prices have fallen since peaks last year. It is essential that falls in wholesale costs reach consumers. This is why we asked Ofgem to provide quarterly reports on price movements.

Ofgem's most recent report found that margins are around historic levels, and falls in costs appear to be being passed on to consumers. We expect suppliers to continue to pass on any sustained falls in wholesale costs.

EU Laws

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283477]

Mr. Kidney: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union.

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately one-third of the total administrative burden.

The important issue is not the origins of legislation, which could of course be a devolved Administration or a local authority, as well as the Government or the EU, but the quality of the regulation. All regulations, irrespective

of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. Regulations should be risk based, proportionate and well designed, so as to achieve their objectives while also keeping costs to a minimum. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

Garages and Petrol Stations

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many petrol stations in each parliamentary constituency in England have closed down in each of the last five years; [286571]

(2) how many petrol stations there are in each parliamentary constituency in England. [286572]

Mr. Kidney: The Department does not hold statistics on petrol stations by parliamentary constituency.

Industrial Diseases

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many legal actions have been initiated against his Department in respect of claims for *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in each of the last two years. [286845]

Mr. Kidney: There have been 20 vibration white finger and three chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims litigated against the Department in the last two years.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many payments in respect of claims for industrial deafness benefits were made to former mineworkers by his Department in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [286876]

Mr. Kidney: The Department does not manage any industrial deafness benefits.

However, the following table shows the total number of personal injury claims settled by payment and the total damages awarded for Noise Induced Hearing Loss scheme (NIHL) during 2008 and 2009 as at 30 June 2009.

	Total claims settled	*Total damages paid (£)*
2008	752	248,459
2009	395	225,814

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many claims made by UDM-Vendside for compensation for *(a)* vibration white finger, *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(c)* hearing loss have not been settled (i) in full and (ii) in part. [286902]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The number of claims made by UDM-Vendside under the vibration white finger (VWF), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) schemes and noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) that have not been settled in full and final payment and those where no interim payment has been made as at 5 July 2009 is shown in the following table.

Scheme	*Total claims outstanding*	*Total claims—number of interim payment made*
VWF	117	68
COPD	423	242
NIHL	851	852

Influenza: Contingency Planning

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department at each payband are working on contingency arrangements in the energy industry for pandemic flu. [286863]

Mr. Kidney: Currently there are 14 officials working in part on contingency arrangements for pandemic flu broken down as follows:

1 x SCS
1 x Grade 6
4 x Grade 7s
4 x SEOs
1 x HEO
3 x EOs.

Our response arrangements are kept under review.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* National Grid, *(b)* energy supply companies and *(c)* electricity generators on contingency planning for pandemic flu since 1 January 2009. [286864]

Mr. Kidney: DECC officials have been working closely with National Grid, energy companies and electricity generators through the Energy Emergencies Executive Committee (E3C) on contingency arrangements for a pandemic influenza. Ministers are updated regularly and work is continuing to ensure the energy sector is well prepared should there be any impact on energy supplies. DECC Ministers have been advised by National Grid that robust contingency arrangements are in place to maintain energy supplies during a flu pandemic.

Currently, energy supplies are being delivered normally.

Along with other Government Departments, DECC Ministers and officials have also been in attendance at the weekly meetings of the Civil Contingencies Committee, held at COBR, which decides the overall Government response strategy to the pandemic.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether Ministers in his Department plan to meet *(a)* the National Grid, *(b)* energy supply companies and *(c)* electricity generators to discuss contingency arrangements for pandemic influenza in the next three months. [286865]

Mr. Kidney: Ministers meet regularly with National Grid, energy companies, and electricity generators to discuss a wide range of factors that could impact on energy supplies, including the risks to energy supplies of

pandemic flu. I plan to meet shortly with National Grid and one of the issues for discussion will be contingency arrangements for pandemic flu. Regular updates on the pandemic flu outbreak are provided to the energy sector by DECC officials, and through Business Link, Directgov, Department of Health and NHS websites.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to acquire stocks of *(a)* influenza vaccine and *(b)* anti-viral medicine; and if he will make a statement. [286866]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has taken no steps to acquire stocks of anti-viral medicine or influenza vaccines.

International Renewable Energy Agency: Location

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether a decision has been made on the location of the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA); for which location the UK voted in the Preparatory Commission for IRENA; and how much funding his Department has allocated for UK participation in IRENA. [286849]

Mr. Kidney: The Second Preparatory Commission meeting in Egypt on 29-30 June decided by consensus, rather than a vote, that the interim headquarters for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) would be based in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This was fully supported by the UK. The final budget for IRENA remains to be decided but the indicative allocation for the UK for 2010 is $1.39 million.

Lighting

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* households, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* hospitals which use energy-efficient light bulbs. [285385]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) Under the Government's household carbon saving obligation on energy suppliers since 2002, currently known as the carbon emissions reduction target, energy suppliers have distributed or sold with subsidy via retail outlets some 290 million high efficiency bulbs to GB households. In principle this would allow all GB households to benefit.

(b) The Department does not hold information on the number of businesses using energy-efficient light bulbs.

(c) Neither my Department nor the Department of Health holds information on the number of hospitals using energy-efficient light bulbs.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Finance

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the funding provided for phases one and two of the low carbon buildings programme in advance of receipts from *(a)* feed-in tariffs and *(b)* a renewable heat incentive under the provisions of the Energy Act 2008. [286729]

Mr. Kidney: To ensure adequacy of funding for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in advance of the introduction of feed-in tariffs and a renewable heat incentive, the Government recently committed a further £45 million bringing total support to over £130 million. Of the £45 million additional funding £10 million has been allocated to Phase 1 and £35 million to Phase 2.

To date, Phase 1 has committed £9.2 million. Phase 2 has committed £49.8 million. The Low Carbon Buildings Programme will be superseded by feed-in tariffs in 2010 and renewable heat incentives in 2011.

Low Carbon Loans

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much new funding for low-carbon loans announced in Budget 2009 will be provided through the Carbon Trust in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* subsequent years. [285097]

Mr. Kidney: Budget 2009 announced £100 million for loans to help small and medium sized businesses install energy saving measure. Of this, up to £83.9 million is available in England through the Carbon Trust. This comprises up to £67.1 million in 2009-10 and up to £16.8 million in 2010-11. This funding operates for two financial years only. The trust's existing loan scheme will continue to provide funding for loans in future years.

Budget 2009 also provided £65 million for loans to install energy efficiency measures in public sector organisations. Of this, up to £54.5 million is available in England in 2009-10 through Salix Finance, a subsidiary of the Carbon Trust.

For both schemes the remainder of the funds announced goes to the devolved Administrations.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 10 June 2009 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on his constituent Mr. Thomson. [287385]

Joan Ruddock: My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change responded to the right hon. Member on 13 July, 2009.

Miners: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many personal addresses of former mineworkers his Department and its predecessors have supplied to the Legal Complaints Service to assist them in reclaiming fees wrongly charged by solicitors and claims handlers. [286882]

Mr. Kidney: The Department provided 3,651 living claimant addresses from the Rother Valley constituency to the Legal Complaints Service (LCS) in July 2007, following which each individual claimant was written to and invited to attend an information session headed by my right hon. Friend the Member for Rother Valley (Mr. Barron).

There have been no further requests to date.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the first of the new nuclear power stations to be producing energy for the National Grid. [287010]

Mr. Kidney: Government remain committed to enabling new nuclear build as soon as possible. The indicative timeline we published in January 2009, set out that we expect the first new nuclear power station to become operational in 2018, or sooner if possible.

Nuclear Power Stations: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many reports of breaches of exclusion zones around nuclear facilities by airborne craft have been filed by operators of civil nuclear installations in each year since 2003; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such report. [281297]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

Since 2003, the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) aviation regulation enforcement department have investigated 12 reports of alleged breaches of the Air Navigation (Restriction of Flying)(Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2002. These reports are summarised in the following table:

Offence	*Location*	*Legislation reference*	*Description*	*Outcome*	*Closed*
23 April 2004	AWE Aldermaston	AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations), Regulations 2002	Hot air balloon flying in the restricted area of AWE Aldermaston nuclear installation	No further action. no evidence of any offence	11 June 2004
23 April 2004	AWE Aldermaston	AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations), Regulations 2002	Hot air balloon flying in the restricted area of AWE Aldermaston nuclear installation	The pilot has been given a formal caution	5 August 2004
25 April 2004	Berkeley power station	AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations), Regulation 2002	Hot air balloon passed over nuclear licensed site approximately 1500 ft. within the two mile exclusion zone	No further action. no evidence	25 May 2004
7 May 2004	Bradwell power station	AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations), Regulation 2002	Aircraft allegedly flew approximately 500 ft. of a nuclear installation and well within the two mile exclusion zone performing aerobatics	The pilot has been sent a warning letter	14 July 2004
31 July 2004	Heysham nuclear power station	Article 85, ANO 2000	Helicopter landed in the restricted zone of Heysham nuclear power station	Lancaster magistrates court 8 April 2005. Pilot pleaded guilty to a breach of Article 85, ANO 2000. He was fined £750 and ordered to pay costs of £500	8 April 2005
13 October 2004	Berkeley and Oldbury power stations	AN (Restriction of Flying) Regulations 2002	Infringement of a restricted area over a nuclear installation	The pilot has been sent an advisory letter	21 January 2005
1 October 2004	Bradwell power station	AN (Restriction of Flying) Regulations 2002	Infringement of a restricted area over a nuclear installation	Insufficient evidence to proceed	25 November 2004
21 November 2004	Chapel Cross nuclear power station	AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2002	Infringement of nuclear site	The pilot has been sent a warning letter	26 April 2005
29 January 2006	AWE Aldermaston	AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2002	Low flying over a nuclear establishment	No further action. no witnesses came forward.	14 March 2006
17 July 2006	AWE Burghfield	AN (Restrictions of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2002	Low flying over a nuclear establishment	Insufficient evidence to proceed	6 October 2006

Offence	Location	Legislation reference	Description	Outcome	Closed
21 September 2007	Springfields, nr. Preston	AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regs. 2002	Low flying over a nuclear establishment	Insufficient evidence to proceed	11 March 2008
5 October 2007	Dungeness power station, Kent	AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regs. 2002	Infringement and low flying over a nuclear establishment	The pilot has been sent a warning letter	31 October 2007

Nuclear Power: Job Creation

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the energy industry the employment opportunities for British workers arising from any programme to build new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [287065]

Mr. Kidney: There are already 44,000 workers employed in the civil nuclear industry in the UK. New nuclear build in the UK has the potential to require thousands of workers and Government are working to ensure that the contribution of UK workers to nuclear new build projects is maximised. The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan and Low Carbon Industrial Strategy published yesterday (15 July) explains this in more detail.

We are already taking action to make sure that Britain will have the skills base to make the most of these opportunities. Specifically we are improving science provision in schools, have charged the Sector Skills Council with taking forward a training strategy, and have helped set up the National Skills Academy for Nuclear to improve the supply of specialist skills at all levels. In addition, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) is conducting a review of productivity and skills in the engineering construction sector which will establish whether there is anything more Government or industry can do to ensure British firms and workers are fully equipped to fill vital jobs in nuclear new build and other large scale engineering construction.

DECC Ministers have regular discussions with the energy industry about skills development issues relating to new nuclear build. In addition the Office for Nuclear Development (OND) in DECC has fostered links with all of the various skills bodies, other Government Departments, academia and industry involved in the nuclear sector to ensure that all are working towards the same goals of ensuring enough skilled people to build a new generation of nuclear power stations.

There is close working between DECC and BIS on these issues.

Nuclear Trust: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assets are held by the Nuclear Trust; and what his most recent estimate is of their monetary value. [285091]

Mr. Kidney: The Nuclear Trust owns the Nuclear Liabilities Fund which is responsible for meeting the decommissioning cost of British Energy's existing nuclear power stations, together with defuelling costs and certain British Energy uncontracted liabilities. Some 90 per cent. of the fund's assets are invested in deposits in public sector accounts but there is also a portfolio of equities and property. The most recent estimate of the value of the fund's assets, as at 31 March 2009, is £8.276 million.

Public Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the *(a)* £100 million in capital funding brought forward to 2009-10 and *(b)* £50 million of capital spending brought forward from 2010-11 to 2008-09 on the number of homes in which energy efficient and heating measures will be installed under the Warm Front programme; and how much of the funding has been spent in each month since it was announced. [286649]

Mr. Kidney: On 11 September 2008, the Government announced an increase to Warm Front funding of £74 million (2008-09: £50 million and 2009-10: £24 million). Funding for the scheme increased further on 24 November 2008 through the pre-Budget report process with an additional £50 million for years 2008-09 and 2009-10. As part of the pre-Budget report, Warm Front spend was re-profiled to bring forward £50 million from 2010-11 to 2009-10.

The following table details a breakdown of the monthly spend for this additional funding and the number of households assisted.

	Spend (£000)	Number of households assisted
Pre-Budget report 2008-09 (£50 million)		
December 2008	10,119	3,362
January 2009	9,847	4,850
February 2009	14,234	4,804
March 2009	15,800	21,674
Total	50,000	34,690
Pre-Budget Report 2009-10 (£50 million) + £50 million brought forward from 2010-11		
April 2009	43,273	17,690
May 2009	56,044	19,982
June 2009	—	—
Total	99,317	37,672
Home Energy Savings Programme 2008-09 (£50 million)		
October 2008	9,806	8,138

	Spend (£000)	Number of households assisted
November 2008	9,514	8,138
December 2008	14,584	8,153
January 2009	10,855	7,893
February 2009	4,953	—
March 2009	288	—
Total	50,000	32,322
Home Energy Savings Programme 2009-10 (£24 million)		
April 2009	—	—
May 2009	10,286	1,022
June 2009	2,997	3,878
Total	13,283	4,900

Radioactive Waste: Exports

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward legislative proposals to permit the export of graphite nuclear waste to the United States; and if he will make a statement. [283860]

Mr. Kidney: There are currently no proposals to bring forward legislation to permit the export of graphite nuclear waste to the United States of America.

The Government's policy, as set out in the Command Paper 2919, is that radioactive waste should not be exported from the UK except in circumstances where it is to be treated so that its storage and/or disposal is more manageable; where other countries have the ability to deal with it appropriately; and where it will not add materially to their existing radioactive waste legacy.

UDM-Vendside

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Ministers of his Department and its predecessors have met representatives of UDM-Vendside in each year since 1997. [286868]

Mr. Kidney: There is no record of any Minister having met the UDM or Vendside.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Indian Ocean Territory

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response he has made to the European Court of Human Rights on the application made by the Chagos Islanders. [286768]

Chris Bryant: The Government have been invited by the Court to submit written observations on the admissibility and merits of the application by the Chagos Islanders and to inform the Registry of the Government's position concerning a friendly settlement. Due to the very recent receipt of submissions on behalf of Interveners, the Government are now seeking a short extension to the deadline of 17 July 2009 set by the Court. As my hon. Friend will be aware, we do not discuss the details of legal pleadings in cases to which we are a party while they are in the process of formulation. It would be inappropriate, therefore, to discuss the Government's response in advance.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what databases which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will contain personal information are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286503]

Chris Bryant: There are no major databases under construction or expected to go live in the next five years in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what categories of personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each category of information began to be collected; and if he will make a statement. [285980]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s Data Protection Register entry with the Information Commissioner's Office details the general categories for which the Department processes personal data for its work. They are staff administration; advertising, marketing and public relations; accounts and records; and to work for the UK's interests in a safe, just and prosperous world. The register entry is to be renewed in September this year. Establishing the date on which each category of information began to be collected by the FCO and its agencies could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286173]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for the purchase of photocopiers, scanning devices and fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, is devolved to individual budget holders worldwide. This information is not held centrally and the question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has taken an active role in the Greening Government ICT strategy by providing a detailed plan for the FCO. Part of this includes examining its print policy with a view to reducing the FCO's overall printer count.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department's agencies spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273736]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of his Department's staff deployed in each region of Afghanistan *(a)* have been trained in each year since 2001 and *(b)* are being trained in each local Afghan language. [283551]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since 2004, five Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff have studied Pashto before being deployed in Afghanistan. 21 staff have also been trained in Dari—often building on an existing language base of Farsi—before working in Afghanistan. Currently there are nine studying Dari, who are due to be deployed to Afghanistan later this year.

We only started to hold management information about language skills centrally in 2004. Our system records those who have passed exams on completion of language courses funded by the FCO, so may not include those who did not take an examination, those whose acquisition of the language was not the result of class-based instruction, or whose studies were not funded by the FCO.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many reception staff his Department employs at *(a)* its offices in King Charles Street, *(b)* other locations in the UK and *(c)* overseas posts. [286122]

Chris Bryant: Across the UK estate the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has nine full time reception positions. The staff members who fill these positions are provided as part of the UK Reception Services Contract.

Responsibility for procuring reception services overseas has been devolved to posts within the FCO overseas estate. Each post would need to be contacted to obtain the details of their reception employees. As the information relating to reception staff overseas is not held centrally, it could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; [283473]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281864]

Chris Bryant: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union.

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately one-third of the total administrative burden. However, this applies across Government and is not specific to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which is directly responsible for less EU legislation than some other Departments.

The important thing is not the origins of a legislation, which could be a devolved Administration or a local authority as well as the Government or the EU, but the quality of the regulation. All regulations, irrespective of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. Regulations should be risk based, proportionate and well designed, so as to achieve their objectives while also keeping costs to a minimum. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

Forced Marriages: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the Forced Marriage Unit's effectiveness in reducing the number of forced marriages; and how many forced marriages reported to the unit involved people under 16 years old in the last 12 months. [284797]

Chris Bryant: The Forced Marriage Unit has been a great success in encouraging people to report potential instances of forced marriage, in intervening in specific cases and in getting across the message that forced marriage is not acceptable in any culture or any religion.

The very nature of forced marriage means that it is likely that a number of cases go unreported. In recent years Government action to address forced marriage has focused on encouraging victims and potential victims to come forward and seek help.

Partly as result of growing awareness of the support available, the number of cases coming to our attention is rising. Last year the Forced Marriage Unit, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office Unit, received over 1,600 reports of suspected incidences of forced marriage to its helpline. Of these the unit directly intervened to help victims in 420 cases, which included overseas assistance and support to reluctant sponsors in immigration cases. 14 per cent. of overseas assistance cases involved people under 16 years old.

So far this year, figures for January to June show that the unit received 770 calls to its helpline in relation to incidence of forced marriage, which represents an increase in those seeking help of 16 per cent. over the same period last year.

Foreign Policy

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the Government's foreign policy on levels of violent extremism in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [287036]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We recognise that individual reactions to UK foreign policies can be a factor in radicalisation, and that violent extremists exploit this when recruiting others to their cause. But we also know that radicalisation occurs for a wide range of complex and personal reasons.

We work to explain our foreign policy, dealing with misperceptions that exist. Overseas we do this through media and public diplomacy work. To encourage debate and engagement in the UK we have a programme of outreach to communities by Ministers and senior officials on important foreign policy issues.

Freedom of Information

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to volume 2, page 41 of his Department's Annual Report for 2008-09, what proportion of the requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received in 2008 were from foreign embassies, high commissions or governments; what proportion of such requests resulted in full or partial disclosures of information; and if he will make a statement. [286244]

Chris Bryant: Freedom of Information requests received at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are recorded and logged on a database by the date received and by the name of the requestor.

Information about the company or organisation the requestor may represent is not recorded. Requests from foreign embassies, high commissions or governments cannot therefore be identified without incurring disproportionate cost.

Honduras: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the authorities in Honduras on the principle of democracy and the restoration of the government and President Zelaya. [286830]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* As Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister responsible for our relations with central America, I issued an immediate public statement on 28 June 2009 following President Zelaya's forcible removal from Honduras. In this statement the UK condemned the expulsion and called for the restoration of democratic, constitutional government in Honduras. The UK supported the UN General Assembly Resolution, adopted unanimously on 30 June 2009, which called for the restoration of the government in Honduras. We have also supported a series of EU declarations, issued on 29 June 2009, 2 July 2009 and 7 July 2009. The most recent of these declarations supported efforts to seek a peaceful negotiated solution to the crisis, and welcomed the mediation role played by President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias.

Iran: Asylum

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the effect on policy on Iranian asylum seekers of the recent unrest in Iran. [286307]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office officials regularly review the country guidance on which asylum decisions are based. We continue to monitor closely the political and human rights situation in Iran through key governmental, non-governmental and other human rights organisations.

All Iranian asylum and human rights applications are considered by the Home Office on their individual merits, in accordance with obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. Each application is assessed against the latest available information about the situation in Iran. Specially trained case owners consult these sources via the Iran Country of Origin Information Report produced by the UK Border Agency's Country of Origin Information Service published at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html#countries

and the Iran Operational Guidance Note which gives guidance on the most common types of asylum claims received and the circumstances in which they are likely to prove founded or unfounded.

Israel

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Israel on the reported boarding of, and removal of persons from, a Free Gaza boat in international waters by Israeli troops; and if he will make a statement. [284127]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, on 1 July 2009 and raised the issue with him. The Foreign Secretary asked whether or not the Spirit of Humanity was intercepted in international waters. We will continue to press the Israeli Government for clarification.

Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many residents of Northern Ireland received consular assistance from his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [287020]

Chris Bryant: The configuration of our consular database does not make it possible to break down assistance statistics by place of residence. Figures for the number of Northern Ireland residents assisted are therefore not available.

Palestinians: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether officials of his Department have held recent meetings with

representatives of labour rights groups in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory to discuss labour conditions in that territory. [287157]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no recent meetings.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has received requests from UK companies for advice on obligations under international law in respect of trade with Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in the last 12 months. [287160]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We consider all settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to be illegal under international law, and a serious obstacle to peace, and have made this position clear.

The import of goods from settlements was discussed at a roundtable meeting hosted by Cabinet Office officials regarding proposed voluntary guidance on the labelling of settlement produce in March. That meeting was attended by representatives of Government, retailers and some UK companies.

We have not provided legal advice on UK companies' obligations in relation to trade with Israeli settlements, on which UK companies should of course take their own independent advice.

Travel Information: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on its Know Before You Go initiative in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [287022]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s Know Before You Go campaign encourages travellers to be better prepared before going overseas so they can stay safe and healthy. Our key messages encourage travellers to take out comprehensive travel insurance, find out about the country they are intending to visit, and read our travel advice. Publicity initiatives include, for example, maintaining a dedicated section of the FCO web site, producing bespoke media campaigns to reach our key target audiences, working with over 300 campaign partners to deliver travel safety messages directly to travellers and producing television fillers shown in free-to-air airtime.

Spending on the Know Before You Go initiative since 2001 is as follows:

	£
2001-02	754,939.00
2002-03	616,447.00
2003-04	611,819.00
2004-05	[1]
2005-06	[1]
2006-07	924,000
2007-08	1,132,768
2008-09	1,494,126

[1] Figures unavailable

Turkey: EU Accession

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Turkey's accession to the EU; and what recent discussions he had with his *(a)* French and *(b)* German counterparts on Turkish accession. [285242]

Chris Bryant: The Government remain a strong advocate and supporter of Turkish accession to the EU, and reaffirm this at each possible opportunity. The UK works closely with other EU member states to take forward the accession negotiations and supports Turkey's reform process to ensure that EU negotiations remain on track.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly meets his French and German counterparts. He met France's Foreign Affairs Minister, Bernard Kouchner, most recently at the France summit in July where they discussed political and technical issues in relation to the EU accession negotiations.

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead, the Minister for Europe, recently met her French counterpart, Pierre Lellouche, to whom she emphasised that the EU accession process was key to reforms in Turkey. Baroness Kinnock spoke in early July to her German counterpart, Gunther Gloser, about EU issues, including enlargement.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime Prevention

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Serious Crime Prevention Orders have been issued in Northern Ireland to date. [286873]

Paul Goggins: There have been four serious crime prevention orders issued in Northern Ireland to date.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287421]

Mr. Woodward: I have not met with Mr. Damian McBride in the course of my official duties.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286542]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office does not maintain a record of unsuccessful attempts to gain unauthorised access to its databases or ICT systems. There have been no successful attempts to gain access to any departmental databases or ICT systems in the last five years.

Kidnapping

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many so-called tiger kidnappings have been carried out in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [287570]

Paul Goggins: The figures are recorded per financial year. In the last year (April 2008 to March 2009), there have been six tiger kidnaps carried out in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were arrested for offences connected with so-called tiger kidnappings in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [287571]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the chief constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Northern Ireland Forensic Science Agency

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the public purse of Forensic Science Northern Ireland was in the 12 months *(a)* before and *(b)* after the changes made to its Operations Directorate in January 2008. [286315]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is as follows:

(a) For the year 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008 the costs were £9,982,252.

(b) For the year 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009 the costs were £10,488,500.

The figures provided reflect the sum total of all the changes in FSNI and do not relate solely to changes made to the Operations Directorate.

Proceeds of Crime

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of assets recovered from organised crime in Northern Ireland the Community Fund will allocate to communities in Northern Ireland. [286674]

Paul Goggins: In June I announced the establishment of a dedicated Community Fund for Northern Ireland which this year will give £175,000 to the Departments of Social Development and Culture, Arts and Leisure for distribution to NI communities most affected by crime.

Terrorism

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many armed robberies are known to have been carried out by *(a)* dissident republicans and *(b)* loyalist paramilitaries in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months. [287581]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many breaches of information security there have been at her Office in the last five years. [281075]

Tessa Jowell: My ministerial portfolio requires my Office to operate across the estates of the Cabinet Office and Department for Culture, Media and Sport. I therefore refer the hon. Member to the answers to be provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith) and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Olympic Games 2012: Employment

Alistair Burt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what percentage of construction workers employed at the Olympic Park are *(a)* UK, *(b)* other EU and *(c)* non-EU nationals. [285109]

Tessa Jowell: The latest available nationality data provide a snap shot of the contracted work force at the end of October 2008, and were published by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) in December 2008. These data showed that of the 3,046 people employed on the Olympic Park at that time:

(a) 63 per cent. were British

(b) 86 per cent. were EU nationals and

(c) 14 per cent. non-EU nationals.

The ODA works closely with the UK Border Agency to ensure that all workers on the site are legally entitled to work in the UK.

The work force reflects both the diversity of London and the five host boroughs. The GLA 2006 annual population survey (published 2008) found that the percentages of five host borough residents born outside of the UK were: Newham 44 per cent; Tower Hamlet 39 per cent; Hackney 37 per cent; Waltham Forest 29 per cent; Greenwich 22 per cent. A whole range of measures has been put in place by the ODA and its partners to ensure local people are well placed to benefit from employment and training on the Olympic site including 48 hours exclusive access to vacancies through local job brokerage services.

Olympic Games 2012: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent assessment she has made of the economic effects of the London 2012 Olympics on *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire. [282260]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* This Government are fully committed to maximising the economic benefits of the Games to the UK, particularly in these challenging economic times. Although no specific assessment has been made of the economic effects to the Ribble Valley constituency and Lancashire, the region stands to gain from a range of opportunities created by the Games. These include businesses winning Games-related work, increased tourism, as well as training and employment opportunities. The pre-Games training camps will enable regions to showcase themselves on an

international stage and attract inward investment, and UKTI is helping businesses to use the Games as a springboard for export.

We are already seeing progress in these areas. For example, 37 of the Olympic Delivery Authority's direct suppliers are businesses registered in the north-west; of these nine are in Lancashire, and two of these are registered in the Ribble Valley constituency. As well as these direct contracts, companies in the north-west are also winning businesses in the supply chains for the Games—for example, a Bolton-based company is providing steel for the Olympic Stadium. LOCOG's procurement will begin in earnest towards the end of the year, bringing further opportunities to businesses across the UK, including the north-west.

The London 2012 Business Network is providing businesses across the UK access to Games-related contracts, and any support they need to compete for them. CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service for buyers and suppliers, a key component of the network, is opening up supply chains further than any Games previously.

A total of 68 facilities in the region are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the North West Development Agency and the Oceania National Olympic Committees (representing 17 National Olympic Committees but excluding Australia and New Zealand). These 15 Pacific Island countries including Fiji and Papua New Guinea will use facilities in the region ahead of the Games in 2012.

Olympic Games 2012: Transport

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1889-90W, on Olympic Games 2012: transport, what further steps she has taken to ensure than hon. and right hon. Members will not be delayed in travelling to the House during the period of the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [284791]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 8 July 2009]*: Further to my response to the hon. Member on 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1890W, I can confirm that the ODA continues to progress and develop its planning of the transport operations that will keep London moving during the Games. As the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act requires the ODA to keep its Olympic Transport Plan under review, the ODA intends to publish a revised plan in 2010 to update on the latest progress in ensuring safe, reliable and accessible transport for all London's visitors, residents and commuters—including Members of Parliament—over the duration of both the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Lasers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many reported instances there were of aircraft safety being impaired by misuse of laser pointers in each of the last three years. [286778]

Paul Clark: The information requested is provided in the following table:

	Number of laser incidents reported
2006	8
2007	30
2008	206

The chart is from the Safety Data Department in the Civil Aviation Authority. It includes incidents reported in the UK and incidents overseas involving UK registered aircraft.

Under Article 142 of the Air Navigation Order (ANO) pilots experiencing lasers directed at them are asked to report the event using the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Scheme. The CAA follows up each report and, where appropriate, prosecutes the offender.

The Department for Transport is working on an amendment to Article 135 of the ANO to make it a specific offence to direct or shine light intentionally at an aircraft. The amendment will be published in the consolidated version of the ANO which will come into force in the autumn.

Cycling: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal accidents involving cyclists were recorded on the roads in (i) Test Valley Borough and (ii) Southampton in each of the last five years. [287762]

Paul Clark: The number of *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal reported personal injury road accidents involving cyclists in (i) Test Valley borough and (ii) Southampton in each of the last five years are given in the table:

					Number of accidents
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Test Valley					
Fatal	0	1	1	0	1
Non-fatal	21	16	31	30	26
Southampton					
Fatal	0	0	1	1	2
Non-fatal	102	92	115	120	116

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport, when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287343]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has laid a combined annual report and accounts for 2008-09 in Parliament today. The resource accounts were certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General on 13 July.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his Department's equality impact assessment is of its new probation

policy in relation to disability; and if he will make a statement. [287207]

Chris Mole: The Central Department completed an equality impact assessment of its new probation policy and assessed it as having low negative impact. We are under a legal duty to make reasonable adjustments to ensure disabled persons are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to those persons who are not disabled. This applies to our new probation policy and HR will monitor and review the process to ensure this is given full effect.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons his Department's new probation policy does not give probationers the right to bring a grievance concerning the extension of probation. [287208]

Chris Mole: The Department's new probation policy complies with the ACAS Code of Practice on discipline and grievance. Moreover, it is essential for ensuring good administration that the Department manages performance effectively and requires that all new employees demonstrate their suitability for the role for which they have been employed. While a specific grievance procedure is not available in respect of decisions to extend, a probationary employee has a right to appeal against a decision to terminate their employment.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport who is responsible for the pay remit for each of his Department's agencies. [287205]

Chris Mole: Pay remits are prepared by or on behalf of each Agency's Chief Executive. Each Chief Executive is responsible for the pay remit of their Agency.

Departmental Performance Appraisal

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female staff of his central Department have received the highest appraisal marking in each reporting year since the formation of the central Department. [287206]

Chris Mole: The proportions and numbers of staff, by gender, who have been appraised as "exceeded" (the highest appraisal mark) since the formation of the central Department for Transport in 2002 are set out in the following table.

	Female	*Total*	*Percentage*	*Male*	*Total*	*Percentage*
2002-2003	140	446	31.39	168	732	22.95
2003-2004	169	555	30.45	237	965	24.56
2004-2005	182	640	28.44	238	1039	22.91
2005-2006	191	697	27.40	274	1148	23.87
2006-2007	190	665	28.57	304	1105	27.51
2007-2008	204	649	31.43	287	1084	26.48

Driving Standards Agency: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Driving Standards Agency in each of the last five years. [280617]

Paul Clark: Bonus payments to *(a)* directors are managed by the Department for Transport (Central Department). I refer the hon. Member to our answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1567-68W.

A comprehensive breakdown of *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Driving Standards Agency can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, total figures for each of the last five financial years are as following:

Financial year	*Pay bands 1-7 (£)*
2003-04	1,138,579
2004-05	320,809
2005-06	692,107
2006-07	1,180,160
2007-08	672,714

Driving: Working Hours

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of seeking an exemption from the EU drivers' hours directive for those who drive horseboxes over 7.5 tonnes for recreational purposes; and if he will make a statement. [286330]

Paul Clark: Given the flexibilities which already exist within the EU drivers' hours rules (Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006), we see little prospect of the European Commission agreeing to a UK request to exempt recreational drivers of horseboxes over 7.5 tonnes.

It should still be possible for those in full-time employment who drive large horseboxes recreationally to schedule a reduced weekly rest period of 24 hours immediately before the equestrian event in question, or in between driving to and from the event (i.e. at the event itself) without the need for a derogation.

East Coast Railway Line

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the administrative and legal costs to the public purse of the franchising process were on each occasion when the East Coast Main Line franchise was let. [286722]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The costs to the Department for Transport for undertaking the re-franchising of the Inter City East Coast (ICEC) franchise in 2007 were £1,260,000 of which legal costs were £168,000. These costs were recovered from Sea Containers, Great North Eastern Railway's (GNER) parent company, under an agreement made between the Department and Sea Containers prior to GNER handing back the East Coast franchise.

The previous re-franchising in 2005 was undertaken by the Strategic Rail Authority, in the normal course of business, at the end of GNER's franchise term at an additional cost of £2,362,000 of which legal costs were £408,000.

The costs incurred by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising in the original letting of the franchise in 1996 and the extension of the franchise in 2003 by the Strategic Rail Authority could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The costs of any re-franchising prior to the end of the full term of the current franchise are recoverable from a performance bond that will fall due under the current franchise agreement.

EU Laws

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available; [281860]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation on matters for which it is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283471]

Mr. Khan: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union (EU).

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately one third of the total administrative burden.

The important thing is not the origins of a legislation, which could of course be a devolved Administration or a local authority, as well as the Government or the EU, but the quality of the regulation. All regulations, irrespective of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. Regulations should be risk based, proportionate and well designed, so as to achieve their objectives while also keeping costs to a minimum. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Wycombe of 13 May 2009 on Wycombe Air Park. [287178]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has no record of receiving a letter dated 13 May 2009 from the hon. Member for Wycombe regarding Wycombe Air Park.

Motorcycles: Driving Instruction

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will publish the findings of the research commissioned by his Department, entitled In Depth Study of Motorcycle Training, due to have been completed in October 2007. [286963]

Paul Clark: We plan to publish the findings of the in depth study of motorcycle training by October 2009. The study was largely complete by early 2008 and provisional results were taken into account by the Driving Standards Agency in the design of the new motorcycle test that was introduced in April 2009. The report is currently being finalised by the research contractor, mainly to ensure it reflects changes to the testing regime.

Railways: Electrification

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how his Department co-ordinates its policy on electrification of rail routes with its procurement of rolling stock. [287149]

Chris Mole: The case for electrifying more of the rail network depends heavily on having suitable new or cascaded rolling stock to run on newly electrified lines. Consequently, the Department for Transport is incorporating rolling stock procurement and cascade issues into its analysis of electrification proposals.

Railways: Franchises

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of returning all rail franchises to public ownership. [286592]

Chris Mole: It is not the policy of the Government to operate rail franchises permanently in the public sector. In situations where the Government is obliged to do so on a temporary basis in order to fulfil its Operator of Last Resort duties under section 30 of the Railways Act 1993 the costs are usually met from the franchise's performance bond.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much revenue support *(a)* First Great Western, *(b)* First Capital Connect, *(c)* National Express East Anglia, *(d)* Northern Rail and *(e)* Virgin West Coast have received from his Department under the terms in their respective franchise agreements to date. [286899]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* Details of the money received and paid out under the revenue support and share arrangements between 2006-07 and 2008-09 are set out in the following table. No revenue support payments were made to these franchises under their franchise agreements prior to this:

£ million

Train operating company (TOC)	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
Revenue support paid			
First Great Western	47.8	0.0	0.0
First Capital Connect	0.0	0.0	0.0
National Express East Anglia	14.0	0.0	3.3
Northern rail	0.0	0.0	0.0
Virgin West Coast	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total revenue support paid	61.8	0.0	3.3
Revenue share received			
Northern Rail	7.8	6.3	2.3
Virgin West Coast	33.0	0.0	0.0
Total revenue share received	40.8	6.3	2.3

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his policy is on competition on the rail network; and if he will assess the level of competition between the train operating companies serving Torquay and Paignton stations. [287150]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not have a policy to achieve a defined level of competitive pressure between train operators offering the same journey, and in many parts of the rail network there is a single operator.

The Office of the Rail Regulator has concurrent jurisdiction with the Office of Fair Trading to investigate potential breaches of the Competition Act 1998 in relation to the railways, and is also responsible for determining access rights for any open access train operators who may apply to operate a complementary and competitive rail service.

Roads: Construction

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much capital expenditure his Department has incurred on constructing new roads in each of the last 20 years. [285598]

Mr. Khan: The following table provides information on net spend on Highways Agency major improvements since 1998-99. Information before this is not readily available due to systems and accounting changes and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

	Funding (£ million)
1998-99	452
1999-2000	318
2000-01	299
2001-02	424
2002-03	483
2003-04	235
2004-05	317
2005-06	483
2006-07	814
2007-08	759
2008-09	725

Note:
1998-99 to 2000-01 are outturns on a cash accounting basis; figures from 2001-02 onwards are on a resource accounting basis.

On local major road schemes which are promoted by the respective local highway authority, the Department does not hold information in a format which distinguishes expenditure incurred between local major road schemes and local major public transport schemes and this can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to increase rolling stock available to the First Great Western franchise. [287148]

Chris Mole: We are in discussion with First Great Western regarding the provision of additional train capacity, and will make an announcement in due course.

Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what Government *(a)* studies, *(b)* trials and *(c)* pilots have been commissioned on road pricing in each year since 1997; and how much each cost. [284706]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has commissioned studies and trials since 1997 to increase its understanding of the key challenges of developing robust and reliable road user charging processes, procedures and technologies. These included the Road Pricing Feasibility Study, the DIRECTS trials on interoperability and other systems engineering studies which between them incurred total expenditure of approximately £29 million, between 1997 and 2007. We have no breakdown of this in the form requested. We have not commissioned any pilots on road pricing.

Since 2007 effort has concentrated on the Demonstrations Project, examining the technology and processes that would be needed if any road pricing scheme was to have the ability to charge by time and distance travelled, as well as place. The first phases of this work are under way following the letting of contracts in September 2008, with a value of £10 million. The project has created a research environment to help us understand the feasibility, operational performance and business issues for market delivered services; however, the Government have no plans to introduce national road pricing.

West Coast Railway Line

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what account was taken of the travelling requirements of people attending the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final in scheduling maintenance work

on the West Coast Main Line on the weekend of 28 and 29 August 2009. [286672]

Chris Mole: The planning and timing of engineering works is an operational matter for Network Rail under the national possessions regime overseen by the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). Under this regime the majority of engineering possessions are specifically planned by industry-wide agreement, often up to 18 months in advance—and well before the identity of the Rugby League Cup Final teams becomes known.

Network Rail advises that on Saturday 29, Sunday 30 and until 6.30 a.m on Monday 31 August it will be taking a number of possessions on the southern section of the West Coast Main Line, meaning this section of the line will be closed to train services. As a result, passengers travelling between Birmingham New Street and London will be on hourly shuttle services which will be diverted via the Chiltern Line, though the southbound services will still terminate at Euston.

CABINET OFFICE

Advertising Advisory Committee

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what dates the Advisory Committee on Advertising has met in the last 12 months. [250318]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board (GSMAB) replaced the Advisory Committee on Advertising (ACA) in January 2008.

The GSMAB has a wider remit than the ACA, not only holding the Central Office for Information (COI) to account but also all Government Departments.

Under the new terms of reference, GSMAB aims to meet at least four times annually at the chairman's discretion.

Over the last 12 months the board has met on the following dates:

4 September 2008

2 December 2008

24 February 2009

10 June 2009

Brain Cancer

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of brain cancer were diagnosed in each strategic health authority area in each of the last six years. [286379]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of brain cancer were diagnosed in each strategic health authority area in each of the last six years. [286379]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of brain cancer in each strategic health authority area from 2001 to 2006 are in Table 1.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of brain cancer[1], persons: strategic health authorities[2] in England, 2001 to 2006

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	216	198	197	212	225	226
North West	512	489	508	517	496	502
Yorkshire and the Humber	406	408	366	395	384	393
East Midlands	303	306	308	335	342	327
West Midlands	321	375	356	339	373	356
East of England	397	376	395	370	407	382
London	436	431	411	399	434	387
South East Coast	331	343	340	320	303	316
South Central	288	263	226	279	297	270
South West	411	463	425	419	468	444

[1] Brain cancer is coded to C71 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2006.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Brain Cancer: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of brain cancer were diagnosed in each primary care trust area within the ceremonial county of Hampshire for each of the last six years. [286283]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of brain cancer were diagnosed in each primary care trust area within the Ceremonial County of Hampshire for each of the last six years. [286283]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of brain cancer in each primary care trust area within the Ceremonial County of Hampshire from 2001 to 2006 are in Table 1.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of brain cancer[1], persons: Primary Care Trusts[2] within the Ceremonial County of Hampshire, 2001 to 2006

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Portsmouth City Teaching	13	12	7	12	15	16
Southampton City	18	17	5	18	17	15
Hampshire	97	102	103	88	118	99

[1] Brain cancer is coded to C71 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Civil Servants: Vacancies

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many graduate vacancies in the Civil Service there *(a)* were in 2008 and *(b)* are expected to be in 2009. [287777]

Angela E. Smith: Departments and agencies undertake their own recruitment, and the Cabinet Office holds no data on graduate recruitment into the civil service generally.

Death

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many death certificates mentioning *(a)* methadone, *(b)* cannabis, *(c)* benzodiazepine, *(d)* barbiturates, *(e)* steroids and *(f)* stimulants were issued in each of the last five years. [287370]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked it to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many death certificates mentioning (a) methadone, (b) cannabis, (c) benzodiazepine, (d) barbiturates, (e) steroids and (f) stimulants were issued in each of the last five years. (287370)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning and (a) methadone, (b) cannabis, (c) benzodiazepines (d) barbiturates or (e) steroids were mentioned on the death certificate, either alone or together with other substances, in England and Wales, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Where more than one drug is mentioned on the death certificate, it is not always possible to tell which of them was primarily responsible for the death.

Figures for deaths where stimulants are mentioned on the death certificate are not available. Stimulants include a broad range of substances, such as amphetamines and ecstasy, but there is no official definition that is used for statistical purposes.

Table 1: Number of deaths where drug poisoning was the underlying cause of death[1] and methadone, cannabis, benzodiazepines, barbiturates or steroids were mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales[2], 2003-07[3]

					Deaths
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Methadone	201	219	220	241	325
Cannabis	11	19	19	17	12
Benzodiazepines	224	233	190	177	207
Barbiturates	20	16	14	17	6
Steroids	0	0	1	3	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the following table) and where the substances were mentioned on the death certificate either alone or together with other substances.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

ICD-10	*Description*
F11-F16, F18-F19	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40-X44	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60-X64	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) under 20, (ii) 21-30, (iii) 31-40, (iv) 41-50, (v) 51-60 and (vi) 61 years and above died from an underlying cause which was (A) obesity-related, (B) diabetes-related, (C) drug-related, (D) eating disorder-related and (E) related to a sexually transmitted infection in each of the last 10 years. [287377]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) men and (b) women aged (i) under 20, (ii) between 21 and 30, (iii) between 31 and 40, (iv) between 41 and 50, (v) between 51 and 60 and (vi) 61 years and above died from an underlying cause which was (A) obesity-related, (B) diabetes-related, (C) drug-related, (D) eating disorder-related and (E) related to a sexually transmitted infection in each of the last 10 years. (287377)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths for (a) males and (b) females aged (i) under 21[1], (ii) 21-30, (iii) 31-40, (iv) 41-50, (v) 51-60 and (vi) 61 years and over, where the underlying cause was (1) obesity (Table 1), (2) diabetes (Table 2), (3) an eating disorder (Table 3) or (4) a sexually transmitted infection (Table 4), in England and Wales, 1999 to 2008 (the latest year available), or (5) drug poisoning, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2007 (the latest year available) (Table 5).

The figures provided in Tables 1 to 4 reflect the number of deaths certified as due to the specified conditions. It is not possible to identify all deaths 'related' to these conditions. For example, obesity may play an important role in deaths due to heart disease or diabetes, but is rarely recorded on the death certificate. The figures presented for obesity in Table 1 are therefore likely to underestimate the actual number of deaths in which this factor is involved.

It is likely that the figures in Table 3 underestimate the actual number of deaths where an eating disorder was involved. This is because deaths registered after a coroner's inquest usually state the immediate physical condition which caused death as the underlying cause, and not any mental or behavioural disorder which may have led to that condition.

ONS monitors deaths from drug-related poisoning using a special database, developed to enable the analysis of deaths by the specific substances involved.

The deaths included are certified by Coroners following post-mortem and inquest. Figures for 1998 to 2007 have been provided as figures for 2008 are not yet available.

[1] The specified age group 'under 20' has been amended to 'under 21' so as not to exclude deaths at age 20 from the table.

Table: Number of deaths where the underlying cause was obesity[1], England and Wales[2], 1999-2008[3,4]

Sex/age group	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Deaths 2008
Males										
Under21	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
21-30	3	4	0	2	4	4	2	3	3	2
31-40	12	12	10	5	13	12	15	14	20	15
41-50	8	12	17	19	16	13	18	25	28	36
51-60	11	17	24	21	17	23	31	26	35	34
61+	15	21	18	19	25	30	24	30	32	47
Females										
Under21	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21-30	1	4	2	2	3	2	3	3	5	8
31-40	7	11	13	14	10	9	8	15	10	17
41-50	18	12	18	18	30	22	21	23	18	30
51-60	24	17	22	22	42	39	38	41	34	43
61+	61	51	62	54	67	63	72	81	76	106

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 278.0 (Obesity) for the years 1999-2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code E66 (Obesity) for 2001 onwards.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Table 2: Number of deaths where the underlying cause was diabetes[1], England and Wales[2], 1999-2008[3,4]

Sex/age group	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Deaths 2008
Males										
Under 21	3	7	2	6	7	5	4	5	4	6
21-30	21	14	18	18	17	16	19	18	15	29
31-40	54	54	55	50	57	54	37	45	33	47
41-50	84	94	104	86	90	91	106	98	75	83
51-60	230	187	237	204	205	182	180	166	153	167
61+	2,422	2,334	2,538	2,541	2,559	2,374	2,292	2,236	2,241	2,317
Females										
Under21	10	3	7	6	5	5	8	6	7	5
21-30	5	14	9	13	9	12	9	16	23	17
31-40	22	43	35	49	30	28	29	32	37	20
41-50	59	45	44	57	61	56	54	55	69	66
51-60	124	119	104	128	149	115	108	122	109	101
61+	2,915	2,848	3,001	3,029	3,124	2,908	2,799	2,691	2,667	2,683

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 250 (Diabetes mellitus) for the years 1999-2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E10-E14 (Diabetes mellitus) for 2001 onwards
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Table 3: Number of deaths where the underlying cause was an eating disorder[1], England and Wales[2], 1999-2008[3,4]

Sex/age group	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Deaths 2008
Males										
Under 21	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
21-30	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
31-40	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41-50	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
51-60	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61+	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1
Females										
Under21	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	3	0	1

Table 3: Number of deaths where the underlying cause was an eating disorder[1], England and Wales[2], 1999-2008[3,4]

Sex/age group	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Deaths 2008
21-30	3	1	1	4	3	3	2	0	3	5
31-40	5	4	5	4	6	1	4	4	2	3
41-50	4	6	2	2	2	3	2	6	5	7
51-60	1	4	3	4	0	0	3	0	2	2
61+	4	6	5	8	3	3	3	6	5	5

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 307.1 (Anorexia nervosa), 307.5 (Other and unspecified disorders of eating), 783.0 (Anorexia) and 783.6 (Polyphagia) for the years 1999-2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code F50 (Eating disorders) for 2001 onwards.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Table 4: Number of deaths where the underlying cause was a sexually transmitted infection[1], England and Wales[2], 1999-2008[3,4]

Sex/age group	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2006	2006	2007	Deaths 2008
Males										
Under 21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31-40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41-50	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
51-60	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
61+	3	1	2	2	2	3	3	0	0	1
Females										
Under 21	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
21-30	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
31-40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41-50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
51-60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61+	5	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 090-099 (Syphilis and other venereal diseases) for 1999-2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes A50-A64 (Infections with a predominantly sexual mode of transmission) for 2001 onwards.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Table 5: Number of deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning[1], England and Wales[2], 1998-2007[3,4]

Sex/age group	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Deaths 2007
Males										
Under 21	157	154	120	126	125	102	73	65	71	62
21-30	680	670	611	650	598	473	455	447	425	467
31-40	551	661	671	690	636	613	665	665	601	683
41-50	342	333	371	352	302	309	313	360	381	393
51-60	116	144	147	163	141	120	194	191	168	181
61+	139	174	138	162	139	124	156	159	136	128
Females										
Under 21	75	74	59	58	55	49	53	56	35	21
21-30	178	185	148	162	158	137	146	115	117	96
31-40	228	191	190	205	172	192	184	198	161	165
41-50	166	180	165	184	183	182	195	218	159	176
51-60	117	125	116	118	115	127	122	127	132	113
61+	227	219	196	223	206	195	231	161	184	155

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for 1998-2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) from 2001 onwards. The codes for drug poisoning are shown in Box 1 below.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Box 1. International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes used to define drug-related poisoning deaths by underlying cause

Description	*ICD-9*	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	292, 304, 305.2-305.9	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E850-E858	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E950.0-E950.5	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E962.0	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	E980.0-E980.5	Y10-Y14

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in (i) her Department and (ii) the Prime Minister's Office; how many there were in each Office in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [286167]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office, including the Prime Minister's Office, has used the following number of photocopiers and scanners in past three years:

	Photocopiers	*Scanners*
May 2009	19	16
May 2008	19	19
May 2007	19	21

Fax machines are procured by individual management units, and we do not keep records of their numbers centrally. There would be a disproportionate cost involved in collecting the data.

Since 2003, my Department has had a policy of installing multi-user MFDs as the main devices for printing, scanning and photocopying. On 17 July 2008, the Cabinet Office launched the Greening Government ICT Strategy. Its aim is to reduce the environmental impact of the computer systems employed by all Government bodies. One important target is to reduce the overall number of printers, photocopiers and scanners used by an organisation and replace them with multi-function devices (MFDs) where security issues allow.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what percentage of employees in the Leader of the House's Office are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of (i) male employees and (ii) female employees in that Office was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287120]

Angela E. Smith: The staff in the office of the Leader of the House of Commons are part of the Cabinet Office. Information on what percentage of employees in the Cabinet Office are *(a)* women and *(b)* men is published on the Office for National Statistics website and can be found here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/CivilService_tables_2008.xls#Table35'!A1

The Government's evidence to the senior salaries review body provides analysis of senior civil service pay levels by gender and can be found here:

http://www.ome.uk.com/downloads/SSRB%2031st%20Report%202009.pdf

For staff below the senior civil service there is no statistical difference in average salaries of male employees and female employees in the Cabinet Office in the same pay band.

Information on Cabinet Office pay bands is published on the Cabinet Office website and can be found here:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about_the_cabinet_office/working_for/paybands.aspx.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many staff in the Cabinet Office were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years; [256318]

(2) how many staff in the Cabinet Office were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256639]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office continues to promote health and wellbeing as part of a civil service policy to reduce absence, increase employee engagement, productivity and so improve service delivery.

The number of staff off on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days is set out in the following table based on working days:

	30 to 49 Days	*50 to 99 days*	*Over 100 days*
2004	26	26	12
2005	30	23	17
2006	17	16	7
2007	29	19	9
2008	19	16	8

There were fewer than five members of staff off for over 12 months in each of the last five years. The exact number of staff is not reported as to do so may identify individual members of staff.

According to Cabinet Office records the absence rate is 5.1 days per staff year and is one of the lowest absence rates in the civil service.

The Cabinet Office continue to promote health and wellbeing as part of a civil service policy to reduce absence, increase employee engagement, productivity and so improve service delivery.

The number of staff with no sick absence during the 12 month period ending 30 September 2008 has increased by 1 per cent.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps 10 Downing Street is taking in respect of Cabinet Office Departmental Strategic Objective 4 to achieve a 50 per cent. reduction in avoidable contact with members of the public by 31 March 2011. [270135]

Angela E. Smith: All Government Departments seek to ensure that their dealings with the public are as helpful and productive as possible. Any contact members of the public may wish to have with 10 Downing street is not affected in any way by the requirements of departmental strategic objective 4.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on departmental standards, what method her Department uses to assess whether its targets in respect of avoidable contact have been met. [271938]

Angela E. Smith: All Government Departments seek to ensure that their dealings with the public are as helpful and productive as possible. Central Government Departments are required to declare the levels of avoidable telephone contact in their Departments as assessed at April 2008 and to halve these values by March 2011. The Cabinet Office has focussed its attentions on the Department for Transport (DFT), Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and NHS Direct. These Departments account for around 90 per cent. of telephone contact with central Government. Cabinet Office is working with the remaining Departments, who will provide their baseline levels of avoidable contact later in the year.

Upon publication of their avoidable contact levels, all Departments will be required to provide quarterly updates outlining the progress they are making to achieving the March 2011 reduction target.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on departmental standards, what performance measures in respect of avoidable contact apply to 10 Downing Street. [271945]

Angela E. Smith: The 2007 Service Transformation Agreement (STA) requires public-facing service delivery departments to report their levels of avoidable contact. As the Prime Minister's Office is not a service delivery department, it does not need to follow the STA requirement on reporting avoidable contact. However, all Government Departments, and of course the Prime Minister's Office, work to ensure that their dealings with the public are as helpful and productive as possible.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff based in 10 Downing Street who advise the Prime Minister on foreign policy are not members of staff of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [284027]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The Prime Minister receives advice on foreign policy from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and his Department. The Prime Minister also has two advisers on foreign and defence policy and Europe and global issues. They head two sections of the Cabinet Secretariat in the Cabinet Office which support the Prime Minister and the Cabinet by, where appropriate, providing co-ordinated advice on foreign policy issues.

Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average rate of change of pay growth, including bonuses, in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector was in the last 12 months. [287348]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for the average rate of change of pay growth, including bonuses, in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in the last 12 months. (287348)

This information is published each month in Table 1S of the Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin. The Table provides annual growth rates based on single months and rates based on three monthly averages. The ONS preferred measure is the three monthly rate as it is less erratic. The latest information, relating to May 2009, was published on 15 July—the three monthly rates for the private sector and public sector are reproduced at the Annex. The Table shows that private sector pay in the three months ending in May was 1.9 per cent. higher than the same three months a year ago. This compares to a growth of 3.5 per cent. in the public sector.

Average Earnings Index: Three monthly growth rates, (average of the latest three months compared to same three months a year earlier)

	Private sector (%)	*Public sector (%)*
June 2008	3.2	3.3
July 2008	3.5	3.4
August 2008	3.4	3.5
September 2008	3.1	3.9
October 2008	3.2	3.8
November 2008	2.9	4.0
December 2008	2.8	4.0
January 2009	1.2	4.0
February 2009	-0.4	3.8
March 2009	-1.1	3.6
April 2009	0.4	3.5
May 2009	1.9	3.5

Notes:
1. Based on seasonally adjusted data.
2 Excluding arrears of pay.

Public Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 93-99W, on public bodies, for what reason *(a)* the Met Office, *(b)* Ordnance Survey, *(c)* Royal Mint and *(d)* the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre were reclassified as public corporations. [287278]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for what reason (a) the Meteorological Office, (b) Ordnance Survey, (c) Royal Mint and (d) the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre were reclassified as public corporations. (287278)

For national accounts purposes public sector entities are classified in line with international guidance. The guidance is set out in the United Nations' 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA93), and for the European Union in the 1995 European System of Accounts (ESA95).

In line with ESA 95 public sector market entities are classified as public corporations, either within the financial corporations sector or the non-financial corporations sector, and public sector non-market entities are classified in the general government sector. The borderline between market and non-market classification is dependent on whether more than fifty per cent of production costs are covered by sales.

(a) The Meteorological Office was classified as a public corporation from 1996. Prior to this it was classified as central government within the general government sector.

(b) Ordnance Survey was classified as a public corporation from 1999. Prior to this it was classified as central government within the general government sector.

(c) Royal Mint has been classified as a public corporation from 1975.

(d) Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre was classified as a public corporation from 1997. Prior to this it was classified to central government within the general government sector.

In May 2009 you asked a question (271969) which related to the definition of the Civil Service. Pursuant to this question, employees of the Meteorological Office, Ordnance Survey, Royal Mint and Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre are all included in the ONS' estimates for the Civil Service.

Skin Cancer

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of basal cell carcinoma were diagnosed in patients aged *(a)* under 30, *(b)* 31 to 60 and *(c)* over 60 years of age in each of the last 10 years. [286305]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of basal cell carcinoma were diagnosed in patients aged (a) under 30, (b) 30 to 59 and (c) over 60 years of age in each of the last 10 years [286305]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of non-melanoma skin cancer which had a cell type (morphblogy) identified as basal cell carcinoma, in patients aged (a) under 30, (b) 30 to 59 and (c) over 60 years from 1997 to 2006, are given in Table 1.

ONS has been advised by expert epidemiologists and members of the former Steering Committee on Cancer Registration that non-melanoma skin cancer is greatly under-registered. Consequently, the figures given are likely to be under-estimates.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of non-melanoma skin cancer identified as basal cell carcinoma[1] by age group: England, 1997 to 2006

Registrations

Age group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
<30	183	185	205	187	209	213	234	209	221	210
30-59	7,236	8,265	8,282	8,674	9,445	9,537	10,052	10,396	10,575	10,747
60+	23,255	26,725	26,914	28,311	30,009	30,425	31,765	34,185	35,680	36,440
Total	30,674	35,175	35,401	37,172	39,663	40,175	42,051	44,790	46,476	47,397

[1] Cases were identified as new registrations coded to C44 (non-melanoma skin cancer) in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) accompanied by a morphology code of M8090/3 - M8093/3 (basal cell carcinoma) in the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, Second Revision (ICD-02).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have received Building Schools for the Future funding for ICT projects in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [286962]

Mr. Coaker: ICT is an integral component of Building Schools for the Future and accounts for approximately 10 per cent. of capital funding provided through that programme. Funding is paid to local authorities rather than to individual schools. To date, 37 local authority projects (and 10 "early win" schemes) have signed contracts covering more than 200 schools. The table shows the break down of BSF contracts which include funding for ICT services.

	Number of schools
2005	10
2006	41
2007	51
2008	46
2009 (to July)	53
Total	201

86 of these projects have already been completed, providing 21st century ICT facilities for over 80,000 young people.

Children: Disabled

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will undertake a public information campaign on the rights of children with disabilities. [287303]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government are committed to children's rights, including disabled children's rights, and to making a reality of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in the UK. The Government have funded a number of initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the UNCRC such as the

development of a curriculum resource for teachers on the UNCRC to be used with key stage 3 pupils. We provide funding to UNICEF for their Rights Respecting Schools initiative. Training related to human rights and the UNCRC is available for a wide range of professionals working with children.

We have also been working closely with the national strategies to develop new and innovative ways of raising awareness of schools' responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. Work so far has included: workshops at conferences that have had a specific focus on schools' duties and we have also hosted an online discussion on the *Guardian* education website. Ministers have also highlighted the importance of schools' compliance with the disability discrimination legislation in speeches. We are currently discussing with the national strategies what else can be done to further raise awareness of schools' duties.

Children's Workforce Development Council

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what responsibilities the Children's Workforce Development Council has for *(a)* childcare training and *(b)* accreditation of childcare training schemes. [287307]

Dawn Primarolo: The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is a key organisation in delivery of the 2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy and this includes responsibility for developing the Early Years workforce.

The CWDC's work includes developing the Early Years Professionals Status and ensuring that training and assessment is high quality, that enough candidates are recruited to meet the Government's aims for Early Years Professionals[1] and that the rest of the workforce are qualified to at least level 3. The CWDC has also developed a new process for the sector endorsement of Early Years Foundation Degrees which is a bridge for practitioners from Level 3 to Early Years Professional Status.

CWDC is not responsible for the accreditation of training but has a role in the approval of qualifications.

The accreditation of qualifications for those in the early years workforce is the responsibility of the relevant awarding organisations offering these qualifications.

However, in order for qualifications to sit on the regulated framework they must receive approval from the relevant Sector Skills Council. CWDC is part of the Sector Skills Council, Skills for Care and Development and responds to qualification approval requests on behalf on the early years workforce in England. The CWDC reviews qualifications to ensure they reflect current policy and the available National Occupational Standards (NOS).

[1] The Government aim to have an EYP in every children's centre by 2010 and in every full daycare setting by 2015.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what functions have been transferred from his Department to the Children's Workforce Development Council. [287309]

Dawn Primarolo: Since its establishment in 2005, a small number of functions have been transferred to the Children's Workforce Development Council from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. These include:

- the maintenance of the Early Years and Playwork qualifications database, and providing a helpline for employers and individuals with queries about it;
- the endorsement of Foundation Degrees in early years, and in Working with Young People;
- ownership of National Occupational Standards in Learning, Development and Support Services;
- maintaining and updating managers' and practitioners' guidance and training materials on the Common Assessment Framework, Lead Professional, and updating the Common Assessment Form itself.

Educational Visits: National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received in respect of the cancellation of school excursions arising from the proposed scheduling of Key Stage 2 standard assessment tests in June. [287147]

Mr. Coaker: Key Stage 2 tests in 2010 will be administered between 10 and 14 May as planned; schools will not need to cancel school excursions in 2010 as a result of the scheduling of Key Stage 2 tests.

The Government have accepted the Expert Group on Assessment's recommendation that National Curriculum Key Stage 2 tests should be administered in the middle of June, rather than in May. Having taken account of QCA and Ofqual's advice, we will seek to implement the Expert Group's recommendation on moving the test to mid June in 2011.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in which *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 20 per cent. of pupils received three or more fixed term exclusions had less than 30 per cent. of pupils gain five GCSEs, including English and mathematics at grades A* to C in each year since 2005. [282728]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Implementation Review Unit

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to paragraph 5.13, page 74, of his Department's publication, "Your child, your schools, our future", what funding his Department has allocated to the Implementation Review Unit in 2009-10. [286890]

Mr. Coaker: The Implementation Review Unit (IRU) was established in 2003 with a specific remit to advise the Department on reducing bureaucracy in schools. The Department has allocated £250,000 to the IRU for 2009-10. This will cover the costs of the review of barriers to delivery in schools as outlined in "Your child, your schools, our future: building the 21st century schools system" as well as all expenditure related to IRU meetings and other research relating to burdens and bureaucracy in schools.

Mathematics: Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on the National Strategies advertisements, "Ensuring progression in primary mathematics", in June and July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [286562]

Mr. Coaker: The cost was £3,358. The guidance identified in the advert is designed to help teachers understand key learning that children need to secure to attain level 4 in mathematics. Alerting teachers to valuable free resources in this manner has generated strong demand at relatively little cost and represents value for money.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on average per child on *(a)* (i) pre-school, (ii) primary school and (iii) 11 to 16 year-old secondary school pupils in schools in York and *(b)* sixth form students in (A) schools in York and (B) York College in (1) cash and (2) real terms in each year since 1996-97. [285781]

Mr. Coaker: The information on school based expenditure per pupil and combined local authority and school based expenditure per pupil from 1996-97 to 2007-08 is contained within the following tables.

The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for funding schools sixth forms and FE and sixth form colleges. I will ask the LSC's chief executive, Geoff Russell, to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested for sixth form students in schools in York and York College.

£ cash terms

	Primary school based expenditure per pupil	*Pre-primary and primary school based expenditure per pupil*	*Secondary school based expenditure per pupil*	*Combined LA and school based expenditure per pupil*
1996-97	[4]	1,540	2,210	2,500
1997-98[1]	[4]	1,680	2,350	2,590
1998-99[2]	[4]	1,730	2,460	2,690
1999-2000[2,3]	1,760	1,880	2,430	2,710
2000-01	1,860	1,870	2,640	2,850
2001-02	2,180	2,360	2,830	3,130
2002-03	2,390	[4]	3,080	3,270
2003-04	2,560	[4]	3,330	3,740
2004-05	2,680	[4]	3,660	3,900
2005-06	2,930	[4]	3,860	4,180
2006-07	3,140	[4]	3,970	4,400
2007-08	3,290	[4]	4,190	4,810

£ real terms (2008-09 prices)

	Primary school based expenditure per pupil	*Pre-primary and primary school based expenditure per pupil*	*Secondary school based expenditure per pupil*	*Combined LA and school based expenditure per pupil*
1996-97	[4]	2,050	2,940	3,320
1997-98[1]	[4]	2,070	3,050	3,350
1998-99[2]	[4]	2,190	3,130	3,420
1999-2000[2,3]	2,190	2,340	3,030	3,370
2000-01	2,280	2,300	3,250	3,500
2001-02	2,620	2,710	3,400	3,760
2002-03	2,780	[4]	3,590	3,810
2003-04	2,890	[4]	3,770	4,230
2004-05	2,960	[4]	4,030	4,300
2005-06	3,170	[4]	4,170	4,520
2006-07	3,290	[4]	4,170	4,620
2007-08	3,360	[4]	4,280	4,910

[1] Combined local authority and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in local authority maintained establishments and pupils educated by the authority other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under 5s funded by the authority and being educated in private settings (only available from 1999-2000), pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and any other local authority maintained pupils. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[2] Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.

[3] Figures prior to 1999-00 exclude any expenditure on service, strategy and regulation.

[4] Denotes figures are not available or have not been scored on a consistent basis.

Notes:

1. The expenditure data to 1998-99 are drawn from the annual 'R01' spending returns which local authorities submitted to the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (now CLG). Figures for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 are drawn from Section 52 (Table 3) Outturn statements which local authorities submitted to the then DFES (now DCSF). Figures for 2002-03 onwards are taken from Section 52 (Table A) Outturn statements. The change in sources is marked by an empty row.

2. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by local authority maintained schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure. The pupil data are drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

3. From 2002-03 onwards the school based expenditure calculation is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses, while from 2002-03 only the schools element of these categories is included. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil of the England total, while the schools element of these categories accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the England total in 2002-03. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03 and would therefore be excluded from the school based expenditure calculation, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

4. Expenditure was distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sector until the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-00 financial year. Consequently we have provided a combined figure for pre-primary and primary schools for 1996-97 to 2001-02 financial years.

5. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the R01 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables.

6. Secondary school based expenditure includes all expenditure incurred directly by local authority maintained secondary schools. It is not possible from existing sources to distinguish this expenditure between expenditure on 11 to 16-year-olds and expenditure on 6th form pupils attending maintained secondary schools.

7. The expenditure data for 1999-2000 onwards reflect the return of grant maintained schools to local authority maintenance.

8. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. As reported by York local authority as at 10 July 2009.

9. Cash figures are converted to 2008-09 prices using the 30 June 2009 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflators.

Schools

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to paragraph 2.25, page 32 of his Department's publication, "Your child, your schools, our future", what is the research evidence referred to. [286884]

Mr. Coaker: The following is a summary of the research evidence referred to in the first sentence of paragraph 2.25 of "Your child, your schools, our future, building a 21st century schools system":

Summary of research evidence on the importance of high quality teaching and teachers:

1. Having high quality teachers and teaching is essential to the achievement of whole-school success. Improvements in teaching have been facilitated by organisational factors, for example, careful recruitment, quality assurance schemes, support for teachers to focus on teaching and sharing of good practice (Rudd et al., 2002).

2. Barber and Mourshed (2007) at McKinsey and Company, argued that the biggest driver of variation in pupil learning is teacher effectiveness and present a strong argument for focusing on recruiting high quality teachers in order to raise attainment of pupils. In particular, they refer to a US study by Sanders and Rivers (1996) that showed that two average eight-year-old pupils placed with different teachers diverged in their performance by more than 50 percentile points within three years. However, this study needs to be treated with caution as the research was conducted in a small number of schools.

3. Slater et al. (2009) estimated the effect of individual teachers on pupil outcomes, and the variability of teacher quality, which they refer to as teacher's impact on test scores. They used a unique primary dataset linking over 7,000 pupils, their exam results and prior attainment to the individual teachers who taught them. They found that a high quality teacher (75th percentile) compared to a low quality teacher (25th percentile) can add 0.425 of a GCSE point per subject to a given pupil, or 25 per cent. of the standard deviation of GCSE points. This further demonstrates the importance of having effective teachers.

Summary of research evidence suggesting that pupils from deprived backgrounds are less likely to experience good quality teaching:

1. There is evidence to suggest that pupils from deprived backgrounds may be less likely to experience good quality teaching. Sammons et al. (2006), in an analysis of teaching practice in 125 year 5 classes, found that the quality of teaching tended to be poorer in schools with higher levels of pupils eligible for free school meals. Differences were apparent in areas such as basic skills development, depth of subject knowledge, social support for learning, pupil engagement and classroom routines. Cabinet Office (2008a) cited evidence that teachers in schools with more than 20 per cent. FSM eligibility were more likely to be rated worse in their teaching, and less likely to have come from an outstanding teacher training institution. Furthermore, Thrupp and Lupton (2006) reported that unchallenging work was evident among schools with deprived intakes.

2. Also, secondary schools with higher proportions of pupils eligible for FSM have, on average, teachers with lower levels of qualifications than other schools. Charles et al. (2007) found that schools in the higher FSM quintiles had fewer teachers with degrees in the subject they taught, compared with schools in the lower FSM quintiles. This was true for most subjects analysed, with the exception of ICT and design and technology, in which teacher qualifications were higher in schools with higher proportions of FSM.

References:

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Slater, H., Davies, N. and Burgess, S. (2009). "Do teachers matter? Measuring teacher effectiveness in England". Centre for Market and Public Organisations (CMPO), Working Paper 09/212.

Thrupp, M. and Lupton, R. (2006). Taking school contexts more seriously: the social justice challenge. "British Journal of Educational Studies", 54(3), 308-328.

Schools: Sandwell

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital spending there was on *(a)* schools and *(b)* children's centres in Sandwell in each of the last 20 years. [286380]

Mr. Coaker: The information is as follows.

(a) Support for capital investment in schools in Sandwell is shown in the table. Information prior to 1996-97 is not held centrally.

	Schools (£ million)
1996-97	3.4
1997-98	5
1998-99	3.4
1999-2000	4.6
2000-01	[1]27.3
2001-02	10.2
2002-03	20.4
2003-04	20.2
2004-05	20
2005-06	17.6
2006-07	16.7
2007-08	15
2008-09	14.1

[1] Includes a PFI project of £17 million

In addition, Sandwell has a Building Schools for the Future (BSF) wave 3 project with an indicative allocation of £137.2 million of conventional funding and £62.9 million of PFI credits.

Sandwell has a further BSF wave 5 project at planning stage. Allocations have also been made for traditionally procured academies of £24.4 million in 2002-03 and £57 million in 2006-07.

(b) Support for capital investment on Children's Centres in Sandwell is shown in the table.

	Children's Centres (£ million)
1999-2005	4.8
2005-06	3.2
2006-07	5.0
2007-08	2.1
2008-11	1.3

A breakdown for the years 1999 to 2005 is not available as the funding was provided as a single capital allocation through the Sure Start Local Programme. Please note the total allocation for the current spending period (2008-11) has been provided as the 2008-09 audited spend data are not yet available.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to paragraph 3.3, page 44 of his Department's publication, "Your child, your schools, our future", if he will publish the data supporting his statement that children educated at schools which operate in a form of partnership achieve better results. [282888]

Mr. Coaker: The statement in paragraph 3.3 of "Your child, your schools, our future, building a 21st century schools system" that children educated at schools which operate in a form of partnership offer enhanced opportunities to children and achieve better results is based on published evidence.

Atkinson et al. (2007) conducted a literature review of inter-school collaboration[1], which synthesises and extracts common characteristics of how partnerships can be effective, and gives an overview of the ways partnerships can work. They listed 17 recent initiatives that involve collaborations (for example Diversity Pathfinder Initiative; Beacon Schools scheme; and extended services schools).

[1] The review focused on 39 studies from 1997 onwards.

Atkinson et al. (2007) report gains for school, school staff and pupils taking part in inter-school collaboration

Gains for the school:

economic advantages (for example sharing of resources, accessing new funding streams and economies of scale);

school improvement and raised standards, including improvements in pupil attainment (for example from an enhanced curriculum and development of teacher expertise);

the forging of closer relationships between participating schools and from this outcome, a greater awareness and understanding of other schools; and

it was said that bringing schools together can break down barriers so that they can work together in a mutually beneficial way.

Gains for school staff:

opportunities to exchange ideas and good practice;

new opportunities for training and professional development; and

an enriched support network (a larger number of colleagues available to discuss concerns and issues) which reduced a sense of professional isolation, which could lead to an increase in staff confidence, motivation and morale.

Gains for pupils:

enjoyed an enhanced educational experience (for example better choice of subjects, access to specialist teaching i.e. more personalised learning, and opportunities for out-of-school excursions);

improved attainment was also reported;

increased social opportunities from interacting with pupils from other schools;

where these pupils came from different backgrounds (for example faiths and cultures) there was also the possibility of increasing awareness and understanding of different lifestyles; and

where partnerships existed between primary and secondary schools, increased contact was said to make the transition much easier for pupils moving on to secondary school.

A report published by the National College of School Leadership (2008) entitled "Schools leading schools: the power and potential of National Leaders of Education" highlights the following successes in relation to the National Leaders of Education (NLE) programme:

By July 2008, NLEs had supported 19 schools to be removed from special measures or have NTI withdrawn.

GCSE results in 2008 show marked improvement in schools in which NLEs have worked for one year or more.

Independent evaluation reports commissioned by NCSL over the two years the NLE programme has developed have found the NLE programme to be effective in selecting, appointing and deploying NLEs, in delivering improvements and in removing schools from Ofsted categories.

NCSL Schools Leading Schools report states that "there is a clear association between NLE intervention and improved results".

References:

Atkinson, M., Springate, I., Johnson, F. and Halsey, K. (2007). "Inter-school collaboration: A literature review". NFER.

National College of School Leadership (2008) "Schools leading schools: the power and potential of National Leaders of Education".

Social Workers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time children's social workers there are in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Teesside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England. [282904]

Dawn Primarolo: Detailed information on all staff, including children's social workers, directly employed by social services departments is collected by the Department of Health (DH) through the Personal Social Services staff of Social Services Departments return (SSDS001). Since 2004-05 the return has been the responsibility of the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. These data have been published on an annual basis with breakdown by local authority available in the supporting annexes published alongside each report.

Reports published from 2006 onwards are available on the NHS Information Centre website here:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/childrens-social-care

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish the findings of his research into local authority practice on exclusions for children with special educational needs. [286870]

Mr. Coaker: The Department is working with the National Strategies and local authorities to identify good practice among authorities with low rates of exclusion of children with SEN.

With National Strategies, the Department has conducted a series of visits to local authorities designed to identify the factors behind why some authorities are able to maintain low rates of SEN exclusions, while others have higher rates.

National Strategies will publish the outcomes of these visits in autumn 2009.

The Department has asked the National Strategies to support and challenge the highest excluding authorities (including authorities where SEN exclusions are disproportionately high) to reduce the need for exclusion, and to spread good practice from the lower excluding authorities from summer term 2009. The findings from the visits will inform this work.

Findings from the visits will also feedback in Ofsted SEN survey 2009-10 that will focus on the Every Child Matters outcomes achieved by children with special educational needs and disabled children.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he next expects to revise his Department's guidance to schools on pupil exclusions; and what his policy is on holding a case review before children with a special educational need or disability is excluded. [286871]

Mr. Coaker: Existing exclusions guidance already contains strong messages on special educational needs (SEN) exclusion issues. The existing version of this guidance, last revised in September 2008, states that schools should try every practicable means to maintain a pupil with SEN in school, seeking local authority and other professional advice as appropriate. It goes on to state that this might include seeking local authority and other professional advice at "School Action Plus", or where appropriate, asking a local authority to consider carrying out a statutory assessment.

In addition, the guidance sets an expectation that, following a permanent exclusion, the head teacher should use the period between his or her initial decision and the meeting of the governing body to review the exclusion and to work with the local authority to see whether more support can be made available or whether the statement can be changed to name a new school. If either of these options is possible, the head teacher should normally withdraw the exclusion.

We will also be reinforcing the focus of behaviour and attendance partnerships on a range of outcomes, including the need to reduce disproportionately high exclusions of pupils with SEN in a new guidance due to be published later this year.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils he expects to enrol on a diploma course in each subject in September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [286958]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is too soon to say how many pupils will be enrolled on a diploma course from this September. Young people are still making choices about which course to study and will do so in part based upon examination results to be published in August.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Standards

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many and what percentage of the housing stock in each local authority did not meet the Decent Homes Standard on the latest date for which figures are available; [287310]

(2) what percentage of housing stock in each local authority did not meet the Decent Homes Standard in each of the last five years. [287311]

Mr. Ian Austin: A set of tables containing the information requested has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281067]

Mr. Malik: In the five years to 31 March 2009, there have been four breaches of information security at Communities and Local Government.

The Department and its agencies report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the Information Commissioner's Office. Information on personal data security breaches are published on annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the data handling review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the statement of internal control that is published within the annual resource accounts.

This answer does not include the Government Office for the English Regions, which carries out work for 10 Government Departments.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what categories of personal information on members of the public are contained on each database that contains such data managed by his Department and its agencies; when each category of information was first collected; and if he will make a statement; [284894]

(2) what databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if he will make a statement; [285983]

(3) which of the planned databases that will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will hold personal information on members of the public are expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286143]

Mr. Malik: Detailed information pertaining to all databases holding personal information in both CLG and its Government Office network is not held centrally. Communities and Local Government holds a variety of databases, including some containing personal data of members of the public and other stakeholders: details of some of these can be accessed via the Department's information asset register at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/communities-lgps/asset-register/

These are required for the purposes of conducting its business and implementing its policy agenda. The personal data involved are mainly contact details for stakeholders who have been consulted on issues relating to departmental business and expressed a wish to be kept informed on policy developments, although some databases are more specialised. In the case of the majority of the databases the data collection is recent, and whenever new databases are set up steps are taken to ensure that they are compliant with the Data Protection Act.

New databases containing personal data are set up as and when policy development and implementation of policy dictate the operational need for them. It is not possible to plan or predict which areas of business or policy will require the setting up of a database up to five years ahead.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many policy advisers work for the Minister for Housing and Planning; [286643]

(2) what the job *(a)* title and *(b)* description is of each policy adviser, other than special advisers, who has been recruited by his Department in the last six months. [286684]

Mr. Malik: All civil servants in the Department provide policy advice to Ministers as necessary. Specialist staff are from time to time recruited on a time-limited basis to provide additional expertise and capacity as required.

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue to local planning authorities on planning applications for housing and schools located close to high voltage overhead power lines. [286726]

Mr. Ian Austin: The stakeholder advisory group on extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields (SAGE) published a report in April 2007 which made a number of recommendations to Government on ways to reduce people's exposure to extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields (ELF EMF). The Government are currently finalising their response to the SAGE report.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of housing revenue account subsidy was for each local authority in 2009-10. [287113]

Mr. Ian Austin: It is too early as yet to say what the individual subsidy position for each authority will be in 2009-10 as their first subsidy claims for that year do not reflect factors that impact on subsidy entitlement, such as major repairs allowances brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10.

Housing: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* homeless, *(b)* statutorily overcrowded, *(c)* medical priority and *(d)* family quota households are on each London local authority housing waiting list. [284717]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is not held centrally.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average market value was of a property designated as being available under the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Rent to HomeBuy and *(d)* First-time Buyers Initiative in each of the last three years. [285964]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the right hon. Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett) on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1352W and the answer he was given by the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 137W.

In 2006-07 the average price of property designated as available under the NewBuild HomeBuy scheme was £163,460. Data for 2008-09 is not yet available from the Continuous Recording (CORE) returns to the Tenant Services Authority from registered social landlords.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what budget his Department initially set for 2009-10 for *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy. [286010]

John Healey: We have not set individual budgets for each HomeBuy scheme to ensure flexibility within the Homes and Communities Agency's programme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what target has been set for the number of new affordable homes to be

built in each region in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; how many he expects to be built in each region in each of those years; and how many he expects to be available for social rent in each case. [287305]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 905W.

Housing: Overcrowding

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the performance of each local authority against the statutory overcrowding standard for housing was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287390]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is not collected by Communities and Local Government.

Islam

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department is giving to the independent Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board to raise standards in mosques; what objectives have been set for such standards; and how much his Department has budgeted for such support activities. [286106]

Mr. Malik: The Department for Communities and Local Government provided support to the independent Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB). MINAB is a community-led organisation and we supported it to develop standards for mosques, which were widely consulted on and piloted. In addition, we supported the development of its operational plan and its first Annual General Meeting.

We allocated the following sums to MINAB: £75,600 in 2007-08; £116,000 in 2008-09; and £58,000 between April and June 2009.

Further information about MINAB, including its five standards, can be found on their website:

www.minab.org.uk

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Radical Middle Way *(a)* roadshows and *(b)* other events have taken place in the UK and overseas since 2007; where they have taken place; what the cost of each has been; what assessment has been made of the outcome of each event; and for what dates future such shows have been scheduled. [286107]

Mr. Malik: From October 2007 to June 2008 the RMW held a total of 34 road show events and a number of other formal and informal meetings with domestic and international scholars and speakers in the following locations:

London; Luton; Leicester; Birmingham; Liverpool; Bradford; Peterborough; Milton Keynes; Woking; and Manchester.

CLG and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided funding of £250,000 to the project in 2007-08 to support the programme of events including support for the RMW website (£12,000) and external evaluation.

From June 2008 to May 2009 the RMW held a total of 48 road show events and a number of formal and informal meetings with domestic and international scholars and speakers in the following locations:

Blackburn; Bradford; Cambridge; London; Birmingham; Peterborough; Hounslow; High Wycombe; Leicester; Manchester; Milton Keynes; Slough; Derby; Bristol; Rochdale.

CLG has provided funding of £350,000 to the project to support the programme of events. This also included support for the RMW website and an external evaluation.

RMW held its first international road show to Sudan in April 2009, reaching an estimated 25,000 people through six large public events. The FCO provided £70,000 to support this road show and the RMW is planning further pilot road shows in Sudan, Indonesia and Pakistan by end October. The pilot phase of the international project will be evaluated by an independent company.

The RMW project is subject to an independent external evaluation following each phase. Communities and Local Government is currently in the process of determining the future direction of this particular work stream in its domestic context.

Islam: Faith Schools

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which community-based organisations are involved in the development of citizenship education in mosque schools; and where each such organisation is based. [286108]

Mr. Malik: The organisation that is leading this project is the School Development Support Agency based in Leicester.

The SDSA instituted an advisory group with representation from various community based organisations. They include the following:

Ahul Bayt Foundation (London)
Al-Khoei Foundation (London)
Al Mahdi Institute (Birmingham)
British Muslim Forum (National)
Building Bridges (Pendle)
Citizenship Foundation (London)
ContinYou (Coventry)
Islamic Foundation (Markfield, Leicestershire)
Karimia Institute (Nottingham)
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (National)
Muslim College (London)
Muslim Council of Britain (National)
National Muslim Women Advisory Group (National)
NIDA Education Trust (London)
Sufi Muslim Council (Rochdale)

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was allocated under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme to local authorities in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and how much such funding has been (i) distributed to and (ii) spent by each local authority in each such year. [285731]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2008-09, £396 million in LABGI grants was allocated and distributed to local authorities, in respect of business growth in 2007-08. Details of how this funding was distributed are set out in the relevant Grant Determinations, which can be viewed on the Communities and Local Government website at:

Grant Determination No 2 (2008) [No 31/1238]

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/seconddtmn0708.pdf

Grant Determination No2 (2009) [No 31/1287]

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/contingency/dtmn.pdf

Paper copies of the above have been sent to the hon. Lady and copies have been deposited in the Commons Library.

I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given to the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) on 7 July, *Official Report*, column 835. The final details about the allocation and distribution of LABGI funds in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are currently being discussed with Treasury Ministers and an announcement will be made in the next few weeks.

Records are not kept centrally of how local authorities spend LABGI funding. The grants are not ring-fenced and it is for local authorities to decide how the money is best spent.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to allow councils to keep *(a)* receipts from Right to Buy sales and *(b)* income from rents from council housing. [286565]

Mr. Ian Austin: We announced in June that councils can keep capital receipts and rent income from any newly built council homes supported by Social housing grant or funded with the authorities' own resources. In addition we are currently considering whether there are other types of council housing on which capital receipts and rents should be retained.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing's statement on 30 June 2009 also announced our intention to reform the council housing finance subsidy system and that we will be consulting on our proposals before the summer recess. This consultation will include a proposal to allow councils to keep all the capital receipts from right to buy, and income from rents.

Local Government Finance: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much general revenue funding has been allocated to City of York unitary authority in each year since 1996-97. [285705]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the increases for the City of York in formula grant for each year from 1998-99 onwards on a like-for-like basis, i.e. after adjusting for changes in function and funding.

	Prior years adjusted Formula Grant2 (£ million)	*Current year's Formula Grant (£ million)*	*Change (£ million)*	*Change (percentage)*
1998-99:	80.691	80.541	-0.150	-0.2
1999-2000:	80.541	84.473	3.932	4.9
2000-01:	84.473	87.978	3.505	4.1
2001-02:	87.529	90.330	2.801	3.2
2002-03:	86.030	91.050	5.019	5.8
Amended 2003-04:	95.109	99.890	4.781	5.0
Amended 2004-05:	96.364	102.518	6.154	6.4
Amended 2005-06:	103.678	108.820	5.142	5.0
2006-0f:	35.965	37.151	1.187	3.3
2007-08:	36.950	38.343	1.392	3.8
2008-09:	41.041	42.366	1.325	3.2
2009-10:	42.321	43.480	1.160	2.7
2010-11 provisional:	43.463	44.571	1.108	2.5

[1] The prior year's formula grant is adjusted for changes in function and funding to enable a like-for-like comparison.
[2] Formula Grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula Police Grant, SSA Reduction Grant (SSA Review), SSA Reduction Grant (Police Funding Review) and Central Support Protection Grant where appropriate.
[3] Prior to 2006-07 support for schools was paid through formula grant. In 2006-07 funding for schools transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The amount of formula grant an authority receives each year is not directly comparable due to changes in funding and functions. For example, prior to 2006-07 funding for schools was included within formula grant; from 2006-07 onwards funding for schools was provided by the Dedicated Schools Grant. For this reason, we therefore adjust the prior year's formula grant, for comparison purposes only, so that it reflects the notional amount of formula grant an authority would have received in that year had we been financing the same services as in the current year.

The Department only holds data on year-on-year changes in formula grant on a like-for-like basis from 1997-98. This is because it only became necessary to make these calculations when guarantees were introduced that formula grant would not go down from one year to the next.

Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to grant planning powers to *(a)* regional development agencies, *(b)* local authority leaders' boards and *(c)* economic prosperity boards. [286516]

Mr. Ian Austin: Under the terms of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, Government are to give joint responsibility for a regional strategy to *(a)* the regional development agencies and *(b)* local authorities' leaders' boards in each English region outside of London. These bodies will therefore have joint responsibility for plan-making at regional level.

It is up to local authorities to set out the functions that they wish to pass to an EPB across their area. They may decide that their EPB should play a part in spatial planning—most likely through co-operation in the

production of local development frameworks. It is very unlikely that local authorities would propose ceding the power to make particular planning decisions to an EPB and also unlikely that the Secretary of State would agree to such an arrangement, as the Government wish the link between planning decisions and direct local democratic accountability to be maintained.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated to regional empowerment partnerships in the last three years. [286578]

Mr. Malik: The Community Development Foundation received £1,736,990 in 2007-08 and £1,645,000 in 2008-09 from the Department for Communities and Local Government to fund the activities of nine independent regional empowerment partnerships. For the current year 2009-10, the Community Development Foundation has been allocated £1,715,000 to continue this support.

Registered Social Landlords

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many injunctions have been *(a)* sought and *(b)* obtained under section 13 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [280262]

(2) how many injunctions have been *(a)* sought and *(b)* obtained under section 153A of the Housing Act 1996 by landlords in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [280263]

(3) how many injunctions have been *(a)* sought and *(b)* obtained under section 222 of the Local Government Act 1972 by each local authority in each of the last three years. [280264]

Mr. Ian Austin: Registered social landlords owning and/or managing 1,000 or more units/bed spaces obtained the following number of injunctions under Section 153 A of the Housing Act 1996, inserted by section 13 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, between April 2005 and March 2008:

	Number
2005-06	744
2006-07	1,045
2007-08	1,319

Data are not yet available for 2008-09 and the data collected cannot be broken down by local authority area. Data are not available for smaller registered social landlords. Data are not yet available on injunctions obtained by local authority landlords under section 153 A of the Housing Act 1996 nor by local authorities under section 222 of the Local Government Act 1972.

No data are available on injunctions sought but not obtained.

Rents: Private Sector

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average private sector rent was in each region of England in *(a)* 2001-02, *(b)* 2002-03, *(c)* 2003-04, *(d)* 2004-05, *(e)* 2005-06, *(f)* 2006-07, *(g)* 2007-08 and *(h)* 2008-09. [287689]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the mean rent for private tenancies by region for the period 1995-96 and 1996-97 to 2006-07 and 2007-08 are available in Housing Statistics live table 734

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141656.xls

These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shared ownership purchases were made in *(a)* London and *(b)* England by people registered on housing waiting lists in each year since 2000; and what proportion of all such sales this represented in each such year. [284718]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of shared ownership completions made in London and England by people on housing waiting lists, and as a percentage of total shared ownership sales.

	London		*England*	
	Number of sales	*Percentage of sales*	*Number of sales*	*Percentage of sales*
2000-01	550	53	1,360	36
2001-02	540	47	1,310	32
2002-03	630	50	1,620	36
2003-04	760	49	1,830	38
2004-05	1,170	51	2,830	45
2005-06	820	35	2,910	38
2006-07	1,040	37	3,620	34

Source:
CORE (Continuous Recording) returns to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) from Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

CORE data only records data from RSLs with at least 250 units or bed spaces, so the figures above may be underestimates if not all RSLs are included. Also not all CORE data is compulsory for RSLs to complete, and details on whether sales were made to people on LA waiting lists was missing in approximately 20 per cent. of returns.

Details on whether shared ownership sales were made to people on LA waiting lists was removed from the CORE form in 2007-08, so the figures are only available up to 2006-07.

Social Housing Grant: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much social housing grant was *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* bid for by each London local authority in each allocation round since 2000. [284716]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities have been able to apply for social housing grant since 2004, but to date none has. In May we invited local authorities to bid for a share of the £100 million announced in the Budget

(with a later addition of up to £250 million) for local authorities to deliver new social housing. The first bids are expected shortly.

Tony Clements

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what post Mr. Tony Clements holds in his Department; and on what date he was appointed. [286645]

Mr. Malik: Tony Clements is a civil servant, working as a policy adviser in the Strategy and Performance Directorate. He was appointed on 29 June 2009.

HEALTH

Aerials: Health Hazards

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what monitoring and reviewing of the evidence of the symptoms of radio frequency radiation the Health Protection Agency has undertaken in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [285575]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The HPA carries out research on radiofrequency radiation, monitors other studies, and conducts comprehensive reviews of the scientific evidence. The independent Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation (AGNIR) also prepares reviews for the HPA of the evidence for health effects. AGNIR published a review of health effects in relation to radio waves in 2003 (see documents of the NRPB, volume 14, number 2: "Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields: Report of an independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation"), and the HPA in 2004 (see documents of the NRPB, volume 15, number 3: "Review of the Scientific Evidence for Limiting Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (0-300 GHz)"). These publications are both available on the HPA website. AGNIR is commencing another review of the health effects of radio wave exposures, which is expected to take two to three years to complete.

A copy of the report "Report 2007" from the independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme (MTHR), funded by Government and industry, has been placed in the Library. None of the studies completed demonstrated that biological or adverse health effects are produced by radiofrequency exposure from mobile phones or base stations. Further research is being carried out to address longer-term exposures and to assess whether hypersensitivity symptoms can be caused by exposure to terrestrial trunked radio (TETRA) signals. Further information on these studies is available on the MTHR website at:

www.mthr.org.uk/research_projects/MTHR2_projects.htm

The HPA has concluded that there is no consistent evidence to date that exposure to radio waves from wireless networks adversely affects the health of the general population. Radiofrequency exposures are likely to be lower than those from mobile phones and well within the internationally accepted guidelines from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection. The HPA keeps the situation under ongoing review. The HPA is carrying out a systematic programme of research into wireless local area networks and their use, expected to be complete in 2010. Details can be seen on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733726123?p=1171991026241

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date, and in what location, the documents relating to the infection of haemophiliacs through contaminated blood products released by his Department on 20 May 2009 were discovered; and if he will make a statement. [285741]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The 468 documents released on 20 May 2009 were found in around 40 folders which contained documents from the late 1980s and 1990. These folders were stored at Wellington house, a Department of Health building. While preparing an inventory of these folders in July 2008, departmental officials became aware that they also contained documents relevant to the period before 1985 and a full assessment of the content of all the folders was therefore undertaken.

Many of the documents from the relevant period were found to be copies of those already released. There were 469 previously unreleased documents identified, none of which was judged to add materially to the knowledge of events in the years before 1985. One document from this batch was withheld as it contained personal information about a patient. The remaining 468 were released as soon as was practicable.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the documents relating to the infection of haemophiliacs through contaminated blood products have been requested for release and not released by his Department; on what grounds the documents have not been released; and if he will make a statement. [285851]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Since 1 January 2005, 30 requests have been received under the Freedom of Information Act to release documents relating to the infection of haemophilia patients through contaminated blood products. Eight of these requests were rejected under section 12 of the Act as the cost involved would exceed the statutory cost limit, which is £600 for central Government.

Of the remaining 22 requests, there were 25 instances where documents were withheld from 12 of these requests. The breakdown is as follows:

One instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under section 28;

Two instances withheld as exempt from disclosure under section 34;

Seven instances withheld as exempt from disclosure under section 35;

Two instances withheld as exempt from disclosure under section 36;

Three instances withheld as exempt from disclosure under section 40; and

10 instances withheld as exempt from disclosure under section 43.

Data are not held on the number of individual documents or parts of documents that each withheld instance relates to.

In addition, more than 5,500 documents (including those released on 20 May 2009) covering the relevant time period have been voluntarily released by the Department in line with the Freedom of Information Act. Of these documents, seven, two of which are duplicates, have been withheld under a Freedom of Information exemption because they contain personal information.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which groups of people other than individuals with bleeding disorders his Department has identified who were exposed to potentially contaminated blood and blood products as a result of medical treatment between the 1970s and 1990s; and if he will make a statement. [286475]

Gillian Merron: The groups, in addition to patients with bleeding disorders, who may have been exposed to potentially contaminated blood and blood products received treatment for a range of conditions. These patients include those with primary immunodeficiency who received immunoglobulins, as well as some who required treatment with several infusions of intravenous immunoglobulin G or of plasma, for conditions such as immune thrombocytopaenic purpura or rapid anticoagulation reversal respectively.

Some patients who received transfusions of blood components (red cells, platelets, fresh frozen plasma and cryoprecipitate) before effective tests to screen donated blood for HIV and hepatitis C became available (1985 and 1991 respectively), may also have been exposed.

Recipients of transfusions of blood components may have been exposed to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) during the 1980s and 1990s. To date, four cases of vCJD infection associated with transfusion have been identified, three of which resulted in clinical symptoms in the transfusion recipient. All recipients of blood from the donors to these cases were traced and those living notified of their risk status. Some recipients of plasma products manufactured from United Kingdom sourced pooled plasma between 1980 and 2001 were identified as being potentially 'at risk' for vCJD as a result of their treatment in line with risk assessment advice from the CJD Incidents Panel in 2004.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the Department's look-back exercise to identify patients who may have been infected with HIV or hepatitis C through blood and blood products will include patients who were at risk of infection but who do not have bleeding disorders; and if he will make a statement; [286477]

(2) when the Department plans to *(a)* start and *(b)* finish its look back exercise to identify patients who may have been infected with HIV or hepatitis C as a result of infected blood and blood products, but who are unaware of the fact; and if he will make a statement. [286478]

Gillian Merron: The precise terms and duration of the look-back exercise are due to be finalised imminently with the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centres Doctors' Organisation (UKHCDO). It is likely that the look-back exercise will concentrate on patients with bleeding disorders who may have been infected, as indicated in the Government response to Lord Archer's independent report into national health service supplied contaminated blood and blood products, but the UKHCDO will also take the opportunity to consider the need to include any other patient groups who may have been infected.

There was a look-back exercise in 1995 to identify and offer hepatitis C testing to recipients of blood transfusions from known hepatitis C infected blood donors. The Department's ongoing hepatitis C awareness campaign, which has been running since 2005, highlights the risks of hepatitis C infection, including specifically from blood transfusions or blood products in the UK before it was possible to introduce safety measures, and encourages patients who may be at risk to discuss the need for testing with their doctor.

Patients infected with HIV through contaminated blood transfusions or blood products in the UK are likely to have already been identified because of the clinical nature of the disease, as it is now over 20 years since HIV testing was introduced by the blood services.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many partners of haemophiliacs infected with *(a)* HIV and *(b)* hepatitis C through contaminated blood products have been infected with (i) HIV and (ii) hepatitis C as a result; and if he will make a statement. [285881]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold details of the number of infected partners of haemophiliacs infected with HIV and hepatitis C.

The Macfarlane Trust holds details of the number of partners of HIV infected haemophilia patient registrants, who have become a beneficiary in their own right under the ex-gratia scheme.

The Skipton Fund, which administers the ex-gratia scheme to haemophilia patients and others infected with hepatitis C, does not keep a separate record of the number of people who were infected by their partners.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many haemophiliacs had tested positive for hepatitis C antibodies in their blood by August 1990 as a result of the application of the Elisa test; and if he will make a statement; [286098]

(2) on what date the *(a)* first and *(b)* last haemophiliac was informed of the results of the test for the prevalence of hepatitis C antibodies in their blood from the Elisa test; and if he will make a statement. [286100]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally by the Department. This is a matter for the patient and their clinician, and such information would not necessarily be held by the Skipton Fund.

Blood: Safety

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to expedite the adoption of pathogen inactivation measures in order to improve blood safety; and if he will make a statement. [286790]

Gillian Merron: Pathogen inactivation is one of the options the independent Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs will consider for further reducing the infection risk from platelets (a blood component) at its next meeting in July 2009. There are no pathogen inactivation systems currently available for red cells, the most widely transfused blood component.

Breast Cancer: Males

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned and *(b)* has evaluated on male breast cancer in each of the last 10 years; what research on the subject it plans to commission; and if he will make a statement. [283719]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not directly commissioned research on male breast cancer, and has no plans to do so.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time, including some concerned with male breast cancer, are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

The Medical Research Council is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The MRC supports a broad portfolio of research on breast cancer. While this research is mainly related to female breast cancer, much of it will also be relevant to male breast cancer, as symptoms, diagnosis and treatment are similar in men and women.

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response his Department made to *(a)* the interim report of the Government's stakeholder advisory group on extremely low frequency electronic and magnetic fields (SAGE) of April 2007 and *(b)* the Health Protection Agency's response of October 2007 to the SAGE interim report. [286182]

Gillian Merron: A Government response to the "First Interim Assessment" published by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (SAGE) is currently being finalised.

The Health Protection Agency's advice to Government on the SAGE "First Interim Assessment on power lines and property, wiring in homes and electrical equipment in homes" was issued in October 2007. Both the HPA's advice and the reply from the Minister of State are on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/DH_4089500

Epilepsy: Drugs

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on people with epilepsy of generic substitution of anti-epileptic drugs. [286349]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, West (John Battle) and the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose) on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-66W.

Food: Chemical Analysis

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance the Food Standards Agency has issued to local authorities on their budgetary provision for chemical analysis of food; and if he will make a statement. [285669]

Gillian Merron: Local authority food sampling responsibilities are set out in the statutory food law code of practice (separate parallel codes of practice exist for each of the four United Kingdom countries). Local authorities are required to put together a sampling programme that details their intended food sampling priorities, taking into account the number, type and risk rating of premises in their area and any national or local consumer issues that may influence sampling rates. Also important are any responsibilities under the originating or home authority principle.

Local authorities must ensure the resources necessary to carry out the food sampling programme are made available.

The Food Standards Agency board annually examine monitoring reports of local authorities activities including sampling annually, looking at both national trends and the position of individual authorities. Where an individual local authority reports figures which are not considered to be acceptable, further enquiries are made of that authority, and the agency will, if appropriate, use its powers formally to audit that authority's services.

Health Foods: Channel Islands

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State for Health of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 54WH, in the Westminster Hall debate on health food products (Channel Islands), what further information he has received on *(a)* a timetable for the implementation of the food supplements directive and nutrition and health claims regulation in Jersey and *(b)* the plans of the authorities in Guernsey to implement the legislation; and if he will make a statement; [284938]

(2) whether the Food Standards Agency has been asked by the Government of Jersey to provide an opinion on whether the definition of food business operator includes fulfilment businesses; and if he will make a statement. [284940]

Gillian Merron: The FSA is awaiting responses from the Government of Jersey regarding their timetable for implementing the food supplements directive and the nutrition and health claims regulation and from the Government of Guernsey about their plans for the implementation of this legislation.

In September 2008, an official of the Government of Jersey sought the view of the FSA as to the status of businesses trading in foodstuffs which never physically fall into their possession. In its response, the FSA advised that as the definition of 'food business' in Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (General Food Law) refers to

"activities related to any stage of production, processing and distribution of food"

this would not preclude businesses of the type mentioned from falling under the definition and, hence, being subject to relevant food law.

Health Services: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to reduce inequalities in access to health services for children. [287304]

Ann Keen: "Healthy lives brighter futures", the strategy for children and young people's health identified tackling inequalities as a key area for improvement. It sets out plans for universal, targeted and specialist support across three life stages—early years and pregnancy, schools age and young people—as well as the additional support for children and young people in need of acute or ongoing health care, including a range of measures to address inequalities. It is for primary care trusts working with local authorities and other local partners to ensure their local needs assessment and planning addresses the full range of local needs, and that the local service offer is communicated to all families. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

Examples of specific initiatives include the family nurse partnership, while the universal programme for all, the Healthy Child programme, includes preventative services for children with additional risks.

Tackling health inequalities in children is also a key theme of the national health inequalities strategy, the "Programme for Action", and reducing the infant mortality gap between routine and manual group and the whole of the population is part of the health inequalities 2010 public service agreement target. A national support team for infant mortality designed to improve infant and maternal health outcomes and service delivery in disadvantaged areas was launched on 22 April 2009. A copy of "Programme for Action" has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Domestic Visits

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department visited (i) a dental practice, (ii) an optometrist, (iii) a GP surgery, (iv) a pharmacy and (v) an NHS walk-in centre in the last 12 months. [286787]

Phil Hope: The following visits occurred during the period 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009. Visits by each Minister were:

Alan Johnson (until June 2009)

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009*
A dental practice	4
An optometrist	0
A GP surgery	16
A pharmacy	0
An NHS walk-in centre	0

Andy Burnham (from June 2009 onwards)

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009*
A dental practice	0
An optometrist	0
A GP surgery	0
A pharmacy	0
An NHS walk-in centre	0

Ben Bradshaw (until June 2009)

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009*
A dental practice	2
An optometrist	0
A GP surgery	8
A pharmacy	0
An NHS walk-in centre	1

Mike O'Brien (from June 2009 onwards)

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009*
A dental practice	0
An optometrist	0
A GP surgery	1
A pharmacy	0
An NHS walk-in centre	0

Ann Keen

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009*
A dental practice	2
An optometrist	1
A GP surgery	1
A pharmacy	0
An NHS walk-in centre	0

Dawn Primarolo (until June 2009)

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009*
A dental practice	0
An optometrist	0
A GP surgery	0
A pharmacy	1
An NHS walk-in centre	0

Gillian Merron (from June 2009 onwards)

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009*
A dental practice	0
An optometrist	0
A GP surgery	0
A pharmacy	0
An NHS walk-in centre	0

Ivan Lewis (until October 2008)

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009*
A dental practice	0
An optometrist	0
A GP surgery	0
A pharmacy	0
An NHS walk-in centre	0

Phil Hope (from October 2008 onwards)

Type of organisation	Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009
A dental practice	1
An optometrist	0
A GP surgery	1
A pharmacy	0
An NHS walk-in centre	0

Lord Darzi

Type of organisation	Number of visits from 1 June 2008 to 9 July 2009
A dental practice	0
An optometrist	0
A GP surgery	9
A pharmacy	1
An NHS walk-in centre	0

Health Services: Private Sector

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines the NHS issues to trusts on procedures for the recovery of debts incurred by private patients. [285461]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not provide specific guidelines to national health service trusts in respect of the recovery of debts incurred by private patients.

However, the Department does issue to NHS organisations a model financial governance framework that refers to debt management.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to Lord Laird of 1 June 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA31, on health: former UK residents, what methodology was used to calculate the UK average cost for pensioners and their dependants; and what information his Department has received from the government of the Republic of Ireland on the calculation of its average cost. [283879]

Gillian Merron: The United Kingdom's average cost for pensioners and their dependents, is based upon the number of these people living in the UK (using Office for National Statistics data for the relevant year) and the expenditure that relates to national health service health care provided to them (using information from departmental and NHS accounts). The Department does not have access to the full methodology used by the Republic of Ireland for calculating its average costs, as under European Union rules there is no obligation on one member state to share this with another.

EU regulation 1408/71 covers how citizens visiting, working and retired in other EEA (European economic area) member states access health care.

Under these regulations, member states bill each other back for health care provided to pensioners and their dependents, on the basis of an average cost. Each member state calculates its own average costs, taking into account the overall amount they spend on their health care system and the size and profile of their population.

Member states have their average costs scrutinised and agreed by an EU-level group of which the UK is a member.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to Lord Laird of 1 June 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA32, on health: former UK residents, for what reasons the UK has not made claims against other EU member states in relation to overseas visitors treated by the devolved health authorities; and what estimate he has made of the cost of treatment provided by devolved health authorities in respect of which the UK has not made a claim in each of the last 10 years. [284280]

Gillian Merron: So far, it has not been possible to establish why claims have not been raised by the United Kingdom in respect of treatment provided by the devolved health authorities. However, the Department is working with the Ministry of Justice to identify the information requirements from the devolved Administrations so that this matter can be resolved. As referred to in the answer to Lord Laird of 1 June 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA32, departmental officials are currently exploring the scope for obtaining the necessary data. Until systems are in place, it is not possible to make a meaningful estimate of the cost of treatment not historically claimed for.

HF&E Bill 1990 Hansard

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file INW0014/0030/0012/VO2 HF&E Bill 1990 Hansard; and if he will make a statement; [285547]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file INW0014/0030/0012 HF&E Bill 1990 Hansard; and if he will make a statement. [285549]

Gillian Merron: Volume 1 of file INW 14/30/12, HF&E Bill 1990, Hansard, contains only copies of the daily House of Lords official reports published in 1989 and 1990, editions as shown in the table:

Registered File INW 14/30/12, HF&E Bill 1990, Hansard, VOL 1

Lords/ Commons	Date	Volume Number	Edition Number
Lords	7 December 1989	513	11
Lords	1 February 1990	515	31
Lords	6 February 1990	515	33
Lords	7 February 1990	515	34
Lords	8 February 1990	515	35
Lords	13 February 1990	515	38
Lords	14 February 1990	515	39
Lords	6 March 1990	516	50
Lords	7 March 1990	516	51
Lords	13 March 1990	516	54
Lords	20 March 1990	517	58

Volume 2 of the file contains copies of the daily House of Lords and House of Commons official reports published in 1990 and 1992, editions as shown in the table, plus three copies of the Abortion Regulations 1991:

Registered File INW 14/30/12, HFE Bill 1990, Hansard, VOL 2

Lords/ Commons	*Date*	*Volume number*	*Edition number*
Commons	25 April 1990	171	93
Commons	24 April 1990	171	92
Commons	23 April 1990	171	91
Commons	2 April 1990	170	84
Lords	11 June 1992	537	20
Lords	30 June 1992	537	30
Commons	15 July 1992	211	50
Lords	18 October 1990	522	139
Commons	20 June 1990	174	125
Commons	21 June 1990	174	126

These publications are available from the Library.

HIV Infection and Hepatitis C

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average *(a)* annual and *(b)* total lifetime cost to the NHS of a person with (i) HIV and (ii) hepatitis C; and if he will make a statement. [285738]

Gillian Merron: The estimated average annual cost to the national health service for a person with HIV is £14,000-£15,000. These costs will vary according to immune status. The average lifetime treatment costs for HIV is estimated to be between £135,000-£181,000 although this may increase as life expectancy continues to increase.

For hepatitis C, the cost of drug therapy is estimated to be between £6,000-£15,000, depending on the duration of treatment, which is currently 24 or 48 weeks.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 650, on influenza pandemic, what the interim service is that could be launched within a week; [282767]

(2) what tests of the flu line service have been undertaken; when they were undertaken; what was tested in each case; and what the outcome of each such test was. [282768]

Gillian Merron: The interim National Pandemic Flu Service will consist of a phone service that the public can access through a single 0800 number, and a supporting website application. This will mean that people can have their symptoms assessed either over the phone or online. Those symptoms will be checked against an algorithm—a list of the key symptoms and factors that determine whether the patient in question has been exposed to the infection. If it is established that they have developed swine flu, they will if appropriate, be issued with an authorisation number that they will then need to access antivirals. Their go-between—their flu friend—will then take that authorisation number to their nearest collection point to obtain the antivirals.

The following tests have been conducted on the full National Pandemic Flu Service:

April to June 12: Unit and Module testing of the Public Web, Call Centre, National Pandemic Flu Service Professional (i.e. the facility for a limited number of Healthcare professionals to authorise an antiviral). This is to test that each part of the system functions as required, as it is developed. These tests were conducted and demonstrated that the system was functioning as expected. The testing approach and results were also independently reviewed.

15 to 22 June: Functional Acceptance tests. This is to test the entire system, end to end, to ensure all of its components function together as required. These tests were conducted independently of the supplier and demonstrated that the system was functioning as expected.

Further testing will be undertaken as the National Pandemic Flu Service is made ready to go live between now and the autumn. This will include a full user acceptance testing process.

Influenza: Business

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which public bodies are responsible for *(a)* informing and *(b)* assisting businesses in planning and handling of an influenza pandemic. [286676]

Gillian Merron: Government Departments are responsible for ensuring that their sponsored sectors are aware of the challenges posed by pandemic influenza. They do this through regular exchanges with, for example, representative bodies and the dissemination of relevant information to assist with planning. As part of this two-way process, they also identify emerging policy issues that need to be addressed.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, local authorities are required to provide advice and assistance to businesses within their area on business continuity planning. In addition, many operators of critical national infrastructure are designated as category 2 responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, and are therefore closely engaged in resilience planning at various levels within the United Kingdom.

In response to the swine flu outbreak, the Government have established a Business Advisory Network for Flu to help co-ordinate advice to employers. Additional guidance and information is available through the Business Link website.

Influenza: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with pharmaceutical wholesalers on preparations for an influenza pandemic in the last 12 months. [284984]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has a range of discussions with pharmaceutical wholesalers about matters of joint interest. This has included preparations for an influenza pandemic.

Legislation: Documents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files his Department holds on *(a)* the draft Tissues and Embryos Bill, *(b)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill [*Lords*] and *(c)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008; and if he will make a statement. [285486]

Gillian Merron: The files held by the Department on the Human Tissues and Embryos draft Bill, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill [*Lords*] and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, are set out in the following table:

File number	*File name*
EAX/034	Human Tissue and Embryos (Draft) Bill
EAX/036	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill 2007/08
EAX/037	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008: Implementation

Mental Health Services: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the statement of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 297-300, on health and social care, how much of the funding of £170 million for a psychological therapy service has been allocated to each health trust; and if he will make a statement. [287124]

Phil Hope: Annual funding for the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme (IAPT) will rise to £173 million in its third year (2010-11) and funding is allocated to strategic health authorities on the basis of a weighted capitation formula.

Under this formula, primary care trusts are allocated funding based on their share of the total population in England, weighted to account for an individual PCT's population's healthcare needs relative to other PCTs.

Allocations to PCTs are made by regional programme boards to those services that meet IAPT programme quality standards. These relate to: clinical leadership; a third of the staff being appropriately qualified to supervise and support the trainees; suitable accommodation for the services to operate from; training provided in line with the programme's national curricula; data systems that can collect outcome information effectively for at least 90 per cent. of patients; and recruitment and work force planning.

Mentally Ill: Suicide

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* suicides and *(b)* attempted suicides there have been of individuals in the care of each mental health trust in each year from 2000 to 2008. [287119]

Phil Hope: The Department does not collect these figures centrally. However, the national confidential inquiry into suicide and homicide (NCISH) by people with mental illness collects certain figures around this issue and the following table shows numbers of people by calendar year who were in contact with mental health (MH) services in England in the year prior to their death. This includes those who were under the care of services as out-patients and the table also includes the number and percentage of those in contact with services who were in-patients at the time of their death.

It should be noted that the inquiry sample includes both suicide and open verdicts at coroners' inquest. Open verdicts are often thought to be suicides and are conventionally used in suicide rate estimation in the United Kingdom. Neither the Department nor the NCISH collect information on attempted suicides.

We are unable to release information relating to specific mental health trusts without the permission of those trusts.

Suicides in contact with mental health services in the year prior to death (England only)

	Suicides in contact with MH services N=8,565	*In-patients N=1,153 (%)*
2000	1,248	196
2001	1,260	179
2002	1,249	165
2003	1,249	183
2004	1,307	158
2005	1,253	151
2006	999	121

Reciprocal Health Services: Elderly

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the health of elderly people of the termination of the reciprocal health agreement with the Isle of Man; and if he will make a statement. [286704]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not yet given formal notice on the bilateral agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man but it has informed the Isle of Man of the intention to do so. As the termination of the agreement has not yet been formalised, neither the UK nor the Isle of Man has confirmed which treatments will be chargeable to tourists after the termination of the agreement. However, the Department will recommend private travel insurance for tourists, as it does for all travel outside the UK. Given the wide availability of travel insurance, termination of the agreement is not expected to have a significant adverse effect on any group of the population, including the elderly.

Sunbeds: Young People

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of 11 to 17 year olds who use sun beds in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas in England and Wales; [286603]

(2) with reference to his Department's report on the cancer reform strategy, "Maintaining Momentum", published on 1 December 2008, when he expects to publish further information on sun bed use by young people; [286604]

(3) if he will commission research on the reasons for which those aged under 18 years old use sun beds; [286605]

(4) what recent reports he has received of the annual incidence of deaths arising from sun bed use. [286606]

Gillian Merron: The recent report of the committee on medical aspects of radiation in the environment (COMARE) summarises evidence on sunbed use amongst young people and also refers to estimates of the number of deaths accounted for by sunbed use. The report can be accessed at:

www.comare.org.uk/13thPressRelease.htm

The Department has commissioned further research from Cancer Research UK which is expected to cover what factors motivate young people to use sunbeds in a particular setting. We will consider making these data available in due course.

Swine Flu

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the statement of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1052-63, on swine flu update, what plans are in place to ensure that critical care capacity is in place where it is needed; and what recent assessment he has made of the level of critical care capacity required to meet those needs; [283907]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure the operation surveillance and testing for swine flu of people in hospital with respiratory illnesses; [283911]

(3) what percentage of those diagnosed with swine flu have required intensive care treatment to date. [283931]

Gillian Merron: It is not possible to estimate the number of critical care beds required in a flu pandemic because this will depend upon a range of factors such as the clinical attack rate, the most 'at risk' population and the number of flu victims requiring intensive care. The percentage of those diagnosed with swine flu that have required intensive care treatment is less than 1 per cent.

In the 'Managing Demand and Capacity in Health Care Organisations (Surge)' guidance, it is advised that, within their local flu contingency plans, acute hospitals will aim to double the number of critical care beds available. A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library. Managing demand will also be achieved by cancelling elective work and redeploying clinical staff from services such as theatres to help provide a level of critical care across this increased demand. The guidance also includes measures to relieve pressure such as increased use of agency and retired staff.

In June 2009, the Chief Medical Officer issued advice to national health service staff about the measures they should take to ensure adequate surveillance and testing of hospital patients for swine flu. A copy of that advice has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1052-63, on swine flu update, from which locations in each primary care trust area patients who require antiviral medication are being asked to collect that medication; what the reasons are for the time taken to designate such collection points; and when he expects all arrangements for such collection points to be in place. [283908]

Gillian Merron: Primary care trusts already have arrangements in place for antiviral collection points as part of pandemic flu planning. Strategic health authorities have been reviewing this earlier this year to ensure that plans are robust, that a good spread is available across each PCT geographically and that sufficient collection points can be up and running to meet the needs of the population. All PCTs are able to establish an initial antiviral collection point (ACP) within 48 hours, to provide at least one ACP which can be operational on a 24/7 basis with the remainder offering a range of opening hours dependent upon demand. Within seven days of the request to mobilise PCTs are able to have sufficient ACPs up and running to meet the needs of the population as necessary. Timing of mobilisation of collection points and locations will depend upon the level of demand from swine flu in each local area. PCTs in each area are providing local communications in each area to tell the population where collection points are located. The detail of where all collection points are operating is not held centrally.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1052-63, on swine flu update, for what reasons the National Pandemic Flu Line service will not be operational until the autumn; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the change to the timetable for the establishment of the full service. [283909]

Gillian Merron: The full National Pandemic Flu service continues to be planned for operation during the autumn, if required. As a result of the swine flu outbreak the build of the original 'flu line' system was put on hold so that an interim solution, including additional antiviral collection point functionality, could be developed and tested to be available more quickly if needed. The additional costs related to building the interim solution amount to approximately £2.5 million and are the only additional system build costs incurred to date in respect of the interim solution.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1052-63, on swine flu update, who the members of the strategic advisory group of experts are; on which dates the group has met; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each such meeting. [283910]

Gillian Merron: On 12 June 2009, the Secretary of State for Health mentioned "SAGE" but in error referred to the strategic advisory group of experts, which advises the World Health Organisation on immunisation. He intended to refer to the scientific advisory group for emergencies (SAGE), which has been established to provide cross government scientific advice regarding the outbreak of swine flu.

The members of this committee are as follows:

Professor John Beddington (Co-Chair)
Professor Sir Gordon Duff (Co-Chair)
Professor David Harper (Lead Government Department)
Professor Sir Roy Anderson
Professor Dame Sally Davies (Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser)
Dr. Mairion Evans
Professor Neil Ferguson
Professor George Griffin
Dr. Peter Grove
Professor Andrew Hall
Dr. Stephen Inglis
Dr. Steve Leach
Professor Susan Michie

Professor Angus Nicoll
Professor Karl Nicholson
Professor Peter Openshaw
Professor Deenan Pillay
Sir John Skehel
Professor Jonathan Van Tam
Professor Maria Zambon

SAGE was established in May 2009 and has since had 11 meetings on the following dates:

5, 8, 12, 18, 20, 26 May

2, 9, 15, 22, 29 June

We will not be placing copies of the minutes of each SAGE meeting in the Library at the present time. The majority of SAGE work is directly commenting on or providing input to the formulation of Government policy. In addition, in order for SAGE to work effectively, members need to be free to discuss issues openly, including confidential evidence in their deliberations. The publication of the minutes may therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. However, we will keep the publication of minutes under review.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1052-62, on swine flu update, what decisions the Health Minister took regarding pandemic influenza in 2007. [284271]

Gillian Merron: Departmental Ministers have been fully engaged in preparations for pandemic influenza for many years. Final decisions on pandemic preparedness have been the responsibility of the Secretary of State.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to enable people to purchase anti-pyretics in greater quantities over the counter for preparation in the event of them contracting swine influenza. [286366]

Gillian Merron: There are no current plans to do this. Antipyretics such as paracetamol and aspirin are available in packs of 16 tablets or capsules from general sale outlets such as supermarkets and up to two packs can be purchased at any one time. Larger packs of 32 tablets or capsules are designated as pharmacy medicines and are sold by or under the supervision of a pharmacist. Pharmacists have the professional discretion to sell up to 100 tablets or capsules without a prescription if they consider this is in the best interests of the patient. The need for professional advice and supervision when supplying these medicines does not reduce during a pandemic.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all primary care trusts have antiviral collection points accessible to all their populations. [287106]

Gillian Merron: Each primary care trust, or where demand from swine flu has been very modest across a number of PCTs has been asked to mobilise at least one antiviral collection point locally. More have been opened to respond to the level of demand from patients and the public for rapid access to antivirals.

Swine Flu: Hospital Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of intensive care beds occupied by people diagnosed with swine influenza at the latest date for which figures are available. [286318]

Gillian Merron: In the 24 hours up to 8 am on 8 July 2009, 43 in-patients with swine influenza (swabbed or clinically presumed) were receiving critical care in national health service trusts in England.

Thalidomide

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has evaluated on the teratogenic properties of thalidomide. [279989]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The Department has not evaluated any research on the teratogenic properties of thalidomide. Toxicity trials for pharmaceutical products, including tests for their teratogenic properties, are the responsibility of pharmaceutical companies.

Thame Hospital

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 524-25W, how much of the funding of £4 million from the community hospitals and services programme for the redevelopment of Thame hospital, Oxfordshire had been spent as at 1 July 2009, and what the timetable is for the completion of the re-development. [287116]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Thame community hospital programme is one of 28 schemes that has secured funding from the community hospital programme. The latest project programme from the primary care trust indicates that work on the new unit is planned to start on site in August 2010 and completion in September 2011. The PCT schedule indicates a requirement for funding of £2.28 million in 2010-11 and £1.72 million in 2011-12. Additional refurbishment of older buildings takes place from October 2011 to March 2012, and the PCT tells us that it will be operational in March or April 2012.

Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the efficacy of his policy on the prescription of tranquillisers in limiting the number of medicines prescribed. [276005]

Gillian Merron: The addiction to prescription drugs such as benzodiazepines is a very important issue and a number of steps have been taken to tackle this problem with the main focus on advice to prevent such dependence occurring in the first place, by warning general practitioners of the potential side-effects of prescribed medicines and the dangers of involuntary addiction to benzodiazepines.

Over the coming months the Department will be reviewing its policy on addiction to prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs, including tranquillisers.

This review will identify where and how policy should advanced, so that those addicted to prescription or OTC drugs receive high quality, effective services.

West London Mental Health NHS Trust

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the investigation commissioned by the Healthcare Commission in April 2008 into the West London Mental Health Trust will be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published. [287117]

Phil Hope: The Healthcare Commission's successor organisation, the Care Quality Commission, has informed us that it has completed its investigation into West London Mental Health NHS Trust. It will publish its report on its website on 21 July 2009.

Young People's Development Programme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which Minister has lead responsibility for the Young People's Development Programme; [287379]

(2) how much has been spent on the Young People's Development Programme since its inception; and what the Programme's projected budget is for the next five years. [287378]

Gillian Merron: The Minister who lead on Public Health had responsibility for the Young People's Development Programme. This pilot programme ran from 2004 to 2007 at a total cost of £6 million. The programme finished in spring 2007.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's staff are working at each forward operating base in Helmand province. [287270]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) no longer publicises staff numbers for country offices, following an assessment of DFID's work in insecure environments by the National Audit Office in October 2008, and a range of improvements to our security policies and procedures.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who is responsible for the reconstruction and development programme following the completion of Operation Panther's Claw in Helmand; and how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other agencies have allocated for the programme. [287271]

Mr. Michael Foster: Support to reconstruction and development in Helmand is led by an interdepartmental, civilian-military, multinational provincial reconstruction team (PRT), led by a UK Senior Representative from the Foreign Office. Four staff members of the Department for International Development (DFID) are integrated into the Helmand PRT.

DFID core funding for Helmand this year is £18 million, which will include programmes benefiting the Babaji population such as agriculture support, basic infrastructure, and a major road.

The PRT has developed a stabilisation plan around Operation Panther's Claw and the Babaji area. This includes work on supporting the Afghan Government to establish itself in cleared areas, to deliver health, education and policing services and to set up polling stations for the elections in August. The cross-Government stabilisation aid fund has set aside almost £15 million for district stabilisation across Helmand this year.

The Asian Development Bank has pledged $50 million to co-fund two major infrastructure projects with DFID: a road linking Lashkar Gah and Gereshk (which goes around Babaji) and a hydro-power plant in Gereshk (also funded by Denmark). USAID will deliver a major agricultural programme across Helmand over the next year.

Afghanistan: Theme Parks

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the theme park for women in Lashkar Gah; and how much it cost. [287269]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Bolan Park was built in Bolan, Lashkar Gah, in 2007 at the request of the Governor of Helmand and in response to an identified local need: it functions as a symbol for security and development in the area. The park is providing much-needed recreational space and facilities for the people of Lashkar Gar and the surrounding area. It is open to men, women and children with one day each week being set aside for women's exclusive use. One of the first major events hosted there was a US-funded agricultural fair to promote legal livelihoods attended by 1,700 Afghans. The park was also used for a successful cultural event organised by the Helmand Governor, which attracted more than 2,000 people.

The UK provided funding for the park through the Provincial Reconstruction Team. The park cost around £420,000 and was built alongside the Helmand River. The costs reflect the fact that during construction gabion walls were put in place to support the river bank, which helps prevent erosion, and to support the Bolan Bridge. In addition, the park has extensive lighting which is important for improving security at night.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what categories of personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each category of information began to be collected; and if he will make a statement. [285979]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) manages the following databases that contain personal information on members of the public:

Financial and Projects systems (ARIES, MIS and Coda) are used for administration of projects and accounts. These databases contain DFID suppliers and customers' contact and bank details

(name, address, company registration number, VAT number, bank details and payment terms). Information on these categories has been collected since February 1998.

The overseas pensions system supports administration and payment of pensions to former colonial servants. This database contains personal, bank and payment data (name, address, telephone number, bank details, next of kin) on former colonial servants, and was collected from February 1998.

Correspondence systems enable tracking of parliamentary and public correspondence. These systems contain names and contact details (address, telephone, telephone number, email address) of correspondents. The information has been collected since December 1999.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each database expected to become operational in the next five years and which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286152]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has no current plans to build databases containing personal information on members of the public.

Developing Countries: Job Creation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the oral statement of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 701-4, on Building Our Common Future, which five fragile countries will receive his Department's new bilateral aid for job creation by 2013. [285914]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's planned new programme of work to expand economic opportunities by creating jobs in fragile states will initially target Nigeria, Afghanistan, Nepal, Yemen and Ethiopia. Through our work in these five countries, we expect to create a maximum of 1.25 million jobs, which will benefit up to 7.5 million people in total over the next five years.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what grants his Department has made available to UK-based charities for projects to assist fragile states in the last 12 months. [286077]

Mr. Michael Foster: Centrally-managed Department for International Development grants available to UK-based charities for projects to assist fragile states are:

The Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF)—£16.7 million of the fund covers projects in 15 fragile states with 31 UK-based agencies.

Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF)—£25.2 million of the fund covers projects in 19 fragile states with 18 UK-based agencies.

Partnership Programme Arrangements (PPAs)—this is unrestricted funding, covering the period 2008-2011 at £110 million a year with 26 UK-based agencies, many of which operate in fragile states.

Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Fund (CHSF)—£28.8 million of these grants provide core funding to seven UK-based agencies, all of which operate in fragile states.

DFID country offices in fragile states will also have made funds available to UK-based charities. It would require disproportionate effort to identify and list all such grants.

Global Partnership for Agriculture Food Security and Nutrition

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who will administer the new global partnership for agriculture food security and nutrition; what the UK's percentage contribution will be to the budget of the Partnership; and what the UK's cash contribution to the partnership will be in each of the next two financial years. [285397]

Mr. Thomas: Discussions are still on-going on administrative arrangements for the global partnership process. Options for staffing, funding needs, and objectives will be assessed. We envisage a fairly light administrative structure, providing primarily secretariat-type functions. A decision on longer-term support by the Department for International Development will be taken in due course.

Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will increase the support provided by his Department for the development of democratic institutions and politicians in Sierra Leone; and if he will make a statement. [283854]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to supporting further the development of democratic institutions and politicians in Sierra Leone.

To this end DFID has, for example, recently begun work to design a project of support to the 2012 elections in Sierra Leone, involving Sierra Leone's electoral management bodies, potential parliamentary candidates and civil society.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receive support from his Department *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly via the (i) EU and (ii) the United Nations for work in Sierra Leone; what support each such organisation received in (A) cash and (B) kind in 2008-09; for how long each such organisation has been supported by his Department; what projects in Sierra Leone have been supported by such NGOs with funds from his Department; what steps his Department takes to monitor effectiveness of such spending; and if he will make a statement. [283862]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's support for NGO's in Sierra Leone is set out in the following table. This provides information about the amount of assistance received in 2008-09; the projects funded; and the duration of the projects. DFID has supported NGOs for work in Sierra Leone since the

end of the conflict in 2002. DFID has not funded the EU or UN to work with NGOs in Sierra Leone from its bilateral budget.

DFID monitors closely and actively the effectiveness of all its spending, including that of support to NGOs. DFID staff based in Sierra Leone are in regular contact with project partners, and NGOs and others responsible for project implementation are required to submit regular reports on progress. It is a requirement to hold detailed annual reviews of each project.

NGOs receiving support from the Department for International Development for work in Sierra Leone

NGO	*Project, value and duration*
Christian Aid	£30,000 in 2008-09 for Public Financial Management (PFM) design phase (ensure greater inclusiveness in the budget process, increase access to information, and improved responsiveness geared towards achieving gender-sensitive and pro-poor budgets and programmes) (Jan-June 2009). £50,000 in 2008-09 for Power to the People (five-year project, making governance work for marginalised groups).
Plan International	£1.6 million in 2008-09 through the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme, to implement a community-led total sanitation project in Port Loko (2007-12).
International Rescue Committee	£100,000 in 2008-09 to support implementation of the Gender Acts with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs (2008-10).
Student Partnership Worldwide (SPW)	£157,116 in 2008-9 as part of Education on Youth Reproductive Health and Life Skills project (2008-12).
Conciliation Resources (CR)	£50,000 in 2008-09 for increasing government accountability in conflict zones through public participation in policymaking (five-year project). £100,871 in 2008-9 for Community Peace and Empowerment in Southern Sierra Leone (2005-10)
Partnership For Transparency Fund	£16,000 in 2008-09 for a Citizens Against Corruption project (five-year project).
BBC World Service Trust	£125,000 in 2008-09 for A National Conversation: Promoting Accountability, Transparency and Participation through partnership with Public Broadcasters in Africa (five-year project)
Tiri	£51,000 in 2008-09 for 'Pro Poor Integrity! Civil Society Engagement to Make Governance and Transparency Work for Poor and Vulnerable Communities' (five-year project)
Amnesty International	£39,000 in 2008-09 for Sierra Leone as part of an Africa Rights Education Programme (four-year project).
Search For Common Ground (SFCG)	£30,000 in 2008-09 as one of the partners of the £3 million PIVOT programme (to promote transparency on elections) (2006-08). £16,000 in 2008-09 for support to messages on Maternal Mortality for International Women's Day (2008). £56,500 in 2008-09 for a media programme to strengthen good governance and transparency (three-year project).
Education Action International (EAI)	£148,180 in 2008-09 for 'Children's Rights to Inclusive and Effective education in Northern Province'' (2005-10).
Apt Enterprise Development	£111,387 in 2008-09 for 'Building the Capacity of Disadvantaged People in Sierra Leone to access their Livelihoods' (2006-10).
Village Aid	£99,915 in 2008-09 for 'Literacy and Livelihoods to Empower Young People and their Organisations in Sierra Leone' (2006-10).
Trades Union Congress (TUC)	£122,747 in 2008-09 for 'Rebuilding Trade Union Capacity in Sierra Leone' (2007-10).
Help The Hospices	£75,775 in 2008-09: Health Development Project (2008-13).
National Democratic Institute	£40,410 in 2008-9 as one of the partners of the £3 million PIVOT programme (to promote transparency on elections) (2006-08).
Westminster Foundation For Democracy	One of the partners of the £3 million PIVOT programme (to promote transparency on elections) (2006-08).
Foundation Hirondelle	£395,915 in 2008-09 as one of the partners of the £3 million PIVOT programme (to promote transparency on elections) (2006-08).
Goal	£21,351 in 2008-09 under the Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) programme to reduce the incidence and impact of water-borne diseases in disadvantaged urban areas of Freetown. (six months in 2008).
World Vision	Leads a consortium with CARE and ActionAid funded by DFID's Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE) to sensitise communities in security issues: 2008-12, value of project £1.6 million.
Care	£1 million in 2008-09 to manage the 'Enhancing the interface between Civil Society and the State (ENCISS)' programme (2004-12). £589,000 in 2008-09 for consortium of NGOs led by CARE to support implementation of the Government's Reproductive and Child Health programme in 5 districts (2006-09). Working on a Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE)-funded security project led by World Vision (see above).
Action Aid	£13,000 in 2008-09 as part of Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS) monitoring to carry out a check of information on school and medical supplies being posted on public notice boards (2008). Working on a Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE)-funded security project led by World Vision (see above).
Oxfam	£102,072 in 2008-09 as one of the partners of the £3 million PIVOT programme (to promote transparency on elections): project ran 2006-08. Working on a Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE)-funded security project led by World Vision (see above).

Development Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the growth rate that would need to be sustained in sub-Saharan Africa if that region is to meet the Millennium Development goals by 2015. [285394]

Mr. Michael Foster: Developing countries need sustained economic growth to meet many of the millennium development goals, but growth has a particularly important part to play in helping to achieve the MDG 1 targets,

which are: to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportions of people who live on less than a dollar a day and who suffer from hunger. Economic growth rates of at least 6 per cent. would need to be sustained in order to do this.

JUSTICE

Compensation: Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has identified a compensation culture within local government. [285257]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The independent review into redress presented its findings on 17 June 2009. The review was not specifically asked to look at the issue of any compensation culture within local government. The review team did commission some focus groups with customers which found that most people, when making complaints about a public service, want a meaningful apology, an acknowledgement of what had gone wrong and a correction of the problem; financial compensation was a low motivator for people seeking redress.

The Department commissioned the review following a commitment made in the Empowerment White Paper. This independent review was chaired by David Cook (the chief executive officer of Kettering borough council) and looked at how local authorities can not only improve how they deal with complaints but how they can get it right first time. The review focused on the more transactional services provided by local authorities, for example refuse collection, and did not focus on specific redress systems currently in place in local authorities across England.

Debt Collection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 958W, on debt collection, whether HM Courts Service plans to extend the guidance to county courts in the south-east to other Court Service areas. [286076]

Bridget Prentice: Her Majesty's Courts Service is currently evaluating the scheme in the county courts in the south east of taking payments by credit and debit cards, including the guidance. I am awaiting the results of the evaluation and the recommendations on the way forward.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of his Department's (i) male employees and (ii) female employees was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287123]

Mr. Straw: The percentage breakdown by gender in MOJ (excluding the National Offender Management Service) for staff below the SCS is *(a)* 68.43 per cent. female and *(b)* 31.57 per cent. male.

Based on data at 1 August 2008, the average hourly pay of these male and female employees, calculated on basic pay only, is:

	Male	£ Female
London	15.70	14.79
National	11.44	10.55

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

The percentage breakdown by gender of the work force directly employed by NOMS, excluding SCS, is *(a)* 36 per cent. female and *(b)* 64 per cent. male.

Based on data for June 2009, the average hourly pay of male and female employees in NOMS, calculated on basic pay only is:

(i) £12.72 for male employees;

(ii) £11.33 for female employees.

Senior Civil Service (SCS)

The percentage breakdown by gender for staff in the SCS (includes both MOJ and NOMS) is *(a)* 36 per cent. female and *(b)* 64 per cent. male.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 20 February 2008 to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland, *Official Report*, column 779W, on the legal aid scheme, what proportion of the population of England and Wales was eligible for civil legal aid in 2008. [286515]

Bridget Prentice: Civil legal aid covers a number of different areas of civil and family justice, and the extent to which applicants' financial circumstances are taken into account in granting legal aid varies considerably across these areas. It is therefore not possible to give figures for the number of people eligible for civil legal aid as a whole. However, some estimates of the likely number that would be eligible are available.

The estimated proportion of the population of England and Wales who were eligible for civil legal aid, for categories in which financial circumstances were taken into account, was 29 per cent. in 2007. We do not have a figure for 2008. In 2009, we estimate that the figure for categories in which financial circumstances are taken into account is 36 per cent.. This increase in the eligible proportion of the population is likely to be due to the effects of the recession plus the 5 per cent. increase in the civil legal aid financial eligibility limits in April 2009. In 2007-08 civil legal aid helped over 1 million people with their civil and family legal problems.

National Archives

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much the National Archives expects to raise through the introduction of car parking charges at Kew; [287175]

(2) how many people visited the National Archives at Kew in each of the last five years. [287176]

Mr. Wills: To date The National Archives has provided free parking for visitors to Kew. This has in effect been subsidised from their running costs budget. They are no longer in a position to continue this subsidy. In addition, in the context of the Government's green agenda, it is

increasingly hard to justify the use of public funds in this way. They have therefore proposed the introduction of a fee to use their visitors' car park. The organisation is in the process of assessing the full extent of the car park running costs, and it is their intention that the income from the fee enables them to fully recover the costs. They are consulting with users, to gather their views on the level and structure of the charge. They will continue to provide free parking for holders of 'blue badges'.

The following figures set out the number of unique visitors to the National Archives at Kew in each of the last five years:

	Number of visitors
2004-05	103,257
2005-06	108,269
2006-07	110,323
2007-08	[1]92,855
2008-09	108,100

[1] Between October 2007 and April 2008 there was a reduced service at Kew to allow for the refurbishment of their public services.

Over the course of these years, the number of original documents delivered on site has averaged 600,000 per year. At the same time, there has been a significant increase in the number of documents delivered online which, by the end of March 2009, had reached over 110 million.

Repossession Orders: Mortgages

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mortgage possession orders were made in each county court in the east of England in each of the last five years. [286267]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made in the county courts of east of England Government office region for 2004 to 2008.

These figures can also be obtained from the Ministry of Justice website, released quarterly and can be viewed at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, geographical boundaries of county courts may not necessarily be consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries, and therefore any single court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a different number of boroughs.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made[2, 3] in the county courts of the east of England Government office region, 2004 to 2008

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Basildon	612	910	1,048	1,050	1,198
Bedford	186	311	269	293	309
Bury St. Edmunds	124	191	220	235	263
Cambridge	194	266	327	348	430
Chelmsford	226	355	381	382	484
Colchester	385	542	695	778	1,009
Harlow	183	258	310	335	379
Hertford	86	134	201	162	186
Hitchin	183	288	323	350	376
Huntingdon	121	153	229	174	232
Ipswich	224	287	358	328	421
King's Lynn	165	273	378	375	463
Lowestoft	197	297	284	286	388
Luton	458	718	858	820	946
Norwich	251	414	490	428	735
Peterborough	300	521	719	593	892
Southend-on-Sea	416	620	657	606	760
St. Albans	78	102	158	154	202
Watford	258	418	516	515	661
East	4,647	7,058	8,421	8,212	10,334

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.
[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[3] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Private Secretaries

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W, on Parliamentary Private Secretaries, when the new list of Parliamentary Private Secretaries will be published. [287297]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the right hon. Member on 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W.

TREASURY

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of his Department's (i) male employees and (ii) female employees was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287119]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table shows HM Treasury employees' average hourly pay. Figures are based on the numbers of full-time equivalent staff as at

1 April 2009 (the date of the most recent pay review). Employees at HM treasury are paid for 36 hours net per week.

Rangelgrade	Percentage men	Men's average hourly salary (£)	Percentage women	Women's average hourly salary (£)
B (AO)	26.9	10.15	73.1	10.63
C (EO)	41.8	12.35	58.2	12.88
D (HEO and SEO)	58.7	16.26	41.3	16.18
E (Grades 7 and 6)	62.6	26.01	37.4	25.16
SCSI (Grade 5)	54.3	34.05	45.7	33.97
SCS2 (Grade 3)	73.7	50.54	26.3	54.31
SCS3 (Grade 2 and above)	100.0	75.18	0.0	—

Departmental Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much it cost to produce each of his Department's publications in each of the last three years. [280772]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Separate publication costs within individual campaign costs or report on individual titles within total publications costs are not available. To provide such information would involve disproportionate costs.

Energy: Low Carbon

Alan Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral Statement of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 248 on the 2009 Budget, how much of the £405 million to support low-carbon energy production and advanced green manufacturing has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent by each (i) Department and (ii) programme. [286727]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Budget funding of £405 million was split as follows:

£250 million through BIS as part of the strategic investment fund

£155 million through DECC.

BIS

(a) Allocated up to £163.5 million comprising: up to £120 million for the development of the offshore wind industry; £29.5 million for marine energy infrastructure and test facilities; £10 million for low-carbon vehicle infrastructure; £4 million for the manufacturing advisory service. The low-carbon industrial strategy has more detail on these allocations.

(b) These programmes have just been announced, so no money has been spent yet.

DECC

(a) Allocated up to £81.2 million, comprising: up to £22.5 million for the marine energy proving fund; up to £10 million for the green villages, towns and cities challenge; up to £6 million renewable construction materials; up to £6 million for 'smart grid' innovation; up to £6 million for geothermal energy; up to £4 million for pay as you save pilots; up to £1.7 million for the Whitehall district heating scheme; up to £25 million towards the UK innovation investment fund. The Energy White paper and low-carbon industrial strategy have more detail on these allocations.

(b) These programmes have just been announced, so no money has been spent yet.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 248 on the 2009 Budget, if he will allocate a proportion of the £405 million in support of low-carbon energy production and advanced green manufacturing to phase 2 of the low-carbon buildings programme. [286728]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: £45 million of the £405 million has been made available to the low-carbon building programme. This funding has enabled phase two to be extended from 1 July 2009 until 30 April 2011 with a budget of £30 million. The extension will continue to provide grant funding to charitable, community groups and public-sector organisation projects.

Euro Steering Committee

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the euro steering committee of 6 June 2007. [287359]

Mr. Timms: The Government's policy on membership of the single currency remains unchanged. It remains as set out by the previous Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons in October 1997, and again in his statement on the five tests assessment in June 2003.

Financial Services: City of London

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid to City investment banks for advice on restructuring the financial sector in the last 12 months; and how many employees of such banks have been seconded to his Department to work on that restructuring. [279350]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury's accounting system does not separately identify spending with investments banks. The following table shows spending with companies in 2008-09 that are known to be investment banks, but this may not represent a complete list.

Organisation	£ 000
Deutsche Bank	41
Citigroup	1,922
Credit Suisse	6,365
Morgan Stanley	1,501

The figures are provisional as they form part of the Treasury's resource account, which is subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The majority of the sums listed relate to advice given to the Treasury on financial stability measures. Under a number of agreements with financial institutions, certain fees are recoverable and the sums listed do not therefore represent a net cost to the Treasury.

No record could be found of staff being seconded from the organisations listed to work on restructuring of the financial sector.

Financial Services: Regulation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that non-executive directors of banks and other financial institutions are not appointed by those bodies. [286629]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Company directors are accountable to shareholders for the execution of their duties under the Companies Act 2006. Shareholders are responsible for holding directors accountable for their performance and stewardship and decide whether to appoint or reappoint directors. The function of non-executive directors in banks and other financial institutions is being considered by Sir David Walker as part of his review of bank corporate governance. Sir David's consultation paper was published on 16 July 2009 and the Government will consider its recommendations carefully.

Imports

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consignments of goods were imported into the UK from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [287171]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. The Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories do not have a separate country of origin code from which HMRC can identify the imports concerned. Importers can only declare Israel or the occupied Palestinian territory as the country of origin on customs import declarations.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of goods exported from the UK to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [287172]

Mr. Timms: No estimate has been made. The Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories do not have a separate country code. Consequently, it is not possible for HMRC to identify the exports concerned. Exporters can only declare Israel or the occupied Palestinian territories as the country of destination on the customs export declaration.

Insurance: Motor Vehicles

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the merits of preventing car insurance companies under-settling claims through the practice of early settlement. [287060]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury on 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 979W.

Members: Correspondence

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter of 10 February 2009, ref 5/04229/2009, on banking bonuses from the hon. Member for Congleton on behalf of her constituent Mr. Pete Dobson. [280713]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the chief executive of HM Revenue and Customs plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 16 June 2009 on a constituent, case reference 1685132723. [287041]

Mr. Timms: The chief executive of HM Revenue and Customs will arrange for a reply to be sent to him no later than the week commencing 27 July 2009.

Nuclear Power: Costs

Alan Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average cost to households of Exchequer funding and allowances schemes provided for the nuclear industry in respect of *(a)* the production of nuclear energy and *(b)* nuclear waste disposal in each of the last three years. [278405]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

(a) There is no Exchequer funding and allowances schemes provided for the nuclear industry in respect of the production of nuclear energy.

(b) The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's mission to clean up and decommissioning the civil public nuclear legacy sites, which includes two operational Magnox nuclear power stations, is publicly funded through a mixture of direct government funding and commercial income from the remaining operational units on the legacy sites. The cost of delivering the NDA's mission is some £2.9 billion a year. The cost of the production of nuclear energy at the NDA's Oldbury and Wylfa sites is met through the income generated, with the balance used to offset the cost to the taxpayer of decommissioning the legacy.

In addition, as part of British Energy's financial restructuring in 2005, the Government took responsibility for British Energy's historic nuclear fuel liabilities managed by BNFL (now managed by NDA) at an average cost of some £200 million per annum for the first 10 years, and falling thereafter, until 2029. The Nuclear Liabilities Fund has also made payments related to the cost of nuclear waste disposal and decommissioning of £3.5 million in the year to 31 March 2009.

Pay: North East

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average earnings of people of working age was in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* the North East in each year since 1997. [286344]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average earnings of people of working age was in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside and (c) the North East in each year since 1997. (286344)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Estimates for people of working age would only be available at disproportionate cost, but we have provided average weekly earnings estimates for the breakdowns required for full-time and part-time employees.

Median gross weekly pay for full-time employee jobs[a]

£

	Jarrow parliamentary constituency	*South Tyneside local authority*	*North East*
1997	**290.4	*289.7	299.4
1998	**314.3	*314.7	302.4
1999	**324.3	*313.5	314.0
2000	*325.3	*335.7	329.3
2001	**350.9	*351.0	333.7
2002	*338.7	*325.6	344.8
2003	*314.4	*331.4	348.4
2004[b]	**335.3	*379.7	372.9
2004[c]	**368.3	*380.5	370.2
2005	*371.4	*369.7	383.7
2006[d]	**386.1	*383.8	398.1
2006[e]	**384.5	*384.9	394.8
2007	*382.8	*382.7	404.3
2008	**401.1	*408.5	420.6

Median gross weekly pay for part-time employee jobs[a]

£

	Jarrow parliamentary constituency	*South Tyneside local authority*	*North East*
1997	x—	**82.2	83.5
1998	x—	x—	84.6
1999	x—	**92.4	91.4
2000	x—	**90.3	95.0
2001	x—	**99.1	100.4
2002	x—	**109.2	110.8
2003	x—	**104.5	116.1
2004[b]	x—	**122.4	123.8
2004[c]	x—	**119.1	122.0
2005	x—	**125.7	127.3
2006[d]	**119.2	**105.3	132.8
2006[e]	x—	**107.6	132.9
2007	x—	**126.1	138.4
2008	**127.0	**140.7	143.0

Notes:

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

[b] 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003.

[c] 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve

[d] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2005.

[e] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2007.

Guide to quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key:

CV <= 5%

* CV > 5% and <= 10%

** CV > 10% and <= 20%

X CV > 20%

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics. 1997 to 2008

Public Bodies

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* terms of reference are and *(b)* timetable is for his Department's review of quangos; [286647]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent letter sent by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to Government departments on reviewing quangos. [286648]

Mr. Byrne: On 3 July 2009 I announced that a review of arm's length bodies would be taken forward as part of the public value programme. The pre-Budget report will provide a progress report on the public value programme.

Taxation: Imports

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been received by the Exchequer in duties collected from companies importing goods into the UK from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [287170]

Mr. Timms: In the 12 months ending 31 March 2009, HM Revenue and Customs have issued demands for £21,494 customs duty on products imported into the UK from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory under the provisions of the EC-Israel Association Agreement.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of adults over the age of 65 years she estimates were eligible for attendance allowance in *(a)* Vale of York and *(b)* England in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2008. [286004]

Jonathan Shaw: We are unable to estimate the percentage of adults over the age of 65 years who may be eligible for attendance allowance.

Carer's Allowance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department takes to monitor the adequacy of level of carer's allowance in meeting costs incurred by carers. [287926]

Jonathan Shaw: Carer's allowance provides a measure of financial support for carers who give up the chance of full-time employment in order to look after a severely disabled relative, friend or neighbour. It is an income-maintenance benefit and is not designed to cover any costs arising from a person's caring responsibilities.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 13 of the National Audit Office report, Child Support Agency—Implementation of the Child Support Reforms, HC1174, Session 2005-06, how many cases are now estimated to be stuck in the system. [279055]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to paragraph 13 of the National Audit Office report Child Support Agency—Implementation of the Child Support Reforms published on 30 June 2006 how many cases are now estimated to be stuck in the system. [279055]

The paragraph from the 2006 National Audit office report you have referenced sets out the Agency's estimate of the number of cases at the end of March 2006 affected by problems in the Agency's computer system which require cases to be progressed clerically. The Commission continues to publish information on the number of cases which are processed wholly clerically in Table 20 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics; a copy of which is available in the House of Commons library, or online at:

www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

The number of cases the Agency managed wholly clerically at the end of March 2009 was 60,000. Although the need to progress such cases clerically is not ideal, they should not be seen as stuck as around £1 million in child maintenance is now collected each week for these cases.

Upgrades to the Agency's computer system one of which was also mentioned in paragraph 13 of the National Audit Office report and implemented successfully in September 2008 have reduced the incidence of cases being affected by problems and made it possible to identify and address problems more easily. At the end of March 2009, an estimated 27,500 cases which remain on the computer system also require partial clerical action to keep maintenance flowing to children. As the Agency continues to improve its client service, increasing the number of cases receiving maintenance, any additional cases identified are immediately investigated and either progressed clerically or the issue is resolved to allow the case to be wholly managed by the Agency's computer system.

The number of cases managed clerically will therefore continue to rise in the medium term and information on the numbers so progressed will be published.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* debt and *(b)* cumulative debt resulting from arrears attributed to the non-resident parent accrued to the Child Support Agency in each year since 1993. [279844]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much (a) debt and (b) cumulative debt resulting from arrears attributed to the non-resident parent accrued to the Child Support Agency in each year since 1993. [279844]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission regularly publish information on the amount of child maintenance arrears outstanding at the end of each year as well as the overall growth in debt each year in Table 22 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). This information is only available from April 1999.

The latest copy of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

The information that you have requested on the amount of arrears accruing in each year is not included in this table and the Agency can only provide an estimate for each year from March 2007. The attached table sets out both the estimated amount of new child maintenance arrears accruing in each year and the estimated amount by which arrears have been reduced. Arrears can be reduced either through repayment or where information has been provided to allow the case to be reassessed and the amount of arrears subsequently restated.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Maintenance Arrears

	March		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Arrears total (£ billion)	3.67	3.79	3.84
Arrears increase (£ million)	n/a	484	405
Arrears reduction (£ million)	n/a	-363	-362

Notes:

1. Movement in arrears components is based on an estimate from internal figures and is only available from March 2007, so only two years of information can be provided.
2. Arrears on each case have been calculated in the year to March 2007, March 2008 and March 2009. From this, each case has been classified as seeing an increase or a decrease in arrears across each year. The value of this increase or reduction has also been calculated.
3. This will only take into account the net arrears movement across the year and may miss some payments that have subsequently been cancelled out by further increases in debt within the year.
4. The figures for March 2009 are at the time of answering this question un-audited internal figures and are subject to revision which will be published in the CSA Annual Report and Accounts for 2008-09.

Departmental Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests for communications data were made by her Department and its agencies to communication service providers (CSPs) under section 1 of the Social Security Fraud Act 2001 in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006, *(g)* 2007 and *(h)* 2008; and how many of these requests resulted in the requested communications data being disclosed by the relevant CSP. [284874]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* The information requested is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit claims were made by residents in each London local authority in 2007-08; and how many of these were made in respect of *(a)* private sector tenancies, *(b)* social rented tenancies, *(c)* in-work claims by private tenants and *(d)* in-work claims by social tenants. [284714]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

Number of housing benefit claimants by tenure: Great Britain, London local authorities, August 2007

	Housing benefit claimants	*Housing benefit claimants with private tenancies*	*Housing benefit claimants with social rented tenancies*
Great Britain	4,040,940	940,600	3,100,350
London	698,340	155,340	543,010
Barking	18,410	3,530	14,880
Barnet	21,780	8,830	12,950
Bexley	11,620	2,780	8,850
Brent	28,230	8,210	20,020
Bromley	15,860	3,880	11,980
Camden	27,990	4,090	23,900
City of London	1,170	70	1,100
Croydon	26,690	10,510	16,190
Ealing	24,610	7,000	17,610
Enfield	25,090	9,650	15,450
Greenwich	25,310	3,750	21,560
Hackney	35,010	5,460	29,540
Hammersmith and Fulham	20,380	3,190	17,190
Haringey	30,980	8,070	22,920
Harrow	12,490	3,650	8,840
Havering	11,160	2,530	8,630
Hillingdon	15,970	4,280	11,690
Hounslow	17,070	3,830	13,240
Islington	28,840	2,210	26,630
Kensington and Chelsea	16,060	2,700	13,360
Kingston upon Thames	7,250	2,010	5,230
Lambeth	35,070	5,230	29,840
Lewisham	29,100	6,050	23,050
Merton	10,570	2,470	8,100
Newham	33,520	9,440	24,080
Redbridge	14,630	5,690	8,940
Richmond upon Thames	8,080	1,900	6,170
Southwark	34,560	3,180	31,380
Sutton	9,740	2,600	7,140
Tower Hamlets	32,040	2,530	29,510
Waltham Forest	22,140	6,090	16,050
Wandsworth	23,200	5,430	17,770
Westminster	23,730	4,510	19,220

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Housing benefit figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. case load stock-count taken in August 2007.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average housing benefit payment was in each London local authority area in respect of *(a)* private and *(b)* social rented accommodation in 2007-08. [284715]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the following table.

Average weekly amount of housing benefit by tenure: Great Britain, London local authorities, August 2007

£

	Average amount of weekly housing benefit for:	
	Private tenancies	*Social rented tenancies*
Great Britain	89.87	65.84
London	146.39	98.50
Barking	139.46	80.93
Barnet	156.51	101.78
Bexley	126.23	87.71
Brent	156.49	118.91
Bromley	130.08	86.42
Camden	156.82	100.86
City of London	135.93	83.43
Croydon	137.64	86.59
Ealing	151.34	110.77
Enfield	144.75	113.53
Greenwich	125.21	78.15
Hackney	151.74	90.88
Hammersmith and Fulham	156.85	97.79
Haringey	131.86	121.78
Harrow	163.10	109.31
Havering	114.10	71.75

Average weekly amount of housing benefit by tenure: Great Britain, London local authorities, August 2007

£

	Average amount of weekly housing benefit for:	
	Private tenancies	*Social rented tenancies*
Hillingdon	140.75	108.43
Hounslow	139.06	86.48
Islington	141.71	90.18
Kensington and Chelsea	196.59	109.51
Kingston upon Thames	144.90	99.91
Lambeth	122.30	91.09
Lewisham	158.32	81.54
Merton	153.14	78.64
Newham	137.18	132.60
Redbridge	140.82	132.35
Richmond upon Thames	149.38	88.76
Southwark	127.50	80.78
Sutton	133.38	77.90
Tower Hamlets	161.49	97.04
Waltham Forest	115.44	91.93
Wandsworth	192.46	97.76
Westminster	197.87	135.70

Notes:
1. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
2. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
3. Average amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
4. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. case load stock-count taken in August 2007.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment Schemes

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants started a work trial in each of the last six months. [282443]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what proportion of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants started a Work Trial in each of the last six months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Please find attached at Annex 1 the number of JSA customers who started Work Trials compared to the number of customers claiming JSA in each of the last six months.

Work Trials and other successful policy interventions have contributed to an average of 269,000 people leaving JSA each month in the past 6 months.

Annex 1—proportion of JSA customers who started a work trial

Month	*Number of JSA customers starting work trial*	*Number of customers claiming JSA*	*Proportion of JSA work trial starts (percentage)*
December 2008	1,397	1,117,540	0.001
January 2009	1,491	1,243,085	0.001
February 2009	1,967	1,416,238	0.001
March 2009	2,365	1,478,222	0.002
April 2009	1,845	1,510,781	0.001
May 2009	2,837	1,516,952	0.002

Source:
BOXI management information, NOMIS

Pensioners: Poverty

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point were in relative poverty in each of the last five years. [275487]

Angela Eagle: The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region.

PSA17 includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

Latest information for east of England, Government office region, is based on three year averages. There were around 0.2 million pensioners in the east of England below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income threshold between 2001-04 and 2005-07. During the same period, around 0.1 million pensioners in the east of England were below 50 per cent. of contemporary median income threshold.

However, between 2001-04 and 2005-07, the percentage of pensioners in the east of England being below the 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, after housing costs, has fallen from 25 per cent. to 16 per cent. The number of pensioners in relative poverty has remained unchanged due to the increase in the pensioner population in the east of England.

Social Security Benefits

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value of all benefit payments made to residents of *(a)* the Vale of York and *(b)* England was in (i) 1980, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2001, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2008. [287416]

Helen Goodman: The requested information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average annual sum lost as a result of benefit fraud in

Alicante; what the objectives of her Department's campaign against benefit fraud in Alicante are; and if she will make a statement. [277049]

Helen Goodman: Information relating to the annual sum lost as a result of benefit fraud in Alicante is not available.

There are estimated to be over a million British people living in Spain, and while the vast majority are law abiding citizens, there will unfortunately be a small minority committing benefit fraud. The objectives of our campaign in Spain are:

To raise awareness of fraud abroad; and,

to track down benefit thieves abroad.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer question 274721, tabled on 12 May 2009, on maintenance payments. [278038]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 52W.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to provide a substantive answer to Question 274721, tabled on 7 May 2009, on child maintenance. [283746]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 52W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Calais

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the objectives were of the Minister for Immigration's recent visit to Calais; and if he will make a statement. [285930]

Mr. Woolas: The UK continues to face significant pressure from illegal migrants attempting to reach our shores from the Channel and North sea coast of France. This continuous pressure calls for determined, mutual effort to tackle illegal immigration by the UK and France.

At the UK-France summit in Evian on 6 July, the UK agreed to invest a further £15 million to strengthen United Kingdom border controls at Calais, and other juxtaposed controls in France. The French and British Governments declared a joint commitment to effect a significant increase in enforced return of illegal migrants through their national programmes and through joint returns activity as appropriate.

A copy of the Franco-British declaration on Immigration has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [276446]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has not outsourced any of its services within the last five years.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each *(a)* database and *(b)* ICT system run by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [286554]

(2) how many successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each *(a)* database and *(b)* ICT system run by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286555]

Mr. Woolas: The security policy framework, the data handling report and the national information assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures to which Departments must adhere.

It is not in the interest of the security of the department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information relating to electronic breaches of security of departmental IT systems. Disclosing such information would carry a significant risk of enabling criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice not to comment on such incidents.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284391]

Mr. Woolas: In line with the Hannigan recommendations, the Home Office holds a register of information assets. Any Home Office information asset register/database which contains personal data adheres to the Data Protection Act.

The information requested would require contacting each information asset owner and asking them to provide any relevant information as appropriate. To identify accurately all Home Office information databases and their uses which do not contain personal information would take significant resource time to undertake and complete. This information can therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what categories of personal information on members of the public are contained on each database which contains such data managed by his Department and its agencies; when each category of information was first collected; and if he will make a statement; [284897]

(2) what databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if he will make a statement; [285973]

(3) which of the planned databases that will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will hold personal information on members of the public are expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [286146]

(4) what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each of his Department's and its agency's databases expected to become operational in the next five years; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286497]

Mr. Woolas: In line with the Hannigan recommendations, the Home Office holds a register of information assets. Any Home Office information asset register/database which contains personal data adheres to the Data Protection Act.

The information requested would require contacting each information asset owner and asking them to provide any relevant information as appropriate. To identify accurately all Home Office databases and categories of personal information would take significant resource time to undertake and complete. The information requested can therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286171]

Mr. Woolas: There is not a central register of these items as they are purchased by local business units and to provide an answer to this question would incur costs in excess of the threshold.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285013]

Mr. Woolas: For Home Office core, the United Kingdom Border Agency and the Criminal Records Bureau, there is a project under way that includes the upgrade from Internet Explorer 6; the current timing for this part of the project is February 2010.

IPS has recently signed a 10-year application and enrolment contract with Computer Science Corporation for the provision of IT services including desktop. As part of this contract, there is an 18-month programme called "Technical Transformation" within which there are several components including the roll-out of a new standard desktop.

Deployment of this new desktop, which includes Internet Explorer 7, is due to take place in a phased approach around the middle of 2010. A precise date for the start of this new desktop roll-out has not yet been agreed.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281056]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office can provide information on lost and stolen laptops only from 2005 onwards. In 2005, 14 laptops were lost/stolen but it has not been possible to provide a breakdown of this figure by Department/agency. The remaining information requested is set out in the following table:

Lost/stolen laptops

	Home Office core	UKBA	IPS	CRB
2006	5	8	1	0
2007	6	8	1	0
2008	8	13	8	0

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274458]

Mr. Woolas: Reports of losses by civil servants and special advisers are not recorded separately.

Blackberries

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Ministers	[1]	0	0	0
Civil Servants and Special Advisers	[1]	8	9	[1]

Mobiles

	2005	2006	2007
Ministers	0	0	0
Civil Servants and Special Advisers	26	7	43

[1] Less than 5. Where there have been less than five such cases it is the policy of the Home Office to suppress this information on grounds of confidentiality.

The figures for lost mobile telephones in 2008 are currently unavailable and we will inform the hon. Member when available.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of his Department's capital underspend in 2009-10; and how much of that sum he proposes to return to the Exchequer. [284334]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office, as with other Departments, has regular discussions with the Treasury about its financial needs. These discussions cover the financial challenges facing the Department and include the resources associated with major programmes and whether there may be the risk of either over or underspending.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281519]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested on paid and unpaid graduate internships is not currently recorded centrally in the Home Office or its agencies. Internships are authorised and organised locally by managers in business units.

The Home Office provides around 30 placements annually, during July through September, to graduates and undergraduates who are from a minority ethnic background and/or have a registered disability, through the civil service fast stream summer placement schemes. They are paid an allowance at executive officer minimum rate.

Deportation: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals resident in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley were deported in each of the last five years; and how many of those had committed a crime in the UK. [286697]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide them with all the robust and accurate information available relating to foreign national criminals. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

Deportation: Democratic Republic of Congo

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports his Department has received on the safety of deportees removed to the Democratic Republic of Congo in the last two years. [280763]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The UK Border Agency continually monitors the situation in asylum claimants' countries of origin by making reference to a wide range of authoritative, publicly available sources.

In addition, the UK Border Agency works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that it has the best available information. The British embassy in Kinshasa speaks regularly with a network of local contacts about the treatment of failed asylum seekers on return to the Democratic Republic of Congo and will make inquiries about any specific allegations that arise. This network includes Congolese non-governmental organisations, Congolese civil servants and Government Ministers, and colleagues from other embassies in Kinshasa.

Entry Clearances

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the visa enquiry section of the British Consulate in Cairo plans to reply to the correspondence from the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West of 11 June 2009 on Manal Mohmed Abdalla. [282941]

Mr. Woolas: Visa staff at our visa section in Cairo have no record of receiving a letter from the hon. Member concerning Miss Abdalla. The only letter from the hon. Member visa staff have seen was part of an appeal bundle received from the applicant, addressed to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in the UK. The AIT is independent of the UK Border Agency and handles its own correspondence.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what explanation his Department has received from the British High Commission in Delhi on its refusal to issue a visa to Harvinder Singh Bhandal, ref 2572710; and whether his Department has issued further guidance to the High Commission on this case subsequent to the initial approval of the application. [284306]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* I have seen the reasons for refusal as set out in the refusal notice, which in my view is comprehensive.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the decision to refuse entry clearance to Mr McDonald Adolphus Lewis, ref GV100/145918; and if he will make a statement. [285664]

Mr. Woolas: I regret to inform the hon. Member that any information contained in applications to the Home Office is treated as being confidential and is not normally disclosed to third parties. This is, of course, unless they are authorised representatives of the applicant. I hope that you will understand that this is not a question of secrecy for its own sake, but simply a matter of protecting the privacy of the individual.

My Department is writing in confidence separately to the hon. Member.

Entry Clearances: Applications

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications were *(a)* received, *(b)* issued and *(c)* refused in each year from 1997 to 2008. [267773]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the visa statistics published in UK Visas' annual reports for the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08, available on our Visa Services website at:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Reliable data are not held for previous years.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for overseas student visas from people of each nationality were refused in each month (a) since 31 March 2009 and (b) between 31 March 2008 and 30 March 2009. [280661]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* The following table details how many applications for overseas student visas from people of each nationality were refused in each month *(a)* since 31 March 2009 and *(b)* between 31 March 2008 and 30 March 2009.

	Reporting period																
	2008										2009						
Nationality	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Grand total
Afghanistan	15	47	28	27	30	45	33	31	20	23	31	15	14	21	6	8	394
Albania	13	35	7	15	30	38	38	21	11	21	12	11	5	3	6	10	276
Algeria	22	24	13	6	22	28	72	14	31	85	80	42	37	21	7	8	512
Andorra	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Angola	0	5	5	1	2	15	15	16	12	8	16	12	10	3	12	3	135
Anguilla	—	—	—	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Argentina	5	1	1	3	2	0	3	2	7	3	2	3	4	3	4	4	47
Armenia	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	5	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	17
Australia	2	0	0	1	6	11	10	2	3	4	6	1	1	2	6	25	80
Azerbaijan	0	4	2	0	5	5	7	8	1	9	5	1	0	1	0	5	53
Bahamas	—	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	6	12
Bahrain	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	3	12
Bangladesh	571	624	570	516	573	557	800	364	236	131	302	1,042	765	454	62	81	7,648
Barbados	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	5	2	4	1	2	1	2	2	26
Belarus	7	12	17	19	12	19	11	11	7	12	9	8	10	3	2	12	171
Belize	—	0	—	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	2
Benin	1	0	2	1	6	2	7	3	3	2	7	3	1	2	1	3	44
Bhutan	—	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	—	1	0	0	0	—	—	0	5
Bolivia	3	2	5	3	2	1	5	4	8	12	8	4	6	6	6	10	85
Bosnia And Herzegovina	1	1	0	1	3	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
Botswana	17	13	17	13	13	16	16	11	3	3	8	3	4	1	0	0	138
Brazil	131	84	91	69	98	102	75	67	101	44	113	66	108	71	136	117	1473
British Citizen	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	5
British Dependent Territories Citizen	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
British National Overseas	2	3	4	4	11	22	22	5	2	7	22	0	2	4	7	12	129
British Overseas Citizen	0	1	—	—	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
British Protected Person	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Brunei	0	—	—	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	—	0	0	8
Bulgaria	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Burkina	0	0	2	1	1	4	3	1	0	3	0	0	2	—	—	0	17
Burma (Myanmar)	22	18	13	22	12	17	32	13	8	22	33	14	6	4	18	2	256
Burundi	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	—	—	0	8
Cambodia	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	3	9
Cameroon	49	64	37	51	38	122	247	120	52	78	83	33	59	13	12	35	1093
Canada	2	3	2	2	4	8	16	7	1	6	4	2	4	0	10	26	97
Cape Verde	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	—	—	1	—	2	0	—	—	5
Cayman Islands	0	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Central African Republic	1	1	0	—	0	0	—	1	0	2	0	0	1	—	0	0	6
Chad	0	1	1	—	0	0	2	1	2	2	2	1	—	—	1	0	13
Chile	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	5	2	10	6	1	2	34
China	480	542	546	584	838	1,134	1,223	499	482	535	503	318	250	294	445	317	8990
Colombia	46	66	37	71	81	82	95	45	44	55	61	54	110	74	168	108	1,197
Comoros	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	0	1	1	—	—	0	—	—	5
Congo	13	13	7	8	8	19	42	35	24	22	18	14	11	8	3	3	248
Costa Rica	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	1	0	0	—	—	0	1
Croatia	1	2	3	3	3	0	4	1	0	0	4	2	3	1	0	0	27

	Reporting period																
	2008										2009						
Nationality	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Grand total
Cuba	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	20
Cyprus	—	—	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	—	1	—	—	1	6
Czech Republic	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	3	1	8	6	8	17	12	7	2	5	4	6	2	4	1	4	90
Denmark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0
Djibouti	—	—	—	—	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	—	—	6
Dominica	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	—	0	1	0	8
Dominican Republic	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	2	0	1	13
Ecuador	10	7	13	12	12	6	10	12	0	19	15	9	4	5	5	23	162
Egypt	7	14	8	9	19	28	35	24	3	5	21	15	16	25	29	36	294
El Salvador	—	—	—	0	1	0	0	—	0	0	0	2	—	0	0	0	3
Equatorial Guinea	0	1	1	1	—	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	—	—	0	11
Eritrea	0	0	1	3	2	3	1	1	0	2	1	4	4	0	—	—	22
Estonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ethiopia	2	2	2	1	2	10	23	2	5	5	2	4	3	1	1	7	72
Fiji	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	1	0	—	—	—	10
Gabon	2	0	—	2	—	0	8	5	4	2	3	1	3	1	—	—	31
Gambia	20	54	18	41	53	71	130	61	15	40	144	52	55	11	25	24	814
Georgia	21	22	10	8	18	24	25	32	20	12	26	35	16	21	3	9	302
Ghana	63	68	57	71	134	217	397	146	50	65	152	68	63	16	12	23	1,602
Greece	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	0
Grenada	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	—	1	0	1	10
Guatemala	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	—	—	3
Guinea	15	12	8	10	7	16	22	25	22	16	8	12	21	2	6	3	205
Guinea-Bissau	2	0	0	0	3	4	2	1	0	0	0	1	—	—	—	—	13
Guyana	1	1	0	0	1	0	7	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	17
Haiti	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	1		0	—	1	1	8
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	1	—	—	0	1	2
Hong Kong	3	2	0	8	9	16	19	6	0	4	8	0	1	7	14	27	124
Iceland	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
India	616	721	707	662	983	1,263	1,761	1,127	829	751	1,857	2,127	1,106	1168	851	2,050	18579
Indonesia	1	5	3	7	9	6	6	9	3	3	12	2	2	11	2	9	90
Iran	123	79	51	77	80	82	111	126	79	118	101	110	102	87	59	64	1,449
Iraq	22	24	7	14	18	20	15	18	13	15	6	5	7	6	6	19	215
Israel	5	7	8	6	9	4	14	9	5	0	7	3	1	1	2	3	84
Italy	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0
Ivory Coast	8	15	13	11	6	11	27	15	14	15	20	14	18	4	6	3	200
Jamaica	4	4	12	5	15	14	39	12	2	5	4	6	5	2	0	6	135
Japan	5	2	0	3	1	8	5	3	3	4	5	4	6	9	243	128	429
Jordan	14	11	10	3	11	25	29	16	10	10	9	2	4	7	8	6	175
Kazakhstan	7	7	5	1	24	37	27	22	2	6	12	14	13	16	11	23	227
Kenya	27	22	10	17	37	93	151	38	18	39	53	18	21	13	3	7	567
Kiribati	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1	0	1
Korea (North)	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	—	—	0	—	—	0	0
Kosovo	0	—	—	0	0	0	0	—	—	0	7	3	4	5	7	3	29
Kuwait	2	2	1	3	2	36	43	25	3	6	9	1	2	8	16	22	181
Kyrgyzstan	15	6	6	6	14	13	11	13	3	11	11	9	27	7	3	7	162
Laos	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lebanon	6	9	1	1	10	9	13	11	6	3	6	6	3	1	6	5	96
Lesotho	—	—	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	10
Liberia	2	2	0	0	0	5	5	4	3	1	1	0	0	1		0	24
Libya	63	73	43	48	69	66	82	65	43	59	63	102	112	120	180	70	1,258
Macau	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	—	0	1	0	0	—	—	—	9
Macedonia	0	2	12	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	8	31

	Reporting period																
	2008										2009						
Nationality	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Grand total
Madagascar	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	9
Malawi	53	29	21	31	39	64	69	40	17	47	27	19	16	6	4	3	485
Malaysia	36	54	49	52	105	176	200	52	35	41	33	28	26	29	81	61	1,058
Maldives	2	0	3	0	7	8	3	1	1	2	2	7	0	1	2	3	42
Mali	7	2	2	4	3	5	0	5	6	9	3	7	2	1	5	2	63
Mauritania	1	0	—	0	0	5	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	3	17
Mauritius	52	49	17	34	33	65	78	31	15	39	35	38	24	11	10	13	544
Mexico	6	32	12	14	33	16	59	2	23	18	20	11	6	6	6	90	354
Moldova	13	4	7	6	7	13	13	14	10	8	3	2	10	2	3	6	121
Monaco	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	0
Mongolia	108	107	57	54	69	102	103	73	72	33	81	59	16	46	7	36	1,023
Montenegro	—	—	—	—	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	—	0	1	5
Morocco	5	4	2	9	2	24	21	12	14	9	17	10	10	15	40	20	214
Mozambique	2	5	4	0	6	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	24
Namibia	1	0	0	0	3	5	3	1	1	3	2	3	1	0	1	0	24
Nauru	0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nepal	330	169	151	129	121	171	136	97	48	44	149	82	61	29	55	298	2,070
New Zealand	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	2	7	20
Nicaragua	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	—	—	0	—	4
Niger	1	2	1	1	4	2	6	6	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	33
Nigeria	988	777	708	646	2,447	3,033	4,823	1,311	961	1,810	2,542	1,336	1,188	673	315	333	2,2704
Niue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0
Norway	0	—	—	—	—	1	0	—	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	—	1
Oman	—	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	1	3	0	4	1	0	1	0	1	21
Palestinian Authority	1,245	2,141	1,608	885	1,506	2,061	2,737	2,385	1,637	1,239	3,063	2,953	2,080	1,886	356	376	2,7288
Panama	—	—	—	0	—	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0
Papua New Guinea	0	1	0	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	14
Paraguay	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	—	—	1	0	—	—	—	—	1
Peru	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	1	1	0	—	—	—	2
Philippines	12	6	6	5	10	5	5	3	4	17	12	5	8	9	12	28	147
Pitcairn Islands	99	192	172	145	256	388	597	505	724	484	580	489	586	351	397	174	6,079
Poland	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Portugal	—	0	1	—	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Qatar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Refugee (Art 1 1951 Convention)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	10	13	9	37
Romania	—	—	0	0	2	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Russia	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	0
Rwanda	24	62	40	49	68	97	129	71	52	75	58	45	60	28	23	42	923
San Marino	0	1	2	1	3	4	6	1	0	4	3	5	3	1	1	0	35
Sao Tome and Principe	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Saudi Arabia	—	0	—	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	—	—	6
Senegal	5	15	16	11	33	19	31	12	12	7	13	27	34	32	193	251	711
Serbia	16	15	9	3	16	[redacted]	15	21	4	30	33	13	17	4	13	8	231
Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	6
Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	1	0	1	0	1	0	—	1	4
Singapore	23	28	20	15	22	60	68	36	16	34	46	30	22	9	11	6	446
Solomon Islands	0	4	2	5	24	49	25	6	2	3	5	3	6	2	4	8	148
Somalia	—	—	—	0	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
South Africa	0	0	—	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	—	2	12
	27	31	22	25	40	82	57	29	8	8	13	15	12	5	3	8	385

	Reporting period																
	2008										2009						
Nationality	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Grand total
South Korea	40	72	35	59	135	145	157	68	46	59	67	74	34	74	167	120	1353
Sri Lanka	231	179	190	307	137	173	545	156	233	251	278	553	179	456	313	364	4,546
St. Kitts And Nevis	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	0	0	—	0
St. Lucia	1	0	1	2	2	3	6	3	2	4	0	1	1	0	0	2	28
St. Vincent	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	0		0	3	0	0	0	0	1	10
Stateless (Art. 1 1951 Convention)	1	0	1	1	2	0	5	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	18
Sudan	7	7	6	8	19	20	26	17	6	3	15	10	12	7	20	19	202
Surinam	—	—	—	—	1	0	—	—	—	0	—	—	0	—	—	—	1
Swaziland	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	—	—	—	—	—	8
Switzerland	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Syria	8	11	7	12	15	26	34	25	34	18	16	21	18	6	12	10	273
Taiwan	1	2	1	1	2	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	4	5	9	31
Tajikistan	1	1	0	0	4	3	4	6	1	3	1	2	1	2	0	1	30
Tanzania	21	38	40	28	34	102	193	112	86	68	121	57	61	18	3	10	992
Thailand	59	71	76	112	129	92	121	100	64	62	87	86	78	63	74	122	1,396
Togo	1	2	0	4	3	3	7	3	1	4	2	2	2	0	0	0	34
Tonga	—	—	—	1	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	1
Trinidad And Tobago	0	2	4	1	5	1	5	4	2	10	4	2	3	1	2	10	56
Tunisia	2	1	3	0	4	4	5	11	2	4	2	2	3	7	3	5	58
Turkey	157	74	125	109	122	142	194	173	102	133	163	178	252	67	128	106	2,225
Turkmenistan	8	26	9	6	8	7	21	17	28	15	4	15	10	2	9	1	186
Tuvalu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Uganda	34	30	25	24	52	94	129	100	36	41	88	53	61	26	12	21	826
Ukraine	25	58	10	21	26	43	44	31	16	17	13	12	18	9	10	19	372
United Arab Emirates	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	5	2	2	0	0	7	2	2	28
United Nations	—	—	—	—	0	0	—	—	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	0
United States	5	14	19	32	45	40	54	24	18	79	62	19	15	48	157	224	855
Unspecified Nationality	12	5	3	5	11	11	11	9	6	6	9	5	2	3	0	2	100
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	—	0	2	1	5
Uzbekistan	87	131	257	169	331	70	60	174	82	74	47	171	86	14	18	18	1789
Vanuatu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0
Venezuela	5	4	2	6	5	12	15	10	0	15	12	12	16	3	22	21	160
Vietnam	26	28	16	26	50	69	90	51	35	44	28	33	14	21	18	24	573
Western Samoa	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
XXC	—	0	0	—	1	0	1	0	0	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
XXH	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	4	11
XXP	4	11	7	8	7	18	14	12	6	6	3	13	6	3	3	2	123
Yemen	11	17	7	8	12	16	19	13	14	19	8	25	12	16	8	12	217
Yugoslavia	3	4	2	6	6	4	4	2	5	2	5	5	6	2	1	1	58
Zambia	23	32	24	24	15	36	53	22	9	27	24	18	17	10	12	7	353
Zimbabwe	26	28	20	47	53	104	95	53	19	41	36	38	34	15	20	13	642
Grand total	6,253	7,336	6,258	5,627	9,457	1,2087	1,6151	9,067	6,673	7,324	1,1782	1,0705	8,206	5,728	4,968	6,349	13,3971

Note:
The data is unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
CRS data 13 July 2009

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for a work permit on the basis of an intra-company transfer in respect of non-UK nationals were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in the first two quarters of 2009. [286458]

Mr. Woolas: The table shows the number of work permit applications made and approved for intra-company transfers in the first two quarters of 2009.

	Q1	Q2	Total
Applications made	530	515	1,045
Applications approved	435	510	945

Notes:
1. Number of individual work permit intra-company transfer applications received in each quarter during the period 1 January 2004 to 30 June 2009 and of those how many where approved.
2. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
3. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Foreign Workers: Immigration Control

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU workers were given leave to remain *(a)* as skilled workers under mechanisms in place prior to the implementation of the points-based immigration system and *(b)* under Tier 2 of the points-based immigration system in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available. [285848]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Information relating to non-EU workers given leave to remain as skilled workers prior to the introduction of the points-based system is set out in the table.

Information on the points-based system will be published in August.

Figure 1: Number of non-EU HSMP and work permit LTR applications approved from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2009 by quarter

Quarter	HSMP LTR	Work permit LTR	Total
2006 Qtr 3	5,985	11,460	17,450
2006 Qtr 4	7,065	14,375	21,435
2007 Qtr 1	6,880	11,890	18,770
2007 Qtr 2	4,385	9,705	14,095
2007 Qtr 3	4,350	11,555	15,905
2007 Qtr 4	4,760	10,815	15,580
2008 Qtr 1	4,370	8,645	13,015
2008 Qtr 2	780	9,615	10,395
2008 Qtr 3	25	11,120	11,145
2008 Qtr 4	20	11,200	11,220
2009 Qtr 1	*	6,060	6,065
2009 Qtr 2	*	740	745
Total	38,625	117,190	155,815

* Indicates 1 or 2
"—" Indicates nil
Notes:
Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Forensic Science: Police

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces operate in-house forensic science services; and if he will make a statement. [283594]

Mr. Alan Campbell: All police forces use a mixture of in-house services and those provided by external forensic suppliers to carry out forensic work. For example, crime scene investigators, who will generally be employed by a force, may find fingerprints and material which may carry traces of DNA. The fingerprints are compared with IDENT1, the national fingerprint computer system, which produces a shortlist of possible matches. The shortlist is then examined by fingerprint experts who work for the force Fingerprint Bureau to confirm a match. Analysis of material to produce DNA profiles is done by forensic suppliers rather than in-house. In other areas of forensic work, the balance between in-house and external services will vary depending on the nature of the material examined and decisions made by forces. Details of the position in each police force are not held centrally.

Human Trafficking

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of human trafficking have been recorded in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the north-east in each year since 1997. [285323]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre indicate that within the UK there have been a total of 384 people dealt with by the criminal justice system on arrest for human trafficking. A total of 106 people have been arrested for trafficking for sexual exploitation, three for conspiracy to traffic and seven for trafficking for forced labour.

Of these, seven people have to date been arrested within the north-east with two convicted of human trafficking.

Identity Cards

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make available to hon. Members on request a provisional identity card document to enable passport-free travel to and from other EU member states. [284693]

Mr. Woolas: From autumn 2009, we will issue voluntary identity cards valid for travel in Europe to airside workers at Manchester and London City airports and to British citizens aged 16 and over resident in Greater Manchester at a fee of £30.

We intend then to extend the rollout of identity cards to the rest of the north-west in the new year and from 2012 we will start to issue identity cards in high volumes alongside passports, offering everyone the choice of being issued with an identity card or a passport or both documents.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants entered the UK under tier 2 of the points-based system in 2008. [278550]

Mr. Woolas: During 2008, a total of 91 visas were issued to non-EEA nationals for entry to the UK under tier 2 of the points-based system. Tier 2 was introduced on 27 November 2008.

These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have been prevented from entering the UK on grounds of *(a)* national security, *(b)* unacceptable behaviour, *(c)* public order and *(d)* serious criminality since July 2005. [283783]

Mr. Woolas: A decision to prevent entry to the UK may be made at the entry clearance application stage, or when a person arrives at the port of entry. Additionally, prevention of entry on grounds of criminality may include foreign national prisoners who have either been deported from, or removed and subsequently excluded from, the United Kingdom.

There are no centrally held records that encompass the total number of foreign nationals who have been prevented from entering the UK, but I can confirm that since July 2005 the Home Secretary has excluded 163 individuals from the UK on the grounds of national security and 106 individuals on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour.

I can also confirm that 2,852 individuals were refused entry at the UK border on non-conducive grounds between 2005 and 2008. Figures for 2009 will not be published until the end of year.

Immigration: Biometrics

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which British diplomatic posts *(a)* have and *(b)* do not have biometric identification facilities. [277753]

Mr. Woolas: There are both British diplomatic missions and biometric collection facilities in the following countries:

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bosnia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq[1], Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, United States, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

There are British diplomatic missions but no biometric collection (or visa issuing) facilities in the following countries: Afghanistan, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Guinea, Kosovo.

[1] Iraq: Baghdad and Erbil operate a limited biometric capture facility for specified categories of applicant.

Police: Badge Numbers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department issues guidance to police authorities on the display of badge numbers by police officers at public protests. [283347]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 1 July 2009]:* All police officers are subject to the standards of professional behaviour that are set out in the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008. These regulations set out the standards of behaviour expected of police officers and include the requirement that officers abide by police regulations, force policies and lawful orders.

Any breach of the standards may lead to disciplinary action being taken against an officer, which in the most serious cases can result in dismissal from the service.

UK Border Agency: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 459-62W, on the UK Border Agency: public consultation, how many management consultancies have held contracts with the UK Border Agency in the last three years. [282423]

Mr. Woolas: Over the last three years, 36 management consultancies have held contracts with the UK Border Agency. This number excludes any consultancies providing services via the civil service wide contractual framework agreements or through the Office of Government Commerce, as this would not amount to a contract held with the UK Border Agency. Information on those arrangements could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency: Lost Property

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many laptops have been recorded lost, stolen or missing from the UK Border Agency and its predecessor organisations in each of the last three years; how many have subsequently been recovered; and how many of these incidents have happened following a breach of guidelines issued by his Department. [251926]

Mr. Woolas: Figures on the number of laptops stolen, lost or missing from the UK Border Agency for the years when information is available, are provided in the following table:

	Lost/stolen/missing	*Recovered*
2006	8	0
2007	8	0
2008	13	5
Total	29	5

To provide information on how many of these incidents took place following a breach of Home Office guidelines would require a review of each individual report, including validation with the individual and the business area involved. It is likely that this would take significant resource time to undertake and complete and could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 20 July 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers did not receive Common Agricultural Policy subsidy payments because of inaccuracies in the maps of their land which they submitted to his Department in the last two years. [284408]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The data required to provide the number of farmers that did not receive CAP subsidy payments because of inaccuracies in the maps of their land is not held in a form that is easily accessible. The process to reconcile such information is resource intensive, time consuming and would cost more than £750 to collate.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the new set of maps issued by the Rural Payments Agency in connection with claims for payment under the single payment scheme will seek to prevent claims being submitted by more than one farmer per field. [286069]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Single payment scheme applicants can only claim for land at their disposal for the relevant scheme year. Instances where the same field is being claimed by more than one farmer are identified and resolved through the SPS claim validation process.

The rural land register mapping update exercise will increase the accuracy of the map data used to validate these claims for payment.

Air Pollution

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of *(a)* particulate matter, *(b)* nitrogen dioxide and *(c)* polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons adjacent to main roads to within the limits prescribed in EU legislation. [285514]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* EU air quality limits are already met across 99 per cent. of the UK (land area). For the very small parts of the country where limit values are not yet met, including London, roadside locations present the greatest challenge. The UK, like most other member states is using the provisions in EU legislation to secure from the European Commission additional time to meet the limit values for both particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide. If successful these would extend the compliance deadlines to 2011 for particulate matter and to 2015 for nitrogen dioxide.

The Government submitted in April their application for particulate matter:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/euint/eudirectives/airqualdirectives/notification.htm

and is working with the Mayor of London and relevant local authorities with a view to consulting on the application for nitrogen dioxide early in 2010. Applications need to set out the measures that will be taken to meet the limit values by the extended deadlines. The additional time will allow current and planned measures to take effect.

EU target values for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons do not come into force until 2012. In 2008 all monitoring sites at roadside locations exhibited concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon below the target value. Measures to reduce emissions from traffic source will continue to reduce concentrations at urban sites.

More widely, Government are working to improve the regulation of biomass heating systems to ensure that their rollout minimises any negative impact on air quality.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on his Department's request for a derogation from EU air quality standards in respect of particulate matter; and if he will make a statement. [287840]

Jim Fitzpatrick: EU air quality limits are already met across 99 per cent. of the UK (land area). For the very small parts of the UK where limit values are not yet met, roadside locations present the greatest challenge. The UK, like most other member states, is using the provisions under directive 2008/50/EC to secure additional time from the European Commission to meet the limit values for particulate matter (PM_{10}).

In April, following public consultation, the UK Government submitted a notification to the Commission applying for the additional time available for eight areas across the UK. These are areas where at some point since 2005 exceedences of the PM_{10} limit values have been reported to the Commission.

Additional information was submitted to the Commission at the beginning of July in response to a request from them following their initial examination of the application. The Commission has indicated that it will conclude its examination in the autumn.

The UK application is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/eu-int/eu-directives/airqual-directives/notification.htm

The additional information provided to the Commission shall be available on the website shortly.

Animals: Exports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in reducing levels of live animal exports. [288011]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The export of live animals is a lawful trade and to restrict it would be contrary to free trade rules. Such trade must, though, adhere to the standards set out in health and welfare rules.

The Government would prefer a trade in meat to the long distance transport of live animals to slaughter, whether in the UK, or across borders.

Batteries: Recycling

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to increase rates of battery recycling to meet the requirements of the EU batteries directive. [288709]

Dan Norris: The Government have introduced new UK regulations to transpose the EU's batteries directive. The regulations make battery producers responsible for collecting, treating and recycling waste batteries.

Most industrial and automotive batteries are already recycled. The regulations seek to ensure that this will continue. However, few portable batteries are currently recycled. The new regulations require portable battery producers to join a Battery Compliance Scheme. The schemes will be responsible for increasing battery collection rates. DEFRA and the schemes will also carry out publicity activities to encourage consumers to recycle their batteries. From February 2010, most shops selling household batteries will collect waste batteries from consumers.

Batteries: Waste Disposal

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the environmental effects of the disposal of batteries. [286359]

Dan Norris: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform published an impact assessment on the Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 (SI No. 890/2009) in May. This covers environmental effects and can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20090890_en.pdf

Beef: Imports

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the volume of Brazilian beef imported into the UK which was raised in illegally deforested areas in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [285558]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We do not hold figures on the volume of Brazilian beef imported into the UK which would link across to deforestation.

For animal health purposes, Brazil is split into 'safe' and 'unsafe' disease regions, to prevent the arrival of disease into either the UK or EU. The meat imported to the EU must be accompanied by appropriate animal and public health certification and must come from EU approved plants in the exporting country (in this case Brazil).

Any illegal imports of Brazilian meat would be seized, destroyed or re-exported.

We are working hard internationally, including under the UNFCCC to find ways of helping developing countries to address deforestation. The approach aims to provide incentives to reduce deforestation through reflecting the real value of forests, including their role in reducing emissions.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Devon

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the introduction of practical steps to reduce levels of bovine tuberculosis in Devon; and what the timescale is of those plans. [287782]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This Government remain committed to working with industry to monitor and enhance TB control measures. Most recently, the TB Eradication Group was set up in November 2008 to make recommendations to the Secretary of State for developing a plan for reducing bovine TB in all parts of England, including Devon, with the ultimate objective of moving towards eventual eradication.

We are also actively pursuing the future use of vaccination of cattle and wildlife, through vaccine research, and the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project (BVDP), alongside our current control measures. Two of the areas for the BVDP are in Devon and the aim is that the vaccination of badgers will commence in summer 2010 and take place for at least five years in each area.

Bovine Tuberculosis: East of England

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the East of England were under bovine tuberculosis restrictions on the latest date for which figures are available. [288111]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA cannot provide the information in the format requested. DEFRA collects data on the number of herds under restriction because TB measures apply to a herd and not a farm.

We can provide the latest data from Vetnet (1 June) which shows that the number of herds under bovine TB restrictions on 31 March 2009 was *(a)* 19 herds in Essex, and *(b)* 636 herds in the East of England region.

Note:

Data downloaded from the Vetnet system is provisional and subject to change as more data becomes available.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many vaccinations of each badger will be required under the new Badger Vaccine Deployment Programme. [287212]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Badgers only need to be vaccinated with BCG once to confer a protective effect on an individual badger. However, it is unnecessary to vaccinate every individual, although the more badgers vaccinated the better overall.

We do not know how long the protection lasts but an annual vaccination campaign is consistent with published results that BCG protection lasts at least one year in animals. Safety data from the Badger Vaccine Study (BVS) on repeated annual vaccinations will be reported in the final report of the BVS which is expected in March 2010.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long the temporary tag on badgers as part of the Badger Vaccine Deployment Programme will last. [287213]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The temporary marks on vaccinated badgers will last for at least several weeks, depending on weather conditions. This is so a marked badger re-trapped in any given trapping session can be released without further vaccination. There is no need for long-term marking as there is no detrimental effect if a badger is injected again in subsequent years.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is of the Badger Vaccine Deployment Programme. [287214]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has recently had a series of meetings with key regional representatives and local veterinary practices in each of the proposed deployment areas. The next step is speaking with farmers in these areas, followed by signing-up participants and training contractors, which will begin during the autumn.

Sign-up will be in phases to allow capacity to be built up and early lessons to be implemented. Therefore, during 2010, vaccination will be carried out in a lead demonstration area, where contractors will be trained, and 20 per cent. (20 km^2) of the other five areas. The project will be fully rolled out, in all the areas, by the third year (i.e. all areas will have been vaccinated by 2012). Once this initial phase has been completed vaccination across 100 per cent. of the areas will continue each year and each area will be vaccinated for at least five years.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what mechanisms will be used to assess the effectiveness of the Badger Vaccine Deployment Programme; [287215]

(2) what estimate has been made of the proportion of farmers and landowners needed to participate in the Badger Vaccine Deployment Programme for the results of the programme to be scientifically meaningful. [287220]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Badger Vaccine Deployment Project aims to increase farmer confidence in TB vaccines and develop practical know-how for vaccinating badgers, including how best to deploy vaccines in an area and developing an understanding of training needs and costs. To this end, we will be monitoring levels of take up among farmers and contractors, and training will be assessed and monitored throughout the project. We will also build up an understanding of the cost[illegible]ctable badger vaccination. This information wi[illegible]s for future use of both injectable and oral badger vaccines for bovine TB. Possible further measures of success are currently being considered.

The Badger Vaccine Deployment Project is not a scientific trial, but a practical project to develop know how for vaccinating badgers. The project will target cattle farming areas of up to 100km^2 (25,000 acres) in each of the six high incidence TB areas for five years vaccination. While the project will be unable to demonstrate a treatment effect of the vaccine in cattle herds, an exploratory analysis of routinely collected cattle disease data will be carried out at the end of the project and independent expert statistical advice has been taken to ensure the project design gives a good chance of detecting any changes in cattle TB trends that may be associated with vaccination. We expect landowner participation in the project to be at least 70 per cent. within the 300km^2 catchment areas, which will enable us to reach our 100km^2 target in each area. Social science research looking at changes in farmers' attitudes to vaccination and factors that influence farmer behaviour can provide meaningful results on a smaller scale. The project design has also been discussed and agreed with the TB Science Advisory Body, along with two of its subgroups dealing specifically with TB vaccines and economics and social science, key farming and veterinary stakeholders and the TB Eradication Group for England.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps will be taken to prevent unvaccinated badgers entering Badger Vaccine Deployment Programme areas; [287216]

(2) whether all badgers will be treated as part of the Badger Vaccine Deployment Programme. [287217]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All trapped badgers will be vaccinated. It is not necessary to trap and vaccinate every individual in a population or to prevent the entry of unvaccinated ones to control a disease. This is because as the proportion of immunised individuals increases, the risk to all individuals, whether vaccinated or not, decreases. The stable social structure of undisturbed badger populations, where there is little mixing of individuals between social groups, lends itself to the generation of this 'herd immunity' through vaccination.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost is of the Badger Vaccine Deployment Programme. [287218]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The final business case for the badger vaccine deployment project is still being developed, and cost estimates will be subject to change to reflect, for example, the costs of contractors bidding for the work and the final costs for purchasing the vaccine. We do not propose to release cost estimates until these are more certain.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people will be employed on the Badger Vaccine Deployment Programme. [287219]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We do not know at this stage exactly how many people will be employed on the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project. However, we do know that it takes 10 people (five teams of two) to vaccinate a 100 km^2 area in one trapping season. The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), which already has a number of trained staff, will vaccinate badgers in the training area and will train contractors who will work in the remaining five areas.

Dairy Farmers of Britain: Insolvency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to expedite single farm payments to farmers affected by the taking into receivership of Dairy Farmers of Britain. [287821]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Recently agreed EU legislation provides the possibility for member states to make 70 per cent. advance payments under the 2009 single payment scheme (SPS) from 16 October where full scheme controls have been completed.

We have always said that we would consider the case for advance payments on the basis of an assessment by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on what consequential impacts would be, including on the timetable of full payments for all claimants. We have yet to take a final decision, but DEFRA have spoken to the chief executive on the issue and it is clear that there would be a real risk that making advances would affect the RPA's ability to match last year's performance in making nearly £1 billion of full SPS payments in December.

Whatever the final decision reached on advances, the RPA will continue to address any cases of individual hardship as sympathetically as possible.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286546]

Dan Norris: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

DEFRA complies with the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284398]

Dan Norris: DEFRA maintains and uses a wide range of databases reflecting its diverse policy and regulatory functions. A full list could be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

However, DEFRA's Information Asset register does provide details of many of the databases managed by the Department. This register is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/opengov/defra/available/iar/index.htm

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each of his Department's and its agency's databases expected to become operational in the next five years; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286496]

Dan Norris: Information about the categories of personal information on members of the public that will be held on each of the Department's and its agency's databases expected to become operational in the next five years and estimates of the likely number of individual's details that each dataset will hold when fully operational can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Routine assurance of database developments during the business planning cycle ensures that any planned databases containing personal information are identified before development commences and referred to the departmental data protection team to ensure that they adhere to the Data Protection Act.

Moreover, following the publication of the cross government data handling review in June 2008, staff establishing new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many interns work in his Department; what terms of reference apply to their appointment; what remuneration they receive; and how long on average an intern appointment lasts. [286422]

Dan Norris: Five graduate internships commenced placements with DEFRA on 6 July 2009, three via the Cabinet Office Summer Development programme (ethnic minorities) and two from the summer placement scheme (disability). All interns are engaged on a paid basis at civil service EO level salaries.

These internships consist of a minimum of 12 weeks' work placement, extendable as required.

The type of work offered to interns will, for example, range from a time-limited project to a more varied programme of work. The aim of such internships is to help internees develop their levels of skill and practical experience, and to increase their employability.

Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to encourage the veterinary profession to work more closely with the medical profession on matters relating to the transmission of diseases between humans and animals; and if he will make a statement. [288963]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA are fully aware of the need for close collaboration between the veterinary and medical profession in preventing and controlling transmission of diseases between humans and animals. Officials continue to collaborate with their counterparts in the Department

of Health, the Health Protection Agency and the devolved Administrations regular inter-departmental meetings are held to assess the risk from diseases, as well as from newly emerging conditions, which might have the potential for inter-species transmission. There is also strong collaboration at the local level where joint assessments and co-ordinated veterinary and medical investigations of disease outbreaks are made.

Domestic Appliances: Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the annual level of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from electrical appliances being left in standby mode. [287896]

Dan Norris: The most recent analysis of the energy consumption of equipment in households and commercial properties was undertaken by DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) in 2006. This estimated that the level of carbon emissions resulting from all the appliances most commonly found in UK homes was at least 7.2 TWh equal to 2.1 per cent. of UK electricity consumption or 0.8 million tonnes of carbon. The MTP is in the process of updating this information for 2008.

The report, 'Estimated UK Standby Electricity Consumption in 2006 (V2.0) (BNXS36)', can be found on the MTP website.

Domestic Waste

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the tonnage of *(a)* aluminium, *(b)* wood, *(c)* paper, *(d)* green waste, *(e)* glass, *(f)* steel and *(g)* textiles in the municipal waste stream in each year since 1997; and how much of each he estimates was (i) recycled, (ii) landfilled and (iii) sent to energy from waste facilities (A) in total and (B) in each local authority area in each such year. [286469]

Dan Norris: DEFRA keeps tonnages of municipal waste sent for recycling in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, broken down into material types. Data on waste sent to landfill or for energy recovery is not broken down into material types, but the totals are available. All this data are available at local authority level and will be placed in the Library shortly.

Municipal waste management statistics back to 1995-96 are available at national level on DEFRA's website.

Source:

WasteDataFlow and DEFRA's Municipal Waste Management Survey.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an estimate of the unit cost to a local authority of the provision of wheeled refuse containers for the collection of household waste. [286529]

Dan Norris: It is not feasible to make an estimate of the unit cost to a local authority of the provision of wheelie bins. This will depend on a number of factors including which company the local authority procures the bins from and the number of bins ordered.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to Lord Taylor of Holbeach of 2 July 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA94, on waste management: refuse collection, what proportion of dwellings used wheeled refuse containers for the collection of residual waste in each year for which figures are available. [286812]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the percentage of dwellings in England that have been issued with wheeled refuse containers by local authorities for the collection of residual (black bag) waste from 2000-01 to 2007-08.

Data for 2004-05 is unavailable. This is due to partial submission of data by local authorities.

Percentage of dwellings using wheeled refuse containers for residual waste

	Percentage
2007-08	63.64
2006-07	61.06
2005-06	57.51
2004-05	n/a
2003-04	58.00
2002-03	55.00
2001-02	52.00
2000-01	51.00

n/a = Not available.

Source:

WasteDataFlow and DEFRA's Municipal Waste Management Survey.

Environment Agency: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [283736]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Environment Agency delivers major investment programmes through flood risk and civil engineering work. Expenditure includes the feasibility, design and supervision of these projects which are developed through accessing specialist engineering companies.

The following table shows total Environment Agency expenditure on consultants in each of the last five years. This expenditure includes regional and national civil engineering consultants, water management engineering consultants, environmental policy consultants and management consultants.

£

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Regional civil engineering/ environmental consultancy	29,083,263.68	25,391,099.61	27,890,749.09	21,012,252.52	27,757,651.67

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
NCPMS civil engineering/ environmental consultancy	42,162,089.61	36,131,701.10	35,326,920.35	27,134,018.64	41,946,590.04
Water management engineering/ environmental consultancy	17,340,988.37	17,019,978.91	17,932,634.73	17,011,410.63	18,944,069.07
Environmental policy consultants	29,619,337.66	22,086,297.51	25,112,247.92	31,655,315.86	30,121,357.01
Management consultants	5,220,346.70	6,806,599.05	4,174,035.10	3,413,657.41	3,306,945.63
Total	123,334,026.02	106,635,568.18	110,436,587.19	100,226,655.06	122,076,613.42

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [285470]

Dan Norris: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union.

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately one third of the total administrative burden.

The important thing is not the origins of a legislation, which could of course be a devolved administration or a local authority, as well as the Government or the EU, but the quality of the regulation. All regulations, irrespective of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. Regulations should be risk based, proportionate and well designed, so as to achieve their objectives while also keeping costs to a minimum. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

Farmers: Loans

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on levels of bank lending to farmers; and if he will make a statement. [285139]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No recent formal representations have been received on the subject of bank lending to farmers. At the end of March 2009, net lending to agriculture, forestry and hunting in the UK stood at just below £11 billion. This was more than £900 million higher than at the same point in 2008 and some £280 million above the level recorded at the end of 2008. There is strong evidence that the banking sector is continuing to lend to farm businesses with sound business cases but DEFRA will continue to monitor the situation.

Fisheries: Prosecutions

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions for breaches of fishing quota regulations have been brought in each sea fishery committee area in each of the last five years. [286207]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Sea fisheries committees do not generally prosecute fishing quota offences. Therefore, DEFRA does not record data on prosecutions for breaches of fishing quota regulations by sea fishery committee area.

Flood Control: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the additional £25 million in capital funding for flood defences brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 and 2008-09 on *(a)* the number of homes receiving earlier flood protection and *(b)* improvements to British Waterways network infrastructure; and how much of the funding has been spent in each month since it was announced. [286651]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2008-09, £5.1 million of funding for flood and coastal risk management was brought forward from 2009-10. In 2009-10, £20 million of funding was brought forward from 2010-11 as part of the fiscal stimulation package announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report to provide early protection for 27,000 homes.

The Environment Agency forecasts full spend of its £349.4 million capital budget (not including funding for implementing the recommendations of the Pitt Review) for 2009-10. At the end of May 2009 it had spent £44 million.

As part of the fiscal stimulation package, £5 million of funding for British Waterways was brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 to be spent on infrastructure projects. This will take place as part of the major works programme which is concentrated during winter months when the waterways are not highly used.

Heating: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions arising from the use of patio heaters in the UK in *(a)* each year since 2000 and *(b)* each of the next five years. [286438]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not hold the specific estimates requested. The most recent data available that can be used to estimate the carbon emissions of outdoor patio heaters are from 2007.

In spring 2007, the Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) produced a briefing note (BNDH18) intended to estimate the CO_2 emissions as a result of the use of patio heaters. This note estimated that 'outdoor heaters' (both domestic and non-domestic) accounted for around 94.9 GWh of energy being consumed annually, equivalent to 22.2 $ktCO_2$ (thousand tonnes of CO_2).

In October 2007, the MTP updated the assumptions in the original study to estimate CO_2 emissions from patio heaters as a result of the smoking ban. The report estimated that the annual emissions from patio heaters as a result of the smoking ban would be between 96 and 282 kt CO_2, depending on the type of heaters and how they were used.

The MTP estimates are not derived from surveys or detailed research, and should not be interpreted as accurate data on energy consumption and carbon emissions. I am unable to give a prediction of future emissions as we have no way to estimate future sales of patio heaters.

The MTP's Briefing Note 'BNDH18: Outdoor Heating for Comfort' is available at:

www.mtpny.com

Landfill

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many landfill sites in each region are expected to close in each year until 2020; and what the combined area of those sites is. [286353]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency does not require landfill operators to specify in what year they will close their site. This depends on the rate of infilling, among other factors. As such I am unable to provide a prediction of the number of sites that will close year on year in the period 2009-20.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many landfill sites there were in each region of England in each year since 1997; and what the combined area of the sites was in each of those years. [286354]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency has published the number of permitted operational landfill sites for the period 2005 to 2007 on its website. Prior to 2005, data on the number of landfill sites was included in the Environment Agency's 'Strategic Waste Management Information for England and Wales'. The following table provides a summary of the published data.

	1998-99	*2002-03*	*2004-05*	*2005*		*2006*		*2007*
Region	*WML*	*WML*	*WML*	*WML*	*PPC*	*WML*	*PPC*	*PPC*
East of England	—	—	279	116	162	51	201	63	62
East Midlands	—	—	279	127	131	50	208	55	65
London	—	—	40	10	12	6	30	5	7
North East	—	—	191	46	95	21	120	26	28
North West	—	—	306	88	174	30	219	38	52
South East	—	—	405	158	172	60	293	59	83
South West	—	—	400	137	220	35	263	46	57
Wales	—	102	66	66	73	25	160	29	34
West Midlands	—	—	200	60	131	24	164	30	43
Yorkshire and Humberside	—	—	320	201	245	38	307	43	70
England and Wales	1,485	2,151	2,896	1,009	1,415	340	1,965	396	501

Note:
WML is an abbreviation for "Waste Management Licence" and PPC for "Pollution Prevention and Control".

In 1997 all landfill sites required a WML. From 2001 to 2007 all site operators had to apply for a PPC permit, replacing the WML.

The number of permitted landfill sites for 2008 is currently being validated and should be published in the autumn of 2009.

We do not hold information on the combined area of landfill sites.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much hazardous waste was sent to landfill sites in each region in each year since 1997. [286355]

Dan Norris: The following tables show the amount of hazardous waste sent to landfill in each year where accurate information is available.

A new hazardous waste management system and database was introduced in July 2005 to coincide with the introduction of the new Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) regulations 2005. Changes in the way hazardous waste was classified and how data was collected caused inconstancies in data for 2005 and it was therefore not published.

Tonnes hazardous waste land filled by region

	East Midlands	*East of England*	*London*	*North East*	*North West*	*South East*
1998-99	198,639.02	—	17,567.05	126,745.13	269,888.51	250,708.77
2000	140,495.62	487,629.71	29,463.20	113,682.67	324,279.74	245,221.40
2001	216,198.59	604,982.91	55,484.53	140,831.32	205,831.18	333,314.33
2002	156,791.20	502,370.52	20,509.22	79,381.46	255,360.38	193,601.90
2003	209,888.57	362,875.62	4,049.57	84,253.59	256,779.55	148,236.32
2004	433,513.62	278,377.14	83.83	104,371.63	392,307.95	192,220.67
2005	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
2006	129,801.25	65,759.19	40,826.66	195,970.24	101,404.25	54,709.71
2007	156,949.14	68,877.55	50,071.87	132,187.43	116,644.22	62,800.07

	South West	Wales	West Midlands	Yorkshire and the Humber	Total
1998-99	139,349.15	232,640.53	199,007.60	264,624.02	1,699,150.77
2000	128,977.11	134,590.44	161,892.50	274,992.14	2,041,222.53
2001	149,144.82	146,453.40	174,295.26	270,436.48	2,306,972.58
2002	165,283.90	85,611.96	206,433.08	247,253.50	1,986,387.12
2003	138,142.55	106,998.17	285,770.95	223,990.37	1,800,905.26
2004	118,783.68	230,123.31	228,686.41	315,701.47	2,294,169.70
2005	No data	No data	No data	No data	0.00
2006	136,283.01	3,009.38	42,561.23	107,604.78	873,899.69
2007	133,247.32	662.85	54,074.70	75,706.63	849,221.79

Source:
Environment Agency

In 1997 all landfill sites required a waste management licence. From 2001 to 2007 all site operators had to apply for a pollution prevention and control permit, replacing the WML.

The number of permitted landfill sites for 2008 is currently being validated and should be published in the autumn of 2009.

We do not hold information on the combined area of landfill sites.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* purposes revenue from fines due to breaches in landfill targets will be allocated. [287430]

Dan Norris: The Waste and Emissions Trading (WET) Act provides for a fine to be imposed on a waste disposal authority for each additional tonne of biodegradable municipal waste that it sends to landfill above the number of allowances the authority holds under the landfill allowance trading scheme in a particular scheme year.

During the passage of the WET Act through Parliament, there was discussion about the destination of penalties. It was agreed that funds raised from penalties would be returned to all local authorities, including waste collection authorities, but would not be ring fenced to waste management options. It would therefore be for a local authority to decide for what purpose any returned funds were used.

Livestock: Exports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* cattle, *(b)* sheep, *(c)* goats and *(d)* poultry were exported in each of the last three years. [284943]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Table 1 gives information on exports in cattle from Great Britain and is taken from the GB cattle tracing system. The system is updated on a daily basis and hence these figures can be subject to amendments.

Table 2 gives the number of live sheep, goats and poultry recorded as exported from the UK in 2006, 2007 and 2008 as in HMRC official overseas trade statistics.

Please note these figures are obtained using VAT records and will exclude some EU trade for businesses which are below the VAT threshold. As a result, actual trade levels may be higher than those given, particularly for trade with mainland Europe. As a result care should be taken not to read too much into the year to year changes shown.

Table 1: GB exports of live bovine, 2006-08

Type	2006	2007	Number 2008
Live cattle and calves	89,567	85,487	51,809

Note:
2008 data is subject to amendments. *Source:* GB Cattle Tracing System

Table 2: UK exports of live sheep, goats and poultry, 2006-08

Type	2006	2007	Number 2008
Live sheep and lambs	12,915	1,078	44,992
Live goats	528	[1]	435
Live poultry	29,381,150	31,680,332	28,567,760

[1] There were no recorded exports of live goats in 2007. Exports may still have occurred by traders operating below the VAT threshold and therefore will not have been declared in the HMRC official statistics.

Note:
2008 data is subject to amendments.

Source:
H M Revenue and Customs. Data prepared by Trade statistics, ESP, DEFRA.

Marine and Fisheries Agency: Location

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will *(a)* undertake and *(b)* publish an equality impact assessment of the relocation of Marine and Fisheries Agency staff out of London. [288015]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA officials are currently finalising an equality impact assessment (EqIA) on the relocation of the Marine and Fisheries Agency's HQ office out of London to Tyneside. This will incorporate the impact of the relocation on MFA staff based outside the London HQ office. A copy of the EqIA will be published when completed.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the cost to the public purse of the establishment of the headquarters of the Marine Management Organisation. [287431]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The indicative one-off establishment costs of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), as shown in the impact assessment accompanying the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, are £2.9 million.

Marine Management Organisation: Intellectual Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the effects on the intellectual property rights of members of staff of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), given their change in status as a result of the creation of that organisation; and whether those staff are to be permitted to publish in their own name work produced for the MMO. [288000]

Huw Irranca-Davies: When vested, the MMO will, as any other employer, have the benefits of any work produced by its employees. Employees will not be able to publish works produced for the MMO without the organisation's permission.

Former employees of the Marine Fisheries Agency, or another Government Department, will transfer to the MMO with their existing terms and conditions of service, which give the intellectual property rights to the employer. New MMO employees from elsewhere will be subject to similar restrictions under an MMO contract of employment.

Nature Conservation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain in tackling invasive species arriving from countries which have no comparable strategies. [287595]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have made no specific assessment of this. However one of the ongoing actions set out in the implementation plan for the Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain is to maintain contact with colleagues dealing with invasive non-native species policy issues in other European member states and encourage consistent representation of issues of concern to Great Britain and the United Kingdom. Alongside this, the UK is supporting the European Commission in developing its thinking on proposals for an effective EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species.

Nitrogen Oxides

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at which locations in England levels of nitrogen oxide *(a)* exceed 40 micro gm-3 nitrogen oxide annually and *(b)* exceed 200 micro gm-3 nitrogen oxide hourly more than 18 times per year. [288258]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under EU legislation, the UK is required to assess ambient air for levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), and to report to the European Commission on an annual basis. Detailed reports on the assessments are available from the air quality archive at:

www.airquality.co.uk

For the purpose of implementing EU legislation, the UK is divided up into 43 agglomeration zones (areas with a contiguous population of over 250,000 as specified by the air quality directives) and non-agglomeration zones. There are 28 agglomeration zones and 15 non-agglomeration zones.

There are a number of locations within England where:

(1) annual mean concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) are in excess of 40 microgrammes/m^3; and/or

(2) there are more than 18 occurrences of hourly mean NO_2 >200 microgrammes/m^3 in a year.

The locations where points 1 and/or 2 apply have been identified are in the following tables, with reference to both monitored (measured) and modelled (predicted) NO_2 data.

Monitoring data for 2008 are given in table 1. The modelling assessment for 2008 is not due to be completed until the end of the summer, so 2007 results are given in table 2.

Table 1: Nitrogen dioxide monitoring data, 2008—AURN sites in England

Site name/location	Site type	Annual mean NO_2 (µg/microgrammes/m^3)	Number hours NO_2 > 200 microgrammes/m^3
Liverpool Queen's Drive	Roadside	40	6
London Westminster	Urban background	40	1
Cambridge Roadside	Roadside	42	0
Newcastle Cradlewell	Roadside	42	0
Manchester Piccadilly	Urban centre	43	12
London Hillingdon	Suburban	51	1
Oxford Centre Roadside	Roadside	51	3
London Bloomsbury	Urban centre	55	9
Bristol Old Market	Roadside	62	5
Tower Hamlets	Roadside	63	9
Bath Roadside	Roadside	63	10
London Cromwell Road 2	Roadside	67	1
Bury Roadside	Roadside	69	4
Camden Kerbside	Kerbside	76	72
London Marylebone Road	Kerbside	119	822

Table 2: Nitrogen dioxide modelled data—England 2007

Zone/agglomeration	Road length/km where annual mean NO_2 >40 microgrammes/m^3 (roadside locations)	Area/km² where annual mean NO_2 > 40 microgrammes/m^3 (urban background locations)
Greater London Urban Area	1,600	162

Table 2: Nitrogen dioxide modelled data—England, 2007

Zone/agglomeration	*Road length(km) where annual mean NO_2 >40 microgrammes/cubic metre (roadside locations)*	*Area(km²) where annual mean NO_2 > 40 microgrammes/cubic metre (urban background locations)*
West Midlands Urban Area	385	5
Greater Manchester Urban Area	425	—
West Yorkshire Urban Area	162	—
Tyneside	76	—
Liverpool Urban Area	130	—
Sheffield Urban Area	105	—
Nottingham Urban Area	53	—
Bristol Urban Area	42	—
Brighton/Worthing/Littlehampton	7	—
Leicester Urban Area	52	—
Portsmouth Urban Area	24	—
Teesside Urban Area	18	—
The Potteries	34	—
Bournemouth Urban Area	11	—
Reading/Wokingham Urban Area	19	—
Coventry/Bedworth	17	—
Kingston upon Hull	32	—
Southampton Urban Area	23	1
Birkenhead Urban Area	17	—
Southend Urban Area	11	—
Preston Urban Area	6	—
Eastern	131	6
South West	77	—
South East	197	3
East Midlands	104	—
North West and Merseyside	279	—
Yorkshire and Humberside	260	—
West Midlands	90	—
North East	69	—

North Sea: Fishing Catches

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1590, on fishing catches, whether the Lithuanian and Polish vessels referred to were entitled to fish in North sea fishing grounds prior to their countries' accession to the European Union. [287856]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The catch statistics for Polish and Lithuanian landings from the North sea provided in my answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1590, relate to landings in 2006. Both Poland and Lithuania joined the European Union in 2004 and therefore were members at that time. Access to North sea fish quota is determined by historic rights or else the countries in question would be required to swap in or purchase quota to access the fishery.

Oil: Pollution

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of oil pollution have been reported in each enumeration area *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in 2009 to date; and how many of these incidents have resulted in prosecutions. [286299]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of reported incidents received by the Environment Agency since 1997. The Environment Agency's national incident recording system began to be used in 2001. It is not possible to access information broken down into each enumeration area prior to 2001 without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Number of oil pollution incidents (Category 1-4)
1997	5,542
1998	5,308
1999	5,381
2000	6,215
2001	5,684

The following table shows the number of reported incidents received by each Environment Agency region since 2002. This includes incidents from category 1-4. Category 1 incidents are the most serious, category 2 are significant but less severe, category 3 are relatively minor and category 4 are unsubstantiated incidents.

Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Anglian	761	706	687	591	518	502	432	195
Midlands	1217	973	811	685	644	619	609	264
North East	466	520	518	476	347	338	308	161
North West	525	642	333	331	242	235	214	95

Region	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[1]
Southern	552	539	452	389	361	313	292	125
South West	644	576	613	644	618	540	451	288
Thames	740	590	556	539	452	457	383	174
EA Wales	256	272	285	344	305	287	233	145
Total	5,161	4,618	4,255	3,919	3,487	3,291	2,922	1,447

[1] January to June.

The following table shows the number of prosecutions from oil pollution incidents since 2001. This information has been provided by the Environment Agency's national enforcement database in tandem with the information above. On that basis information prior to 2001 is not available.

In cases where a prosecution is not the most appropriate course of action, the alternatives of a caution or warning will be considered. A warning is a written notification that, in the Environment Agency's opinion, an offence has been committed. It will be recorded and may be referred to in subsequent proceedings.

There is a lag between incident and prosecution, which may well be in excess of 12 months depending on the type of offence and its complexity.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[1]
Anglian	3	0	0	1	6	2	4	4	0
Midlands	3	2	5	4	8	5	5	3	3
North East	0	0	5	3	8	6	4	8	11
North West	1	0	3	2	3	2	4	1	0
South West	4	3	4	4	5	7	10	9	1
Southern	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	2
Thames	0	0	5	6	3	5	8	3	0
Wales	0	1	0	2	0	3	4	0	2
Total	12	6	22	22	34	32	41	28	19

[1] To date.

Oil: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals his Department has for the disposal of residual waste from energy production. [287410]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has no plans affecting the disposal of ash or other residual waste from power stations. This is the responsibility of the operators of such facilities.

Origin Marking: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research into consumer attitudes in respect of country of origin labelling for goods imported into the UK from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. [287155]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are not planning to commission research into consumer attitudes in respect of labelling goods from the occupied Palestinian territories.

Pesticides

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he next plans to revise guidelines to farmers on the spraying of pesticides near schools and residences. [287819]

Dan Norris: The Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products includes advice to farmers on spraying pesticides near schools and residences.

Two new pieces of European legislation governing the system for pesticides are likely to come into force in 2011; a Regulation on pesticide authorisations that is largely an updating of the existing European regime, and a directive on the sustainable use of pesticides that will establish a framework to promote best practice in the storage, use and disposal of pesticides.

The Government plan to hold a public consultation this autumn on a range of options for the implementation of this new legislation. Once we have agreed our approach to national legislation and guidance, we will revise the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products.

Pollution: Prosecutions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of diffuse pollution have been recorded in each year since 1997; and how many such incidents have resulted in *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* fines for those convicted of such offences. [286464]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency's national incident recording system (NIRS) records all pollution incidents reported to the Agency since 2001. The Environment Agency does not classify such incidents as point or diffuse pollution. An approximation of the number of "diffuse incidents" can be derived from NIRS by counting incidents that arose from an unregulated site where the cause was not identified. Data are available and provided on this basis for full calendar years from 2001 until 2009.

For prosecution and fines there is often a time lag between the incident being reported and the completion of any enforcement action. Yearly figures in this table

therefore may relate to incidents which occurred in the previous year or earlier. This is why some prosecutions have been prosecuted and reported in 2009.

	Number of "Diffuse" incidents	Number of prosecutions	Fines (£)
2001	3,233	9	28,850
2002	4,518	7	13,700
2003	3,866	7	19,225
2004	3,506	3	5,000
2005	3,360	8	28,033
2006	3,023	2	1,350
2007	2,686	3	6,000
2008	2,379	10	24,250
2009 (to date)	0	6	7,750

Recycling

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of waste collected in the City of York was recycled in each year since 2003-04; what funding his Department provided to City of York council to increase recycling rates in that period; and what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage local authorities to increase waste recycling rates. [285866]

Dan Norris: Recycling is strongly promoted by a range of Government measures in recognition of its environmental benefits. This includes the introduction of three national indicators within the local government performance framework to encourage local authorities to reduce waste, recycle more and send less household waste to landfill. This is in line with DEFRA's belief that local authorities are best placed to make decisions on the waste management strategy for their communities. 85 per cent. of authorities have negotiated at least one waste-related national indicator target with the Government Office in their region.

DEFRA has provided the City of York council £359,838.71 in 2008-09 and £361,122.65 for 2009-10 as part of Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant (WICG). This funding is provided to help authorities get waste management facilities on the ground in time to help England meet landfill targets.

The following table shows York city council's municipal recycling rates from 2003-04 to 2007-08. 2004-05 is not available due to data not being submitted.

York city council's municipal recycling rate

	Percentage
2003-04	19.01
2004-05	[1]
2005-06	25.71
2006-07	39.36
2007-08	42.28

[1] Data not available

Source:
WasteDataFlow and DEFRA's Municipal Waste Survey

Reservoirs

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the capacity of reservoirs owned by the water industry in England was *(a)* in 1989 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [286785]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A reservoir capacity figure for 1989 is unavailable.

The total capacity of reservoirs owned by water companies in England which fall under the Reservoirs Act 1975 (large raised reservoirs with a capacity of 25,000 m^3 or more above natural ground level) was 1,855,244,628 m^3 on 14 July 2009.

River Thames: Pollution

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the likely effects of the recent raw sewage spillage in the Thames in the Mogden area on river usage and wildlife. [288784]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency measured the chemical quality of the river using a series of water quality monitoring stations located at strategic points along the estuary. Readings taken indicated a significant decline in the oxygen saturation of the river.

Environment Agency officers were deployed to assess the extent of the incident by monitoring the river in the upper reaches to record the impact on fish at low water. Approximately 200 dead fish, mostly flounder, were found around the Kew area. Other inspections did not identify notable amounts of dead fish.

The monitoring network indicated the river returned to a near normal condition by the afternoon of 5 July.

Rivers: Pollution

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of significant non-water industrial discharges to rivers in each region was reviewed by the Environment Agency in each year since 1997. [286463]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This information is not readily available. It will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as possible.

Television: Energy

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of daily energy consumption resulting from the use of stand-by units on televisions. [287897]

Dan Norris: The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) estimates that in 2008 the 66 million television sets in use in UK homes consumed an average of just over 600 Watt hours each per day. Of this an average of 30 watt hours (5 per cent.) was consumed while the television was in stand-by mode.

MTP evidence indicates that the on average a new television consumes 2.5 watts while in stand-by. This will be reduced to one watt from January 2010 as a result of new EU legislation under the ecodesign for energy using products framework directive and falling further to 0.3 watts in 2012.

Thundersley Common

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the effect on mammalian wildlife of the removal of trees from Thundersley Common. [287868]

Huw Irranca-Davies: While negotiating a higher level stewardship agreement with Castle Point borough council to support the council's heathland restoration work on Thundersley Great Common site of special scientific interest (SSSI), Natural England assessed the overall impact on the mammalian fauna as neutral or beneficial, for the following reasons:

(1) The common is small and heavily used by the public, and so does not support a rich mammal fauna, though both bats and badgers do occur;

(2) The restoration only affects part of the common and the wooded part of the common outside the SSSI will not be affected;

(3) The result of the restoration will be a mosaic of open heath, scrub and trees which should be at least as favourable for mammal and bird species as the common is now. The mosaic will also support a range of more unusual heathland plants and animals and provide an open greenspace for the public to enjoy.

Before issuing a felling licence for the removal of some trees, the Forestry Commission assessed the selected trees individually. The commission considered one to be of potential value for roosting bats so Castle Point borough council agreed that this tree should be left and an alternative one removed.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Essex County Council and *(b)* Castle Point Borough Council in respect of Thundersley Common in the last five years. [287870]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has had no substantive discussion with either local authority about Thundersley Common in the last five years. However, Natural England (non-departmental public body sponsored by DEFRA) has had discussions with Castle Point borough council.

Natural England's purpose is to ensure England's natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for current and future generations. An important part of Natural England's remit is the protection of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs)—the country's best sites for wildlife and geology.

Castle Point borough council owns and manages Thundersley Common, which includes Thundersley Great Common SSSI. Within the last five years, discussions in respect of this SSSI between Natural England and the borough council have included several on-site and office meetings and regular discussions by phone, e-mail and letter. Natural England has offered consistent advice to the council on the conservation management of the site, aimed at restoring the heathland habitats for which the SSSI is notified. Since 2007, council staff have negotiated a higher level stewardship agreement with Natural England to support the council's restoration of the SSSI to favourable condition.

Within the last five years, Natural England has not held discussions with Essex county council specifically on this SSSI, because the county council does not own or manage it.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public consultations have been held in respect of the removal of trees from Thundersley Common; and if he will make a statement. [287872]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England does not have any information on public consultations held in respect of the removal of trees from Thundersley Great Common site of special scientific interest (SSSI), or in respect of the other essential components of the heathland restoration work being undertaken by Castle Point borough council. These works have the full support of Natural England, in fulfilling the council's statutory duties to protect and enhance the special interest features for which this SSSI is notified.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date responsibility for Thundersley Common was transferred to Natural England; and if he will make a statement. [287888]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Thundersley Great Common (14.8 hectares) is owned and managed by Castle Point borough council. In 1987, 8.9 hectares of the common were notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by English Nature (one of Natural England's predecessor bodies): the ownership remains with the borough council. Both Castle Point borough council and Natural England have statutory responsibilities to conserve and enhance the special interest features of the SSSI.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many oak trees have been removed from Thundersley Common in the last five years; and for what reasons the trees were removed. [287889]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The notified special interest features of Thundersley Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are its dry heath, wet heath and acid grassland plant communities. It is one of the best remaining fragments of heathland in Essex.

Natural England's records show that five oak trees, and one birch, have been removed from Thundersley Great Comn on SSSI since 2004. These trees were felled during the 2008-9 winter by Castle Point borough council with the assent and support of Natural England. The work was done as part of a higher level stewardship agreement to restore the special interest features of the SSSI—namely its rare heathland habitats—to favourable condition. Some tree removal is essential as part of this restoration work because many oaks became established on the heathland in the second half of the last century when the site was less actively managed. There are now over 100 trees on the northern half of the SSSI which are rapidly shading out the remaining patches of heathland vegetation. If these are all left to mature a large part of the SSSI will soon be dense woodland and the heathland will be lost.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responses his Department has received from *(a)* the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee, *(b)* Wastematters, *(c)* the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers, *(d)* the Chartered Institute of Waste Management, *(e)* the Association of Public Service Excellence, *(f)* the County Surveyors Society Waste Panel and *(g)* Keep Britain Tidy on consultations which his Department has conducted on waste incentive schemes in the last two years. [286646]

Dan Norris: The Department received written responses on consultations from these bodies detailed as follows:

Consultation on the Incentives for Recycling by Households, May 2007:

(a) the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee

(d) Chartered Institute of Waste Management

(e) Association of Public Service Excellence

(f) County Surveyors Society

Informal consultation on draft guidance, June 2008:

(a) the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee

(d) Chartered Institute of Waste Management

(f) County Surveyors Society

Formal consultation on statutory Good Recycling Service guidance, September 2008:

(e) Association of Public Service Excellence

Responses were not received on any consultation from *(b)* Wastematters, *(c)* the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers or *(g)* Keep Britain Tidy.

Waste Disposal: Hazardous Substances

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what waste products have been classified as *(a)* inert and *(b)* toxic waste in the last 18 months. [286964]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency does not classify individual waste arisings. While it does collect data on all wastes received at sites that it regulates, this information describes the waste using the European waste catalogue codes and as such would not allow the Environment Agency to state which individual waste products have been classified as either inert or 'toxic' (a hazardous property that could make a waste hazardous).

Waste Disposal: Inspections

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many inspections were carried out at industrial and waste sites by staff of each Environment Agency office in each year since 1997. [286369]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the total number of inspections of industrial and waste sites carried out in each Environment Agency region in each year since 1997. Environment Agency records do not provide an office by office breakdown. Inspections include visits and audits for processes regulated under six regimes: Integrated Pollution Control, Pollution Prevention and Control, Waste management licensing, Environmental Permitting Regulation, Special (Hazardous) Waste, and Waste Producers.

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*00-01*	*01-02*	*02-03*	*03-04*	*04-05*	*05-06*	*06-07*	*07-08*	*08-09*	*Total*
Anglian	18,523	20,947	17,496	16,540	15,001	13,557	15,379	14,060	11,144	6,758	6,386	5,847	161,638
Midlands	25,827	24,692	21,492	19,636	18,050	14,823	16,687	16,466	11,236	8,722	8,607	8,759	194,997
North East	25,017	27,971	25,922	23,320	19,714	19,605	18,832	17,225	10,413	7,749	6,545	4,931	207,244
North West	21,688	21,858	19,270	18,531	15,158	12,962	13,997	13,352	10,325	7,593	6,732	4,914	166,380
Southern	11,965	13,488	12,568	12,632	10,130	8,134	8,911	8,109	6,189	4,480	4,546	3,255	104,407
South West	15,958	16,734	14,104	13,283	10,837	10,352	11,282	10,752	8,316	5,677	4,618	3,559	125,472
Thames	19,642	19,799	15,117	14,246	13,386	12,679	11,958	11,917	8,647	6,445	7,386	5,701	146,923
EA Wales	8,835	9,790	9,009	7,957	7,445	6,893	8,285	7,201	4,435	4,056	3,923	3,178	81,007
Total	147,455	155,279	134,978	126,145	109,721	99,005	105,331	99,082	70,706	51,480	48,743	40,144	1,188,069

Waste Disposal: Private Finance Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the credit crunch on schemes for waste disposal plants under the private finance initiative. [286795]

Dan Norris: DEFRA continually assesses the relevant finance and construction markets to maintain an up to date understanding of the effect that conditions in credit markets may have on the private finance initiative waste projects. This includes meeting with banks, contractors and waste companies as well as individual local authorities.

Our findings show that while tightening credit conditions since 2008 have had an effect on the availability of finance, commercial lenders are maintaining strong interest in financing waste private finance initiative projects. We also continue to see good evidence of new entrant interest from contractors in recent bid lists.

Waste Management: Private Finance Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the waste industry on the effects on waste disposal plants operated under private finance initiatives of the economic downturn. [287703]

Dan Norris: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs recently attended the Futuresource conference with representatives of the waste industry, at which a number of issues affecting the waste industry were discussed.

Commercial lenders are maintaining strong interest in financing waste private finance initiative projects and we continue to see good evidence of new interest from contractors in recent bid lists.

The granting of PFI credits for waste projects continues, the most recent being awarded to a partnership between Coventry city council, Solihull metropolitan borough council and Warwickshire county council under their umbrella-title 'Project Transform' in June this year.

Water Charges

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the effect of universal water metering on *(a)* the net income of the water industry and *(b)* the rate of consumption of water by domestic consumers. [286786]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No estimate has been made of the effect of universal metering on the net income on the water industry.

Research shows that, on average, the rate of consumption by household customers is reduced by about 10 per cent. when metered.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition his Department uses of a permeable surface in relation to surface water drainage charges. [288074]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Government guidance to Ofwat does not define permeable surfaces. It is generally accepted that they include, for example, burial grounds, grass sports fields and school playing fields. These drain naturally rather than into public sewers. Permeable areas should not count towards the chargeable area under site area charging for surface water drainage.

Water Charges: Voluntary Organisations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which water company areas voluntary groups are affected by the new system of surface water charges; and what assessment has been made of the likelihood of such systems being taken up in other such areas. [288981]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Four of the 10 water and sewerage companies in England and Wales have switched to site area charging for surface water drainage: Northumbrian Water, Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water.

While Ofwat is recommending that other companies switch to site area charging for surface water drainage, it is for companies to decide whether to make the switch and for Ofwat, as the independent economic regulator of the water industry, to approve charging schemes.

Water Supply

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of water lost through leakage from *(a)* company supply pipes and *(b)* piping between the water company connection point and a householder's tap in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008. [286471]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies report annual leakage figures to Ofwat as part of their annual regulatory returns. Ofwat publishes leakage performance annually in the service and delivery report.

Leakage performance for the water company distribution network excluding customer supply pipes, and for customer supply pipes only for the years 1996-97 and 2007-08 were as follows:

Performance (megalitres/day)

	1996-97	*2007-08*
Water company leakage excluding customer supply pipes	3,274	2,468
Customer supply pipe leakage	1,230	823

Water: Meters

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water meters were installed by water supply companies in homes in *(a)* north-west Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Huntingdonshire, *(c)* Peterborough and *(d)* Cambridgeshire in each of the last five years. [287201]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry, holds information by water company area only.

Tabled as follows are the figures showing how many water meters Anglian Water and Cambridge Water installed in each of the last five years. Anglian Water and Cambridge Water are the companies that supply the areas listed in the question.

The Anglian Water figures also include Hartlepool Water (HPL) as Anglian Water took over Hartlepool Water in 1998 and they now report their figures together.

Total household meters

Number

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Anglian and HPL	23,013	19,374	25,516	28,586	33,222
Cambridge	1,428	1,180	1,466	1,381	1,432

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water meters were installed in homes in Castle Point by water supply companies in each of the last five years. [287503]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry, does not hold data on how many meters are installed in individual constituencies.

The following figures show how many water meters Essex and Suffolk Water has installed in each of the last five years. Essex and Suffolk Water is the company that serves Castle Point.

Essex and Suffolk

	Total household meters
2004-05	9,101
2005-06	11,939
2006-07	22,051
2007-08	16,788
2008-09	12,837

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

East of England Grand Committee

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what *(a)* broadcasting and *(b)* other facilities will be available at the venue for the meeting of the East of England Regional Grand Committee at Bedford on 8 September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [287559]

Nick Harvey: The broadcasting of Committees meeting away from Westminster is usually undertaken by local broadcasters themselves, if they wish to do so. The coverage is pooled and they provide copies to the parliamentary recording unit for archive purposes. Guidelines for broadcasters undertaking coverage is available to ensure that compliance with the rules of coverage is maintained. Audio coverage of the meeting will be supplied by Westminster Sound. This will be webcast live on the

www.parliamentlive.tv

and Parliament websites, and will be available for 12 months in the searchable audio-visual archive.

Facilities for Members and for members of the public attending the meeting will be provided in the Borough hall, Bedford, by arrangement with Bedford borough council. I understand that the Clerks of the East of England Regional Grand Committee will be writing to members of the Committee shortly with information about the arrangements, and the hon. Member may wish to address any further enquiries to them.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Steen: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many editions of the Green Book have been issued since 2000; in which year each edition was published; how many copies of each edition were printed; what the cost was of publishing each edition; what consultation there was with hon. Members in respect of the changes made in the edition; by what processes such consultation were held; and which editions were distributed in hard copy to all hon. Members automatically. [287929]

Nick Harvey: Since 2000, revised editions of the Green Book were published as follows. Where known, information is included on the number of copies produced and the cost of production.

	Copies	*Cost (£)*
February 2001	n/a	n/a
April 2002	n/a	n/a
June 2003	2,000	13,135
June 2003 updated December 2003	[1]—	n/a
June 2003 updated July 2004	[1]—	n/a
April 2005	3,000	3,745
July 2006	3,000	n/a
March 2009	3,000	7,290
July 2009	2,000	1,936

[1] Intranet only

All copies except the two intranet only editions shown were sent direct to Members.

Since 2004 the Members Estimate Committee has been responsible for the Green Book and given authority for each edition. Since January 2009, responsibility for advising the MEC of changes to the Green Book has rested with the Members' Allowances Committee.

In respect of the Green Book agreed by the House published in March 2009, this was prepared by the then Advisory Panel on Members' Allowances in consultation with independent advisers and other hon. Members. It was approved by the MEC and agreed by the House in January 2009 prior to publication.

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission for what reasons the council tax banding of hon. Members' properties was redacted before publication of information relating to hon. Members' expenses. [288259]

Nick Harvey: In July 2008, by order, Parliament agreed an amendment to the FOIA to the effect that any information that relates to the residential address of a member of either House of Parliament fell outside of the scope of that Act.

Taking account of this, editing of the claims-based allowances was done on the principle that the following information would be made available and all other information would be removed:

Name of Member

Allowance type

Date of claim

Value of claim

Goods or services purchased

Identity of supplier providing goods or services to offices (subject to certain rules).

Members: Offices

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, if the House of Commons Commission will discuss with the appropriate authorities in the House of Lords the compilation of information on the number of *(a)* offices occupied by and *(b)* computers provided for members of each House in the Palace of Westminster. [286951]

Nick Harvey: No. Information on House of Lords accommodation and computers is a matter for that House.

Parliament: Internet

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what steps the Commission *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take over the next two years to provide greater electronic access for the public to parliamentary material; and if he will make a statement. [287824]

Nick Harvey: There are a number of strands of work under way as part of the parliamentary Web and Intranet Programme that will provide greater electronic access for the public to parliamentary material. These include changes to the format of information on the website so that it conforms to accessible data standards and can be accessed and reused by the public, as well as improvements to the presentation to make the information more user friendly and an improved search engine that will enable website visitors to find the information they are looking for quickly and easily.

Portcullis House: Fire Alarms

Simon Hughes: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commissions how many times the fire alarm in Portcullis house has been activated *(a)* for fire drill purposes, *(b)* for testing, *(c)* because of a fire or smoke, *(d)* because of a defect in the system and *(e)* for other reasons in (i) each year since 2005 and (ii) 2009 to date. [288030]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is as follows:

Cause of evacuation alarm actuation	*May 2005 to December 2007*	*January to December 2008*	*January to June 2009*
Fire	4	0	1
Smoke	0	0	1
Fire drills	3	1	1
Alarm testing	0	0	1
Working on alarm system	4	0	0
System defect	11	1	0
Other[1]	10	2	2
Total	32	4	6

[1] Includes operation of manual call points for no obvious reason, construction (hot) works and contractors and staff disturbing detection beams.

Fire alarm activation records for 2005 to 2007 are archived off site and it has not been possible to break down the figures for that period by year.

Standing Committees: Internet

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what steps the Commission is *(a)* taking and *(b)* plans to take over the next two years to make available on the Parliamentary website the transcript of Standing Committee debates held prior to 1997; and if he will make a statement. [287823]

Nick Harvey: 421 volumes of Standing Committee debates, covering the period 1919 to 2004-05, have been digitised. The data will now go through a process of quality assurance with the aim of making them available online in January 2010. They will be published alongside the digitised *Hansard*.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 841W, on trade unions, what steps the Commission takes to ensure that facilities given to trade unions are not used for political activity or political campaigning. [287288]

Nick Harvey: Political impartiality is a requirement for the majority of House of Commons employees. The staff handbook requires that staff seek permission from their manager before engaging in political activity and that if permission is granted, the activity must not be undertaken in circumstances where it could be reasonably be assumed that they were acting as a representative of the House of Commons. This restriction applies to employees who are accredited representatives or members of unions recognised by the House of Commons service when using facilities provided to them on the parliamentary estate.

The House of Commons service does not directly monitor the use of facilities made available to employees who are accredited representatives or members of recognised unions. If evidence of misuse of facilities is presented, it will be investigated.

TRANSPORT

A127: Speed Limits

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many fines have been issued to motorists for exceeding the new speed limits on the A127 in each of the last six months; and how many of those fines resulted in prosecution. [288110]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. The speed limit on the A127 is enforced by average speed cameras. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of fines issued and prosecutions will therefore be a matter for the Essex road safety partnership.

Airports: Noise

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the area was inside the *(a)* 57dB LAeq daytime summer contour and *(b)* 48dB LAeq nighttime contour for each major airport in England in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009; and what estimate he has made of the size of each such area if the planned expansion of (A) Heathrow and (B) Stansted takes place. [284704]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport produces annual 'daytime' aircraft noise contours (16 Hour 57dBA Leq) for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted—these airports have been designated for noise control purposes under section 80 and section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982.

Elsewhere it is the responsibility of the airport operator to decide upon the timing and form of any contours.

Information on noise contours around Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted for 2005 to 2007 is available on the Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/nec/

The 2008 contours are expected to be published shortly.

Information about future projections is available in ERCD 0705 'Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates for Heathrow Airport'—also available on the Department's website. Additionally ERCD 0308 'Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates for UK Airports'—published at the time of 'The Future of Air Transport' White Paper in 2003—contained future projections for Stansted.

In terms of night time contours, the current night flying restrictions regime at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted set the following specific noise abatement objectives for each airport:

At Heathrow, to limit the 6.5 hour 48 dBA Leq contour (the winter and summer seasons combined) to 55 sq km by 2011-12;

At Stansted, to limit the 6.5 hour 48 dBA Leq contour (the winter and summer seasons combined) to 38 sq km by 2011-12.

As regards other airports, the European Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC, (END) requires member states to produce strategic noise maps every five years for major airports (with 50,000 and above movements). The maps are required to represent annual average noise values and use of four different parameters daytime (7 am to 7 pm); evening (7 pm to 11 pm); night (11 pm to 7 am) as well as an estimated annual 24-hour period. The range of contours extend—in five dB steps—for 50 to 70 dBA. Airports produced noise maps for 2007 and these are available on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' noise mapping website:

http://services.defra.gov.uk/wps/portal/noise

Airports: South East

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what forecast he has made of the number of passengers using each airport in the south-east in 2030 on the basis of the most recent gross domestic product forecasts from HM Treasury. [288044]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's latest forecasts of the number of passengers using each airport in the south-east in 2030 are given in table G3, page 135 of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", published in January 2009. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09

No update of these forecasts is currently available. The Department aims to publish updated forecasts when there is a policy need, as it did alongside the announcement of policy decisions on the future development of Heathrow airport.

Aviation

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport to how many airlines his Department has granted fifth freedoms in respect of a regional airport since October 2005. [287732]

Paul Clark: Since October 2005, the Department for Transport has issued operating permits to 267 different airlines allowing them to exercise fifth freedom rights from UK regional airports.

Aviation: Disabled

Dr. Vis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what obligations apply to air carriers to make available to passengers copies of the rules and regulations which apply to them in respect of the carriage of disabled people and the provision of supplementary oxygen to passengers who require it in flight. [287167]

Paul Clark: Airlines are not obliged under the regulation to make available the rules and regulations as set out. However, many airlines do lay out their policies on carrying medical oxygen on their websites.

The rules themselves are widely available. EU regulation 1107/2006 is published on the EU Commission website. Its obligations are explained in the Department for Transport code of practice, "Access to Air Travel for Disabled Persons and Persons with Reduced Mobility". The Department for Transport and the Equality and Human Rights Commission have also published a step by step guide called "Your rights to fly—what you need to know":

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/your-rights/rights-in-different-settings/air-travel/your-rights-to-fly-step-by-step-guide/

http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/aviation shipping/yourrightstofly

Free copies of these documents are available from the Department and the Equality and Human Rights Commission website. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what obligations apply to air carriers based in countries outside the EU in respect of the provision of mobility assistance to passengers on flights into the UK. [287168]

Paul Clark: Airlines based in countries outside the EU are governed by the laws of the state in which they are registered. Passengers needing assistance once they reach the UK should notify the airport where they will arrive 48 hours in advance of their requirements, either through their airline or travel agent. Passengers should always check before they buy a ticket whether the air carrier they choose to fly on offers them the service they want.

Bus Services: Concessions

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of pensioners who *(a)* are entitled to and *(b)* hold a concessionary bus pass in (i) Test Valley borough and (ii) the City of Southampton. [288399]

Mr. Khan: During preparations for the introduction for concessionary travel, the Department for Transport used census data to estimate the number of older people eligible for a concessionary bus pass. The figure for Test Valley was 24,402 and for Southampton unitary authority was 40,145.

The Department is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued. The last information held by the Department was that as of April 2009 Southampton had issued approximately 37,000 new smartcard concessionary passes. Test Valley is part of the Hampshire Countywide scheme who had issued approximately 184,000 passes. This includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1161W, on the Channel Tunnel railway line, whether the *(a)* Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission and *(b)* Office of Rail Regulation has powers to hear appeals in respect of Channel Tunnel access charges. [288054]

Chris Mole: A railway undertaking may appeal in relation to infrastructure charges to the Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission under article 12.1 of the schedule to the Channel Tunnel (International Arrangements) Order 2005 (SI No. 2005/3207, as amended).

The Office of Rail Regulation has no powers to hear such appeals in respect of the Channel Tunnel, but may be called upon to assist the Intergovernmental Commission in dealing with them, under article 4A(1) of the same instrument.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1161W, on the Channel Tunnel railway line, what assistance the Government plan to give new rail operators to obtain the necessary safety and access approvals to use the Channel Tunnel. [288055]

Chris Mole: The Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission has issued guidance to assist railway operators in making applications for part B safety certificates, which they issue in respect of the Channel Tunnel.

In addition, the Intergovernmental Commission expects to consult shortly on the specific safety rules that apply to the transit of passenger trains through the Tunnel. After 15 years of operation it is necessary to consider whether the rules that were originally put in place remain valid and to ensure that they do not act as an unnecessary obstacle to the free movement of traffic, while at the same time ensuring that existing levels of safety are maintained.

The Government believe that existing legislation do contain, and the new legislation covering Channel Tunnel access to infrastructure for international rail passenger services will contain, clearly specified requirements, so that new rail operators will not need assistance when making an application.

Cycling: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many qualified instructors of cycle safety training there were in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* Southampton in each of the last five years. [287763]

Mr. Khan: We do not hold this information.

There are over 3,000 national standard trainers in the country and over 170 organisations registered to deliver Bikeability training, the name under which the national standard is promoted in England.

This includes 10 organisations operating in Hampshire. Four of these, including the city council operate in Southampton. We do not hold details of how many national standard trainers each training organisation employs.

We have no information on the number of people who may deliver other forms of cycle training which does not meet the national standard in the Test Valley, Southampton or nationally.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date the Secretary of State last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287406]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State for Transport has never met Mr. McBride in the course of his official duties.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons his Department's new probation policy does not make provision for women to take maternity leave during the probation period. [287209]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* The Department for Transport's (central Department) staff handbook contains employees' contractual entitlements to maternity leave. These entitlements are unaffected by the Department's new probationary policy, which applies only to the central Department and not its agencies. In practical terms, new employees are unlikely to be taking maternity leave during their probationary period. If, however, the situation did arise, the employee would be entitled to take maternity leave in accordance with the maternity leave provisions in the staff handbook. In such a case, the employee's probationary period would be frozen and recommenced upon the employee's return from maternity leave.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286540]

Chris Mole: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

The Department for Transport complies with the mandatory requirements of the security policy framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286165]

Chris Mole: The figures for the Department for Transport and its Agencies for photocopiers, scanning devices (SDs) and fax machines (FMs), excluding multi-function devices (MFDs), are given in the following table. The Department's policy is to gradually replace photocopiers and scanners with MFDs in accordance with the 'Greening Government ICT Strategy' published in July 2008:

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Comments*
Department for Transport (central)	n/a	25 copiers	25 copiers	25 copiers	2007 figures produced by a specific audit. 2008 and 2009 figures not readily available but estimated to be similar to 2007.
	—	42 SDs	42 SDs	42 SDs	
	—	56 FMs	56 FMs (estimated)	56 FMs (estimated)	
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	n/a	202 copiers	174 copiers	171 copiers	All figures unavailable for 2006, and SD and FM figures for earlier three years unavailable.
	—	—	—	86 SDs	
	—	—	—	353 FMs	
Highways Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a	0 copiers	Figures for first three years unavailable. HA began phasing out standalone machines in 2005 and replacing with MFDs. 2009 figures are just a residue.
	—	—	—	2 SDs	
	—	—	—	7 FMs	
Driving Standards Agency	0 copiers	0 copiers	0 copiers	0 copiers	All copiers are MFDs.
	12 SDs	12 SDs	13 SDs	13 SDs	
	462 FMs	459 FMs	447 FMs	445 FMs	
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	148 SDs	148 SDs	148 SDs	148 SDs	No central record of copiers kept. SD and FM figures constant over last few years.
	205 FMs	205 FMs	205 FMs	205 FMs	
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a	12 SDs	All copiers are MFDs. Scanning device figures are only available for 2009. Fax machine figures unavailable.
Vehicle Certification Agency	4 copiers	4 copiers	4 copiers	4 copiers	Review due this year with a view to replacing with MFDs.
	5 SDs	6 SDs	7 SDs	8 SDs	
	6 FMs	6 FMs	6 FMs	6 FMs	
Government Car and Despatch Agency	4 copiers	4 copiers	4 copiers	4 copiers	
	3 SDs	3 SDs	3 SDs	3 SDs	Have had the same equipment for several years.
	8 FMs	8 FMs	8 FMs	8 FMs	

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover report in its procurement processes. [287144]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is working with the Office of Government Commerce on the "Access

for All" programme which is the specific response to the Glover report. This programme is currently developing a detailed programme of work in response to each of the 12 key Glover recommendations.

First Great Western

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 14WS, on the First Great Western franchise, how much of the £29 million funding for passenger benefits has been *(a)* spent and *(b)* allocated for expenditure; and what system will be used to monitor the performance of First Great Western in meeting its franchise agreement in the future. [288083]

Chris Mole: Benefits have been delivered to passengers since last year, but the relevant dates by which the £29 million must be spent have not yet been reached. The Department for Transport will seek written evidence of compliance with the spending obligations.

Galileo

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the Galileo satellite navigation system to become fully functional. [287733]

Paul Clark: The European Commission envisages the deployment of the Galileo satellite constellation and the establishment of the ground-based infrastructure to run until 2013 and for initial operations to commence in that time frame. Operational capability will be confirmed when the certification of the system, and standard operational measures have been assured and the technical performance and stability of the system have met the mission and performance requirements. This is expected to take place during the exploitation phase of the programme starting from 2014.

Great North Eastern Railway: Connex

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* GNER and *(b)* Connex surrendering their franchise. [283039]

Chris Mole: The only franchise that has failed is Connex South Eastern. The Strategic Rail Authority incurred costs of £3.8 million, over and above those recovered from Connex. The details can be found in the National Audit Office's report of December 2005, available on their website at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0506/the_south_eastern passenger_ra.aspx

The former GNER franchise was not surrendered, but was converted to a management contract before being re-let. The costs incurred by the Department for Transport were covered from the franchisee.

Heathrow Airport

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanisms his Department has planned for the determination of planning applications in respect of the expansion of Heathrow airport in circumstances in which his Department's proposed special administration regime for major airports is in use. [287905]

Paul Clark: The preparation and timing of any planning application for a third runway and associated terminal facilities at Heathrow airport are a matter for the airport operator. Such a development would be likely to meet the 2008 Planning Act's threshold for a nationally significant airport infrastructure project. The planning application would therefore be subject to consideration by the new Infrastructure Planning Commission if received after March 2010 when the relevant threshold in the Planning Act is due to be commenced.

As part of a recent consultation on proposals to reform the economic regulation of airports, the Department for Transport sought views on a package of proposed measures to strengthen the financial resilience of airports in order to protect consumers. We are currently considering responses to the consultation and will announce our decision in due course.

Helicopters

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what legislative provisions govern the landing of helicopters on private land. [287790]

Paul Clark: A helicopter landing on private land must comply at all times with relevant aviation safety legislation, including the rules governing low flying set out in the rules of the air 2007.

There are no planning rules in England specifically governing the landing of helicopters on private land. It is for local planning authorities to determine, in the first instance, whether planning permission would be required, taking into account the individual circumstances of each case.

Invalid Vehicles

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how responsibility for enforcement of Class 2/3 weight and speed restrictions for powered mobility products is exercised; and by whom. [287991]

Mr. Khan: Class 2 and class 3 powered mobility scooters have to comply with specific speed and weight requirements which are set down in the Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988. There is currently no official body that routinely checks that class 2 and class 3 scooters conform to these requirements. Local enforcement bodies, including the police, do take an interest in their use and will take action when they are misused.

In addition the Department for Health and Medical and Health Regulatory Authority work with British manufacturers to ensure that the safety and construction standards for mobility scooters are met.

National Express

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the joint letter of 1 May signed by Dr. Mike Mitchell of his Department and Ray O'Toole of National Express. [288050]

Chris Mole: This document is commercially confidential at the present time.

National Express East Coast

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to prevent service disruption on the East Coast Main Line prior to the anticipated default by National Express. [288053]

Chris Mole: The Government have established a publicly owned company, which will take over the management of the franchise when National Express East Coast ceases to operate. The Department for Transport is working with National Express to ensure and orderly handover of operations.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the statement of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 424-26, on National Express east coast franchise, what assessment he has made of the effect on his Department's budget for rail Control Period Four, 2009-14, of changes to the National Express east coast franchise. [288189]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has sufficient budget cover to fund any shortfall for the operation of services on the East Coast Main Line at the point that National Express East Coast ceases to operate under their current franchise agreement. The Government intend to re-let the franchise in due course; the requirement for public support thereafter will depend upon the terms of the winning bid awarded by a competitive process.

North London Railway Line

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport by what date his Department expects to be able to quantify the savings made under the North London Line Camden Road freight scheme announced last year. [288058]

Chris Mole: The cost and final specification of the scheme are being assessed by Network Rail which is taking the scheme through its project development process. The final cost will be determined by the scheme design of which Network Rail will have a preliminary indication in spring 2010.

Ports: Non-domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations his Department has received on the effect on firms located in ports of the application of retrospective business rates in the last six months. [288524]

Paul Clark: Since 1 January 2009 the Department for Transport has received several such representations from a cargo services business in Grimsby and I have answered a parliamentary question from the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb), on 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1078W.

Railways: Finance

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department plans to spend on subsidy to train operators in 2009-10. [286306]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport maintains financial forecasts of anticipated subsidy payable to train operating companies. However, this information is commercially confidential and market sensitive.

Historic subsidy payments are published in National Rail Trends which is available on the Office of Rail Regulation's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the privatisation of the rail network. [286593]

Chris Mole: The historic costs associated with the privatisation of the railway have been published in the annual reports of the various bodies involved in the process. The following table sets out the reported costs of those organisations between 1991-92 and 1996-97:

	£ million
Department of Transport	93.2
Office of Rail Passenger Franchising	-93.5
Office of Rail Regulation	27.3
British Rail	332.2
Railtrack	78.0
Total	624.2

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many rail franchises other than the East Coast Main Line are at red on his Department's financial risk scale. [288052]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport reviews the operational and financial performance of train operating companies on a regular basis, as part of its routine monitoring of the contractual arrangements between the Department and its franchise holders. That internal analysis is commercially confidential.

Railways: Franchises

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which existing rail franchises he expects to return a premium to his Department by the end of the franchise period. [286074]

Chris Mole: Based on existing contracted amounts it is anticipated that the following franchises will return a premium over the life of the contract:

Chiltern
First Great Western
South West Trains
East Midlands Trains
First Capital Connect
NX East Anglia
Southern Trains.

However, overall net premium payments are dependent on any revenue support payments.

NX East Coast has to date paid premiums, and is contracted to do so over the remainder of the franchise.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department expects to receive in premiums from rail franchises in financial year 2009-10. [286900]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* Contracted premiums currently receivable under franchise agreements in 2009-10 total £319 million.

Railways: North West

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps he has taken to improve rail services in the North West. [287976]

Chris Mole: The North West has benefited considerably from the £8.9 million upgrade of the west coast main line. Since December 2008, more and faster trains have run between London and Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, and major towns and cities between Crewe and Glasgow. Northern Rail services were also improved on the route between Bradford and Manchester and the Cumbrian coast line. Investment to improve reliability has resulted in the best levels of performance ever experienced by Northern Rail during the four-week period ending 30 May 2009.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 576W, on railways: overcrowding, when the passengers in excess of capacity measure will be replaced; what measure for monitoring passenger numbers was used in 2008; and what measure for monitoring passenger numbers will be used for 2009. [279313]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport will continue to monitor passenger numbers against capacity and does not plan to replace this measure.

The Office for Rail Regulation publishes statistics on passengers in excess of capacity in National Rail Trends:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/rolling-c1-railusage.pdf

In 2008 a measure was published for train operating companies covering London and the south-east. The same measure will be updated in the National Rail Trends Yearbook when it becomes available on 30 July 2009.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 576W, on railways: overcrowding, what capacity benchmarks are used for each franchise let after 2004; and how operators are measured against those benchmarks. [279314]

Chris Mole: Franchises let since 2004 include a performance regime which requires, where appropriate, a franchisee to report actual provision of seating capacity against that scheduled. This regime is based on targets, which usually require the franchisee to progressively improve actual provision compared with planned provision, over the life of the franchise.

The specific arrangements for each operator can viewed on the Department for Transport's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/

Roads: Accidents

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will use the powers under section 180 (1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to provide for the establishment of investigations on the same basis as those conducted by air and rail accident investigation branches in order to determine the underlying causes of road traffic accidents. [287706]

Paul Clark: All fatal collisions on our roads are investigated in great detail by police accident investigators. We are working to improve the analysis of their data which will develop our understanding of the causes of these collisions and focus further measures to prevent deaths on the roads. This work is supplemented by detailed analysis of a sample of collisions by road safety researchers.

We see no case to duplicate this effort by establishing a road accident investigation branch. However, we recently proposed the establishment of an independent expert panel to look at the pattern of fatal accidents on our roads and, on the basis of that analysis, recommend ways to reduce further the number of deaths on our roads.

Roads: Safety

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Second Special Report from the Transport Committee, HC 422, Further Government Response to the Eleventh Report of the Transport Committee of Session 2007-08, whether his Department has decided upon the creation of an anonymised database of selected information from police investigations which is not available from the Stats 19 database. [288508]

Paul Clark: The consultation document "A Safer Way" included the option of creating an anonymised database of selected information (not available from the Stats 19) from police investigations into fatal collisions. The consultation closed 14 July and we are now starting to analyse the responses received. We are continuing to review the availability of data on collisions with a view to improving our understanding of the causes of collisions.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what orders for rail carriages have been placed to date under his Department's provision for new carriages under Delivering a Sustainable Railway; when he expects the remainder of such orders to be placed; and when he expects delivery of carriages arising from such orders to *(a)* commence and *(b)* be completed. [288043]

Chris Mole: 543 vehicles have been ordered to date.

Discussions are continuing with train operating companies for the additional vehicles and announcements on these orders will be made in due course.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date he estimates that the *(a)* first and *(b)* last of the 202 new diesel train carriages will be delivered. [288277]

Chris Mole: We expect to make an announcement in due course.

Severn River Crossing

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information he holds on the number of vehicles in category three which used the Severn Crossing in each of the last five years; and if he will make an estimate of the number of such vehicles registered in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* other EU member states which used that crossing in each such year. [288048]

Mr. Khan: The numbers of category 3 vehicles recorded travelling westbound on both Severn crossings in the last five years are recorded in the following table.

	2008	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*
January	137,759	134,869	129,761	127,078	129,840
February	136,686	129,896	126,091	128,835	128,570
March	135,672	149,375	148,576	142,514	149,912
April	142,564	138,498	132,031	142,484	138,525
May	141,324	148,754	145,714	138,623	138,604
June	137,414	145,641	147,376	145,306	146,776
July	144,900	151,450	143,295	142,417	148,518
August	129,931	146,676	143,308	140,714	139,502
September	138,264	141,487	142,566	143,872	147,489
October	142,618	154,104	148,308	143,056	144,250
November	128,216	151,385	149,910	146,799	148,896
December	119,414	126,566	126,594	127,921	132,820
Total	1,634,762	1,718,701	1,683,530	1,669,619	1,693,702

The number of category 3 vehicles registered in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and other EU member states which use the crossings is not known. The operator of the crossings, Severn River Crossing Plc, does not collate such data.

Transport: Costs

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department has undertaken or evaluated on the external costs associated with *(a)* holiday flights and *(b)* private motoring, with particular reference to environmental costs. [287894]

Mr. Khan: The "Aviation Emissions Cost Assessment 2008", which focuses on climate change impacts, was published in July 2008. This research does not attempt to identify the impacts of 'holiday flights' separately from other flights.

A research report, "Surface Transport Costs and Charges" commissioned by the Department for Transport (DfT), provides estimates of the external costs of car use and was published August 2001.

A list of the current values for external costs used in transport appraisal is also available in DfT's online Transport Analysis Guidance 'Webtag':

www.webtag.org.uk

Transport: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to proposals contained in the Building Britain's Future document, Cm 7654, how much funding his Department proposes to provide for *(a)* electrification of the railways, *(b)* a North-South high-speed rail line, *(c)* incentives for the take-up of low carbon buses and *(d)* a National Cycle Plan in the next five years; and when he expects such funding to be made available. [288188]

Chris Mole: The work electrifying the railways will be taken forward by Network Rail. Their costs will be added to their Regulated Asset Base, and reimbursed through Track Access Charges and Network Grant determined, in the usual way, by as part of the regulatory review process run by the Office of Rail Regulation.

"High Speed Two", the company set up by the Secretary of State for Transport to advise on the development of new high speed rail lines, has been asked to report by the end of the year on the planning, technological, capacity, value for money and funding issues involved. The Government will decide on future work programmes and funding mechanisms in the light of that advice.

In the meantime, HS2 has been allocated a budget of some £7.1 million for the current year.

We have announced a £30 million fund to support the purchase of new low carbon buses in England, available over the current financial year and next financial year. In addition, bus operators are now eligible to receive an extra payment through Bus Service Operators' Grant of 6p per kilometre for services operated by a low carbon bus.

The forthcoming National Cycle Plan will set out the overall future strategy for cycling. Cycling England's existing budget is £60 million in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11. In addition, the Secretary of State announced in July that a further £5 million would be available to pay for cycle improvements at railway stations.

Detailed decisions on funding for these areas in later years will be made when the Department's overall budget is allocated as part of normal Government-wide processes.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 375W, on transport: finance, what his most recent estimate is of the levels of spending on transport in the period up to 2017 in respect of the commitment to double spending on transport in the period 1997 to 2017 set out in the answer. [288216]

Chris Mole: "Comprehensive Spending Review 2007—Meeting the Aspirations of the British People" (Cm 7227) announced a long-term funding guideline for public spending by the Department for Transport, with £19.7 billion spending in 2017-18.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 375W, on transport: finance, what his most recent estimate is of the projected levels of long-term funding for his Department in order to provide for the 2.25 per cent. real growth in the Long-Term Funding Guideline to 2018-19 set out in the answer. [288217]

Chris Mole: The annual figures for the long-term funding guideline for transport announced in "Comprehensive Spending Review 2007—Meeting the Aspirations of the British People" (Cm 7227) for the years beyond the current spending review period, were as set out in the following table.

	£ billion
2011-12	14.7
2012-13	15.4
2013-14	16.2
2014-15	17.0
2015-16	17.8
2016-17	18.7
2017-18	19.7
2018-19	20.7

Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost per return journey by *(a)* air, *(b)* rail and *(c)* car between (i) London and Edinburgh, (ii) London and Glasgow, (iii) London and Manchester, (iv) London and Aberdeen, (v) London and Newcastle, (vi) Birmingham and Edinburgh, (vii) Birmingham and Glasgow, (viii) Bristol and Edinburgh, (ix) Bristol and Glasgow, (x) Edinburgh and Manchester and (xi) London and Newquay; [288046]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who travelled from *(a)* London to Edinburgh, *(b)* London to Glasgow, *(c)* London to Manchester, *(d)* London to Aberdeen, *(e)* London to Newcastle, *(f)* Birmingham to Edinburgh, *(g)* Birmingham to Glasgow, *(h)* Bristol to Edinburgh, *(i)* Bristol to Glasgow, *(j)* Edinburgh to Manchester and *(k)* London to Newquay at least once in the last year for which information is available; and what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of such journeys undertaken by (i) rail, (ii) air and (iii) car in that period. [288051]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's only source of large-scale cross-modal travel data is the National Travel Survey (NTS). This can be used to provide broad estimates of the percentage modal share on major inter-region transport corridors, such as London to the West Midlands and London to the North-West, as shown in the following table:

Long distance journeys by mode, 2002-06

Percentage

	Between London and the North-West	*Between London and the West Midlands*
Car/van	46	73
Surface Rail/LT Underground	40	20
Bus inc. private (hire) bus	5	6
Air	8	0
Other	1	1
Total	100	100

However, the NTS sample size is insufficient to provide comparable data on the specific city-to-city routes listed in the question. Moreover, the NTS cannot provide robust estimates of total numbers of people travelling between specific cities in a given year, nor on the relative cost of different travel modes for a given journey. This information is therefore not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The calculation of average journey costs between pairs of cities is a complex area, requiring detailed knowledge of routes, the modes taken, the time of day of travel, etc. One flexible source for information is the Department's Transport Direct website at:

www.transportdirect.info

It gives an indicative cost for a car journey between any two British postcodes, and offers the public transport costs as alternatives where possible.

WALES

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287345]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office accounts are consolidated within the Ministry of Justice Resource Accounts, not published separately. The Ministry of Justice Resource Accounts are to be laid in Parliament today, 20 July 2009.

Welsh Language Board

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the total annual cost of the Welsh Language Board has been in each year since it was established. [288510]

Mr. Hain: Since devolution, the funding of the Welsh Language Board has been a matter for the National Assembly for Wales. The following grant in aid payments have been made to the Welsh Language Board since its creation in 1993:

	£000
1993-94	129
1994-95	1,797
1995-96	1,953
1996-97	2,000
1997-98	5,692
1998-99	5,762
1999-2000	5,929
2000-01	6,330
2001-02	7,127
2002-03	6,828
2003-04	11,584
2004-05	12,329
2005-06	12,677
2006-07	13,441
2007-08	13,454
2008-09	13,534

The increase in funding in 1997-98 relates to the transfer of funding for a number of organisations from the then Welsh Office to the Board. The 2002-03 rise was due to additional funding to coincide with the publication of the Welsh Assembly Government's "Iaith Pawb" scheme.

SCOTLAND

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287420]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have not met with Damian McBride in the course of my official duties.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information databases his Department *(a)* maintain and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284387]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office maintains and uses the following databases;

1. Ministerial Correspondence database
2. Freedom of Information database
3. Secretary of State stakeholder database
4. Parliamentary Question database
5. HR database
6. Invoices paid database
7. Travel database

All databases which we hold and which contain personal data adhere to the provisions of the Data Protection Act. In addition, following the publication of the cross government data handling review, new projects and programmes that would hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what categories of personal information on members of the public are contained on each database which contains such data managed by his Department and its agencies; when each category of information was first collected; and if he will make a statement; [284898]

(2) what databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if he will make a statement; [285978]

(3) which of the planned databases that will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will hold personal information on members of the public are expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [286147]

(4) what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each of his Department's databases expected to become operational in the next five years; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286498]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office owns very few databases, there are three that contain information about members of the public. The details held are names and contact details, unless otherwise stated.

1. Ministerial Correspondence database—includes the names of members of the public who asked the question.

2. Freedom of Information database—includes the names of members of the public who asked the question.

3. Secretary of State stakeholder database—includes some members of the public.

There are no current plans to store any new data or categories of personal information on members of the public across the Scotland Office as a whole.

All databases which we hold and which contain personal data adhere to the provisions of the Data Protection Act. In addition, following the publication of the cross government data handling review, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

All of our databases containing personal information are stored on secure networks and have limited access. The Scotland Office does not permit uncontrolled transfer of these data to unsecured media.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) permanent secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288991]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system, including the provision of hardware and software. All users on the SCOTS system use Internet Explorer 6.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay is of (i) male and (ii) female employees. [288603]

Ann McKechin: Staffing information containing the gender breakdown of the Scotland Office are published in the Office's annual report; available in the House Library or on our website at:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/10797.135.html

As all staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice the Office reimburses those Departments for the costs involved. The Office does not maintain a record of the hourly pay of staff; such information is held by the parent Departments.

Departmental Publications

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, whether special advisers in his Department were involved in the drafting of the background paper Scotland and Oil. [288759]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Special advisers in the Scotland Office, work with the permanent civil service, and provide advice and assistance to Ministers across the range of their activities in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Fuels: Prices

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when his Department's officials last met HM Treasury officials to discuss the proposals for a reduced fuel prices pilot scheme in island communities in Scotland. [287717]

Ann McKechin: Officials in the Scotland Office have discussions with HMT officials on a regular basis on a variety of issues.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what steps his Department has taken to identify suitable locations for the pilot scheme for reduced fuel prices in island communities in Scotland; [287718]

(2) what plans he has for a pilot scheme for reduced fuel prices in the Highlands and Islands; and when the scheme is planned to start. [287719]

Ann McKechin: The Government have no plans to introduce such a scheme. While the Government recognise the impact of higher fuel prices on those living in island communities in Scotland and in other rural areas across the UK, such prices are set by fuel producers and suppliers as a result of their commercial judgments, driven by market forces. OFT reports have repeatedly shown that markets are functioning properly in rural areas such as north-west Scotland and the Scottish islands, but any evidence of anti-competitive behaviour on the part of fuel sellers can of course be brought to their attention.

The Secretary of State met with the hon. Member for Argyll and Bute (Mr. Reid) at his request to discuss these issues.

PRIME MINISTER

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what date he last met Mr Damian McBride in the course of his official duties; [287363]

(2) on what date each of his special advisers last met Mr Damian McBride in the course of their official duties. [287365]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answers I gave during Prime Minister's Questions to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott) on 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 301-2 and the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) on 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 791.

Departmental E-mail

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Birkenhead of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 499W, on email, at what address members of the public are able to email him; on what date the account was set up; how often the account is checked; and what account he takes of the emails he receives from members of the public in his formulation of policy. [286120]

The Prime Minister: The present e-mail system went live in April 2009 and is available on the No. 10 website at:

https://email.number10.gov.uk/

Emails are checked on a regular basis.

Departmental Reorganisation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost has been of restructuring the machinery of Government since 2007. [280665]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 51W.

In addition, I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses a paper by the Cabinet Office which sets out the functions of Departments following the creation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Derek Draper

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 379W, on Chequers, for what reason Mr Derek Draper was invited to attend Chequers on 16 November 2008. [287277]

The Prime Minister: A list of guests who have received official hospitality at Chequers is published on an annual basis. For information for the financial year 2008-09 I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made to the House on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 70-73WS.

Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister when he last *(a)* met and *(b)* communicated with (i) Mr Derek Draper and (ii) Mr Charlie Whelan in the course of his official duties. [287352]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Eastern Europe

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 499W, on Eastern Europe, on what occasions since June 2007 he has met *(a)* President Václav Klaus of the Czech Republic, *(b)* President Lech Kaczynski of Poland and *(c)* President Dmitri Medvedev of the Russian Federation (i) in the UK, (ii) in each leader's home country and (iii) elsewhere. [287594]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 499W.

European Commission

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what criteria he plans to adopt in determining the Government's position on the selection of the next President of the European Commission; [287743]

(2) what criteria he plans to adopt in selecting the next UK candidate for the European Commission. [287744]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1190W.

Former Ministers: Pay

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether Lord Carter of Barnes *(a)* has received or *(b)* will receive payment on leaving Ministerial office; [289076]

(2) which former Ministers *(a)* received and *(b)* elected to forego payments following their departure from Ministerial office in June 2009. [289077]

The Prime Minister: Severance pay is payable in accordance with section 4 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 104-8W, on the Iraq Committee of Inquiry: finance, how he plans to update the House on progress made during the summer adjournment on the work being taken forward by the Cabinet Office on the Government's support to, and liaison with, the Chilcot inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [288060]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 104-8W.

Iraq: Armed Conflict

Lynne Jones: To ask the Prime Minister which of the matters referred to in his statement of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-24 on Iraq he would classify as containing the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits to the UK of participation in the Iraq war and occupation. [283730]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave her on 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1190W. In addition on costs, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Defence Secretary (Mr. Hutton) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 33W.

Lord Carter

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister whether Lord Carter received a severance payment on relinquishing his role as chief of strategy and principal adviser at 10 Downing Street. [287292]

The Prime Minister: No.

Lord Mandelson

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what responsibilities Lord Mandelson has as First Secretary of State. [287293]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the machinery of government press notice issued by my Office. Copies are available in the Library of the House and are also available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19525

Members: Correspondence

Andrew Selous: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 784, when he plans to write to the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire following the meeting on 24 June 2009 to set out the steps he is taking to address the issues raised. [288071]

The Prime Minister: I have arranged for my right hon. and learned Friend the Minister of State for Health (Mr. O'Brien) to reply to the hon. Member following our meeting.

Official Gifts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister, if he will publish a list of gifts valued at over £140 which were purchased by his predecessor on leaving office; and if he will make a statement. [287745]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister, when he plans to place in the Library a copy of the list of ministerial gifts received and valued over £140 for 2007-08. [287746]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 66WS.

Official Residences

Robert Neill: To ask the Prime Minister whether the official residence in South Eaton Place has been sold. [286893]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Minister for Borders and Immigration at the Home Office (Mr. Woolas) on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 310W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Prime Minister what use will be made of the Ministerial residence in Admiralty House following Lord Malloch-Brown's departure from the Government. [286894]

The Prime Minister: A decision on this will be made in due course.

Public Expenditure

Tony Baldry: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 294, what he meant by the phrase a zero per cent. rise in 2013-14. [285202]

The Prime Minister: Spending budgets and forecasts are set out in Budget 2009. I also refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 1 July 2009. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19909

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Park

5. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent progress has been made on the construction of the Olympic park for the London 2012 Olympics. [287470]

Tessa Jowell: Construction of the Olympic park venues and infrastructure is progressing well.

Building work is well under way on the five main park venues: the stadium, aquatics centre, velodrome, the athletes' village and the international broadcast centre/main press centre, and is ahead of schedule in some cases.

39.2 per cent. of the Olympic Delivery Authority's programme is now complete.

Prostitution

7. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on policy to minimise levels of prostitution associated with the number of tourists expected to attend the London 2012 Olympics. [287472]

Tessa Jowell: I have regular discussions with Home Office Ministers on the London 2012 safety and security programme. This is one of many issues that have and will continue to be discussed.

We are currently seeing no evidence to suggest an increase in the sex industry or human trafficking in relation to the games. However, police services will continue to monitor and will respond to the situation should it change before or during the Olympics.

Cycling

8. **Dr. Harris:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what progress has been made in constructing the facilities for cycling events at the London 2012 Olympics. [287473]

Tessa Jowell: Construction of the velodrome—designed to be the world's fastest track—commenced in March, is progressing as scheduled, and is on track to be completed in early 2011. The foundations of the venue are complete and work on the concrete slabs and ground to concourse columns has commenced.

Construction of the BMX facilities, adjacent to the velodrome will commence in 2010.

The more temporary facilities at Hadleigh farm for the mountain biking events and at Regents park for the finish of the road cycling events will be constructed nearer to 2012.

Housing

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps are being taken to ensure that housing built for the London 2012 Olympics will be available for use by local people after the games. [287468]

Tessa Jowell: After the games the Olympic village, as planned from the outset, will be converted into a mix of private and social housing available for take-up by local people and others.

Nearly 50 per cent. of the 2,818 homes will be provided as affordable by Triathlon Homes, a consortium which includes a Stratford-based registered landlord, East Thames Housing Group.

The allocation of affordable homes will be agreed between Triathlon Homes and the London borough of Newham in the context of national housing policies and the London Mayor's housing strategy.

Legacy: Scotland

Mr. Hamilton: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent discussions she has had on the legacy for Scotland from the London 2012 Olympics. [287471]

Tessa Jowell: Construction of the Olympic Park venues and infrastructure is progressing well.

Building work is well under way on the five main Park venues: the stadium, aquatics centre, velodrome, the athletes' village and the international broadcast centre/main press centre, and is ahead of schedule in some cases.

39.2 per cent. of the Olympic Delivery Authority's programme is now complete.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) how much *(a)* the Olympic Delivery Authority and *(b)* her Office spent on consultancy fees in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; [274955]

(2) when she plans to answer Question 274955, tabled by the hon. Member for South-West Surrey on 7 May 2009, on consultancy fees. [280975]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The procurement of consultancy services by both Government Olympic Executive (GOE) and Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is a planned response to the need to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees to deliver the London 2012 games on time and within a budget of £9.325 billion.

The consultants provide valuable short term support or key specialist skills and expertise not otherwise readily available.

The use of consultants has enabled us to make excellent progress across the many facets of the Olympic programme and in particular in the construction of the Olympic venues and development of legacy planning. As well as

rapid progress we have seen significant savings across the venues and infrastructure construction programme, whose anticipated final cost fell by £179 million from £7,413 million when we published the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games annual report in January 2009 to £7,234 million when we published our quarterly economic report in May 2009.

As the International Olympic Committee recently recognised, inputs such as these are continuing to transform the lower Lea valley and provide a lasting legacy for the people of London and the UK.

Spending by the Olympic Delivery Authority on consultancy fees reduced from £19.8 million (3.7 per cent. of total ODA spend) in 2007-08 to £16 million (1.2 per cent.) in 2008-09.

This reduction reflects the shift from the planning, design and preparation phase of the programme, where consultancy costs are traditionally concentrated, to the development phase.

Spending by the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) on consultancy was £0.4 million in 2007-08 and £0.3 million in 2008-09, 4.6 per cent. and 3.4 per cent. respectively of GOE's total budget.

Olympic Games 2012: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the Olympic Delivery Authority has spent on consultants in each year since its creation. [279410]

Tessa Jowell: The procurement of consultancy services by both Government Olympic Executive and Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is a planned response to the need to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees to deliver the London 2012 games on time and within a budget of £9.325 billion.

The consultants provide valuable short term support or key specialist skills and expertise not otherwise readily available.

The use of consultants has enabled us to make excellent progress across the many facets of the Olympic programme and in particular in the construction of the Olympic venues and development of legacy planning. As well as rapid progress we have seen significant savings across the venues and infrastructure construction programme, whose anticipated final cost fell by £179 million from £7,413 million when we published the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games annual report in January 2009 to £7,234 million when we published our quarterly economic report in May 2009.

As the IOC recently recognised, inputs such as these are continuing to transform the lower Lea valley and provide a lasting legacy for the people of London and the UK.

Spending by the ODA on consultancy fees reduced from £19.8 million (3.7 per cent. of total ODA spend) in 2007-08 to £16 million (1.2 per cent.) in 2008-09.

This reduction reflects the shift from the planning, design and preparation phase of the programme, where consultancy costs are traditionally concentrated, to the development phase.

Spending by the ODA on consultancy fees in each completed financial year since its creation has been:

	Consultancy fees (£ million)
2005-06	6.1
2006-07	13.7
2007-08	19.8
2008-09	16

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bomb Disposal

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times the Army Bomb Disposal Squad has been deployed against *(a)* hoax and *(b)* real devices in each month of the last two years. [287646]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the number of times that the Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel (EOD) have been called out in respect of both hoax and real devices in each month over the last two years.

	IED[1]/Incendiary[2]/Find[3] call outs	*Hoax[4]/False[5] call outs*	*Total call outs*
2007			
July	16	10	26
August	11	1	12
September	26	5	31
October	23	6	29
November	15	2	17
December	17	5	22
2008			
January	6	15	21
February	2	16	18
March	7	16	23
April	20	4	24
May	12	17	29
June	16	7	23
July	17	6	23
August	12	14	26
September	19	11	30
October	21	14	35
November	30	25	55
December	19	7	26
2009			
January	19	4	23
February	18	9	27
March	28	51	79
April	22	29	51
May	24	11	35
June	22	17	39

[1] IED—The report of EOD action which results in the total neutralisation, disruption or dismantling of an Improvised Explosive Device.
[2] Incendiary—The report of the functioning of an IED which is primarily designed to cause damage by burning.
[3] Find—The report of explosives or bomb-making components, weapons, ammunition or tools found by the police or security forces and confirmed by the EOD operator after full investigation.
[4] Hoax—The report of an incident where, after full investigation, an object is discovered to be a simulated IED.
[5] False—A report made in good faith of an object believed to be an IED which, upon full investigation, proves to be innocuous.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many square metres of floor space there are at each of the premises occupied by his Department. [285408]

Mr. Woodward: The floor space occupied by the core Department is detailed in the following table. Buildings occupied by less than five individuals are not included.

Building	*Area (m²)*
Annexe A Dundonald House	390
Ballymena Chambers	2,358
Belfast Chambers	6,761
Castle Buildings	3,862
Foyle Chambers	2,360
Hillsborough Castle	124
Hillview	812
Knockview	1,640
Lagan House	947
Linum Chambers	2,710
Lisburn	2,887
Massey House	1,406
Millbank	3,116
Millennium House	2,174
Omagh Chambers	2,733
PSNI Headquarters	153
Royal Courts of Justice Belfast	1,194
Stormont House	500
Stormont House Annexe	1,725
Stormont House Bungalow	140
Unit 2 Walled Garden	350
Windsor House	2,469

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* target and *(b)* average actual time taken to respond to correspondence was of (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent period for which figures are available. [284155]

Mr. Woodward: With the exception of the Compensation Agency, the target for responding to correspondence *(a)* for my Department and agencies is 15 working days. The Compensation Agency works to a tighter target of 10 working days because of its closer direct contact with the general public.

Data on the actual time taken to respond to individual correspondence is not held centrally and to collate the average time taken *(b)*, given the volumes of correspondence received, would therefore incur disproportionate costs.

My Department and agencies do however report annually on percentage of correspondence replied to within target timeframes. The most recent period for which performance against these targets is available is the 2008 calendar year, as set out in annex F of the Northern Ireland Office's 2009 departmental report

www.nio.gov.uk

Performance for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 was as follows:

	Number of letters received	*Percentage replied to within target*
NIO core	467	87.4
Northern Ireland Prison Service	2,204	99.6
Forensic Science Northern Ireland	64	99
Compensation Agency	61,209	98.7
Youth Justice Agency	94	98.9

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information databases his Department *(a)* maintain and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284388]

Paul Goggins: The internal computer databases maintained by the Northern Ireland Office are listed as follows.

Any personal information stored in these databases is subject to the Data Protection Act and to the Northern Ireland Office data protection policy. Also following the publication of the cross government data handling review in June 2008, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Databases containing personal information

Mail Contact Addresses—Stats and Research;
Juvenile Justice Policy Stats database;
Mentally Disordered Offenders;
Fireworks;
CATS (Correspondence and Case Tracking);
Controlled Substances;
Shotfirers;
Prohibited Weapons;
MSER (Register of Explosives Stores);
Registered Premises;
Security Section database;
Firearm Appeals;
KPPS (Key Persons Protection Scheme) Database (.net version);
Security Vetting Database;
Pass Photograph Database;
Pass/Access control system;
Visits Section VIP Database;
Visits Section VVIP Database;
CATS (Correspondence and Case Tracking) Belfast (1);
CATS (Correspondence and Case Tracking) Belfast (2);
CATS (Correspondence and Case Tracking) London;
Board of Visitors database;
Neighbourhood Watch Registered Applications;
Neighbourhood Watch ID Cards;
Antisocial Behaviour Orders Database;
Integra;
Hospitality;
Flight Desk;
Hotel Bookings;
Financial Services Travel System;
Staff Welfare Database.

Databases not containing personal information

COMPASS;
CommVault;
File Registry Internal Audit;
Internal Audit Library;
Druid97;
SAP Solution Manager;
CJPD File Registry Database.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database become operational; and if he will make a statement. [284902]

Paul Goggins: Details of the databases managed by the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies which hold personal information on members of the public and the date they became operational are listed in the following tables.

Any personal information stored in these databases is subject to the Data Protection Act and to the Northern Ireland Office data protection policy. Also following the publication of the cross government data handling review in June 2008, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Database name	*Date*
Mail Contact Addresses—Stats & Research	1996
Juvenile Justice Policy Stats database	1996
Mentally Disordered Offenders	2006
Juvenile Justice database	2004
Fireworks	1990
CATS (Correspondence & Case Tracking)	1999
Controlled Substances	1995
Shotfirers	1994
Prohibited Weapons	1997
MSER (Register of Explosives Stores)	2006
Registered Premises	1998
Security Section database	2000
Firearm Appeals	2001
KPPS (Key Persons Protection Scheme) Database (Anet version)	2004
Security Vetting Database	2007
Pass Photograph Database	2001
Pass/ Access control system	2009
Visits Section VIP Database	2000
Visits Section VVJP Database	2004
CATS (Correspondence & Case Tracking) Belfast (1)	1990
CATS (Correspondence & Case Tracking) Belfast (2)	1990
CATS (Correspondence & Case Tracking) London	1990
Board of Visitors database	1990
JJC Juvenile Justice database	2004
Juvenile Justice Centre Incidents Database	2005
Youth Conference Service Database	2004
Youth Justice Agency Assessets System	2003
Youth Justice Agency Prompt Payment Database	2005
GOMISHQ and security	1995
Dead File Registry	1993
LSU Life Sentence Unit database	1993
Prisoners' Tuckshop	1996
Prisoners Private Cash	1996
File Registry Central Records	1996
Adjudication database	1999
Inmates medical fitness tests	1999
SASHA	1998
Operational Management Unit	1995
Litigation Database	1995
PAFIS (Prison Accounting and Financial System)	1997
DFITS (Departmental Finance IT system)	1997
VIRBS (Visitor Inmate Recognition and Booking System)	1999
SIPS (Secure Image Processing System)	2008
SIPS Viewer	2008
Alchemist	2009
Skillbuilders	2008
GOMIS 2	1995
Oscar 2 Wages	1995
Prisoner Release Victims Information Unit	2003
PRISM	2004
Neighbourhood Watch Registered Applications	2004
Neighbourhood Watch ID Cards	2006
Antisocial Behaviour Orders Database	2006
Integra	1997
Tarrif System	2002
Alton	1989
FSNI Case Management System	1982
DNA Database	1996
Asset 4000 Finance	2007
Agresso Finance	2006

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what categories of personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each category of information began to be collected; and if he will make a statement. [285972]

Paul Goggins: Details of the categories of personal information about members of the public held on databases managed by the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies and the date each category began to be collected are listed in the following tables.

Any personal information stored in these databases is subject to the Data Protection Act and to the Northern Ireland Office data protection policy. Also, following the publication of the cross-Government data handling review in June 2008, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Database name	*Categories of information*	*Date*
Mail Contact Addresses - Stats and Research	Name, Address	1996
Juvenile Justice Policy Stats database	Name, Address, Criminal Offences	1996
Mentally Disordered Offenders	Name, Medical	2006
Juvenile Justice database	Contact Name, Contact Numbers, Offences	2004
Fireworks	Name, Address, Phone Numbers, Fireworks Stored, Licenses Granted	1990
CATS (Correspondence and Case Tracking)	Name, Address, Case Tracking, Correspondence Tracking	1990

Database name	Categories of information	Date
Controlled Substances	Name, Address, Explosives Stored, Licences Granted	1995
Shotguns	Name, Address, Licences Granted	1994
Prohibited Weapons	Name, Address, Weapons Held	1997
MSER (Register of Explosives Stores)	Name, Address, DOB, Phone Numbers, Stored Explosives	2006
Registered Premises	Name, Address, DOB, Storage Use	1998
Security Section database	Name, DOB, Clearances, Security Breaches	2000
Firearm Appeals	Name, Address, DOB, Legal Representative, Weapon Types, Appeals Outcomes	2001
KPPS (Key Persons Protection Scheme) Database (.net version)	Name, Address, Security and Financial Information	2004
Security Vetting Database	Name, DOB, Clearances, Criminal Record	2007
Pass Photograph Database	Name, DOB, Photographs	2005
Pass/Access control system	Name, DOB, Photographs	2005
Visits Section VIP Database	Name, Address, DOB, Functions	2000
Visits Section WIT Database	Name, Address, Phone Numbers, Events	2004
CATS (Correspondence and Case Tracking) Belfast (1)	Name, Address, Case Tracking, Correspondence Tracking	1990
CATS (Correspondence and Case Tracking) Belfast (2)	Name, Address, Case Tracking, Correspondence Tracking	1990
CATS (Correspondence and Case Tracking) London	Name, Address, Case Tracking, Correspondence Tracking	1990
Board of Visitors database	Name, Address, DOB, Phone Numbers	1990
JJC Juvenile Justice database	Name, DOB, Offences, Justice Program Info	2004
Juvenile Justice Centre Incidents Database	Name, Address, DOB, Incident, Injuries, Section 75 data	2000
Youth Conference Service Database	Offender Name, Address, Gender, DOB, Criminal Record Offence Referral and Review, Victim Name, Classification of Victim, Relationship to Victim, Attendance Requirements	2004
Youth Justice Agency Accounts System	Company Name, Address, Bank Details, Payment Details	2003
Youth Justice Agency Prompt Payment Database	Company Name, Address, Payment Details	2005
GOMISHQ and security	Name, Address, DOB, Offences	1995
Dead File Registry	Name, Address, DOB, Offences	1995
LSU Life Sentence Unit database	Name, Address, DOB, Offences, Prison Contact Name, Phone Numbers	1995
Prisoners' Tuckshop	Name, Purchases, Costs	1996
Prisoners Private Cash	Name, Prison Number, DOB	1996
File Registry Central Records	Name, Address, DOB, Offences	1996
Adjudication database	Name, DOB, Adjudication Details, Adjudication Outcome	1999
Inmates medical fitness tests	Name, DOB, Test Results	1999
SASHA	Name, DOB, Physical Characteristics, Offences	1999
Operational Management Unit	Name, Address, DOB, Minister Cases, CEO Cases	1995
Litigation Database	Name, DOB, Legal Representative, Claim Details, Claim Outcome	1995
PAFTS (Prison Accounting and Financial System)	Name, Company Name, Address, Bank Account Details	1997
DFITS (Departmental Finance IT system)	Name, Company Name, Address, Bank Account Details	1997

Database name	Categories of information	Date
VERBS (Visitor Inmate Recognition and Booking System)	Name, Address, DOB, Phone Number, Company, Photograph, Fingerprint, Prisoner ID, Custody Dates	1999
SIPS (Secure Image Processing System)	Name, DOB, Prisoner ID, Security Category, Fingerprint, Photograph, Physical Description, Custody Dates	2007
SIPS Viewer	Name, DOB, Prisoner ID, Security Category, Physical Description, Custody Dates	2008
Alchemist	Name, Prison Number, Medical Records	2000
Skillbuilders	Name, Prison Number, DOB	2008
GO4433 2	Name, Prison Number	1995
Oscar 2 Wages	Name, Prison Number	1995
Prisoner Release Victims Information Unit	Name, Prison Number, DOB	2003
PRISM	Name, Address, Phone Number	2005
Neighbourhood Watch Registered Applications	Co-ordinators Names	2004
Neighbourhood Watch ID Cards	Co-ordinators Names	2006
Antisocial Behaviour Orders Database	Names, DOBs of ASBO Holders	2006
Integra	Name/Company, Address, Bank Account Details	1997
Tariff System	Name, Address, DOB, NI Number, Incident Details, Injury Details, Case Status, Payments Record, Offender Details	2002
Alice	Name, Address, DOB, NI Number, Incident Details, Injury Details, Case Status, Payments Record, Offender Details	1989
PSNI Case Management System	Name, DOB, Incident Details	1982
DNA Database	Name, Gender, DOB, Ethnic Type, DNA Profile Analysis Information	1996
Asset 4000 Finance	Company, Address, Email Addresses, Phone Numbers, Payment Details	2006
Agresso Finance	Company, Address, Email Addresses, Phone Numbers, Payment Details	2006

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each database expected to become operational in the next five years and which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286141]

Paul Goggins: Details of the databases which will be managed by the Northern Ireland Office or its agencies and are expected to become operational in the next five years together with the categories of personal information held on members of the public and the estimated number of records are listed in the following table.

Any personal data which will be stored in these databases will be subject to the Data Protection Act and to the Northern Ireland Office data protection policy. Also following the publication of the cross-Government data handling review in June 2008, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Database name	Categories of personal information	Estimated number of records
2009		
Replacement Visitor to Inmate Recognition and Bookings System (VIRBS)	Name, prison number, address, visitor number, DOB, phone/fax numbers	125,000 over five years
Replacement Secure Image Processing System (SIPS)	Name, prison number, address, visitor number, DOB, phone/fax numbers	125,000 over five years
Juvenile Justice Centre Incidents Database	Name, address, DOB, details of incident, physical restraints, single separations, self harm, sanctions imposed, injuries, Section 75 data	Not known
2010		
Youth Justice Agency Case Management System	Name, address, gender, DOB, Section 75, risk assessment, criminal record, offence referral, medical notes, educational attainments, referral programme, review notes, incident reporting	Currently 2,350 individuals referred to YJA per annum
2011		
Nil	—	—
2012		
Nil	—	—
2013		
Nil	—	—

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what databases which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will contain personal information are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286507]

Paul Goggins: Details of databases which will be managed by the Northern Ireland Office or one of its agencies which will contain personal information currently under construction or expected to become operational in each of the next five years are listed in the following table.

Any personal data which will be stored in these databases will be subject to the Data Protection Act and to the Northern Ireland Office data protection policy. Also following the publication of the cross-Government data handling review in June 2008, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Database name	Under construction/Expected to go live
2009	
Replacement Visitor to Inmate Recognition and Bookings System (VIRBS)	The Northern Ireland Prison Service is currently looking for a replacement for the existing VIRBS system—it will go live in 2009 or 2010 depending on the chosen solution
Replacement Secure Image Processing System (SIPS)	The Northern Ireland Prison Service is currently looking for a replacement for the existing SIPS system—it will go live in 2009 or 2010 depending on the chosen solution
Juvenile Justice Centre Incidents Database	Expected to go live over the next three months
2010	
Youth Justice Agency Case Management System	This project is at an early stage and will not go live before 2010
2011	
Nil	—
2012	
Nil	—
2013	
Nil	—

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286168]

Mr. Woodward: My Department currently has *(a)* 82 photocopiers, *(b)* 50 scanning devices, and *(c)* 149 fax machines. Figures are not available for previous years.

A pilot scheme is currently running aimed at increasing the use of multifunctional printing devices in line with the Department's Green IT strategy.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the maintenance and development costs of his departmental website were in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [285410]

Mr. Woodward: A review of the Northern Ireland Office website was conducted in March 2007 to optimise the site and improve performance and download speed. Maintenance and development costs for 2006-07 were £15,677.44. For the period 2005-06 the costs were £10,293.50.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 39W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance; [288989]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 918-19W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288999]

Paul Goggins: The information requested in relation to web browsers currently used by staff in the Northern Ireland Office is listed in the following table.

		(i) Desktop machines	*(ii) Laptop computers*
(A)	Permanent Secretary	*(a)* Internet Explorer	*(a)* Internet Explorer
		(b) V6 (to be compatible with corporate applications)	*(b)* V6 and V7
(B)	Chief Information Officer	*(a)* Internet Explorer	*(a)* Internet Explorer
		(b) V6 (to be compatible with corporate applications	*(b)* V6 and V7
(C)	Head of Communications	*(a)* Internet Explorer	*(a)* Internet Explorer
		(b) V6 (to be compatible with corporate applications	*(b)*V6andV7
(D)	Head of Finance	*(a)* Internet Explorer	*(a)* Internet Explorer
		(b) V6 (to be compatible with corporate applications	*(b)*V6andV7

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff are based at each of his Department's buildings. [285409]

Mr. Woodward: The number of staff based at each of my Department's buildings is detailed in the following table.

Buildings	*Staff*
Annexe A, Dundonald House	13
Ballymena Chambers	64
Belfast Chambers/Laganside	177
Castle Buildings	133
Foyle Chambers	43
Hillsborough Castle	24
Hillview Buildings	28
Knockview Buildings	88
Lagan House	38
Linum Chambers	133
Lisburn Chambers	93
Massey House	79
Millbank	70
Millenium House	34
Omagh Chambers	59
Royal Courts of Justice, Belfast	79
Stormont House	29
Stormont House Annexe	55
Stormont House Bungalow	21
Unit 2 Walled Garden	19
Windsor House	55
Other buildings occupied by less than five staff	5

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consultations have been carried out by his Department since July 2007; and at what cost. [279345][1]

Mr. Woodward: Since July 2007 my Department, excluding Agencies and non-departmental public bodies, conducted the consultations set out in the following table. The table includes the cost where applicable.

Name of Consultation	*Cost (£)*
Anonymous Registration - Protecting voters at risk in Northern Ireland -February 2008	0
Improving the Administration of Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly-July 2008	0
Consultation on proposed draft Criminal Damage (Compensation) (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 - June 2008	2,235.83
Proposed Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2009	2,681.22
Proposed draft of Sexual Offences (NT) Order - November 2007	2,171.26
Draft Guidance on Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland -May 2008	240.00
Proposed draft Criminal Justice Order 2007	5,984.39
Investigation Code of Practice issued under POCA 2002	0
Search Code of Practice issued under POCA 2002	0
Mentally Disorder Offenders Victim Information Scheme	0
Fine default in NI	2,088.09
Proposals for the reform of the law on murder, manslaughter and infanticide	2,126.77
Equality Impact Assessment and Guideline Principles for the Test Purchase of Alcohol	0
Pre Policy Consultation Special Measures: an evaluation and review 2009	70
Alternatives to Prosecution: A Discussion Paper	109.30
Draft Strategy for the Management of Women Offenders (inc consultation workshop)	1,545
Government's Proposals for the Safety of Older People took place between 14 June and 30 November 2007	8,094.78
Consultation on Community Safety in Northern Ireland took place between 27 October 2008 and 9 February 2009	28,771.62
The Explosive Amendment Regulations (NI) 2008	356.54
Manufacture and Storage of Explosives (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2009	92.52

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on staff surveys in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [287562]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office did not carry out any staff surveys in either 2007 or 2008.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many work placements his Department provided to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [287477]

1. *[Official Report, 9 September 2009, Vol. 496, c. 33-34MC.]*

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 876W.

Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on marking *(a)* St Patrick's Day and *(b)* the Twelfth in each of the last five years. [287680]

Paul Goggins: The Department has not incurred any spend in the past five years on marking either St. Patrick's Day or the Twelfth.

Fuels: Smuggling

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were convicted of offences relating to *(a)* fuel smuggling and *(b)* fuel laundering in the last 12 months. [287489]

Paul Goggins: The most up to date details for oils fraud prosecutions were published in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs autumn performance report 2008. In the period 2007-08 there were three convictions in Northern Ireland for hydrocarbon oil offences. The HMRC autumn performance report does not differentiate between types of hydrocarbon oils offences.

Northern Ireland Information Service: Manpower

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are employed in his Department's Northern Ireland Information Service. [286425]

Mr. Woodward: There are 29.5 people employed in Northern Ireland Information Service (NIIS). NIIS conduct all press office work on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office including an in-house media monitoring service for Ministers, senior officials in the Northern Ireland Civil Service and a range of external stakeholders.

Staff within Information Service also have responsibility for any premises related issues that concern Block B, Castle Buildings.

Northern Ireland Policing Board: Irish Language

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of the public attended the most recent meeting of the Policing Board held in Irish. [287656]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Northern Ireland Policing Board, which is independent of Government. The hon. Gentleman may wish to write to the Chief Executive of the Policing Board.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost has been of holding meetings of the Policing Board in Irish. [287657]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Northern Ireland Policing Board, which is independent of Government. The hon. Gentleman may wish to write to the Chief Executive of the Policing Board.

Orange Order

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Orange Order. [287487]

Paul Goggins: Ministers regularly engage with a range of organisations including the Orange Order. The last meeting held with representatives of the order was in April 2009.

Organised Crime

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the cases referred to in the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) Report 2009 where assets were recovered, what the names were of the persons losing assets; what the alleged criminality was in each case; which OCTF agency led each action; what the monetary value of assets recovered was in each case; on what date action was started in the courts to recover the assets in each case; how each case was concluded; what the overall monetary value was of the assets originally frozen in each case; and how much the person concerned was permitted to retain in each case. [287677]

Paul Goggins: The information requested has to be collated from a number of OCTF partner agencies. I will therefore write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the monetary value of assets recovered from organised crime in Northern Ireland was in each of the last five years. [286872]

Paul Goggins: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible with the information requested.

Parades

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of people who *(a)* marched at, *(b)* were spectators at and *(c)* protested against the parades which took place in Northern Ireland on 12 July 2009. [287880]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what his estimate is of the cost of policing the 12 July events in 2009; [287534]

(2) how many *(a)* uninsured and *(b)* untaxed vehicles were (i) involved in an accident and (ii) used in a crime in Northern Ireland in the last five years; [287535]

(3) how much the Police Service of Northern Ireland spent on offsetting its carbon dioxide emissions in each of the last five years; [287564]

(4) how many pieces of body armour the Police Service of Northern Ireland owns; and how many such pieces were *(a)* purchased and *(b)* reported (i) lost and (ii) stolen in each month of the last five years; [287565]

(5) what the average Police Service of Northern Ireland response time to an emergency call was in each of the policing districts in Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available; [287566]

(6) how many armoured Land Rovers are *(a)* in operation and *(b)* in reserve with the Police Service of Northern Ireland; [287568]

(7) what percentage of emergency calls to the Police Service of Northern Ireland were centrally cleared before a response team was sent out in the last 12 months; [287569]

(8) how many Police Service of Northern Ireland firearms have been reported *(a)* stolen and *(b)* lost in each month of the last five years; [287585]

(9) how many tonnes of fertiliser the Police Service of Northern Ireland seized in the last 12 months; [287586]

(10) how many *(a)* armoured and *(b)* unarmoured vehicles the Police Service of Northern Ireland operates; [287609]

(11) for how many days Police Service of Northern Ireland *(a)* helicopters and *(b)* fixed-wing aircraft have been out of service for maintenance and repairs in the last 12 months; [287610]

(12) how many *(a)* helicopters and *(b)* fixed-wing aircraft the Police Service of Northern Ireland operates; [287611]

(13) how many times the Police Service of Northern Ireland has hired *(a)* helicopters and *(b)* aircraft in the last two years; and at what cost; [287612]

(14) what damage Police Service of Northern Ireland *(a)* helicopters and *(b)* fixed-wing aircraft have sustained from criminal activity in the last 12 months; [287614]

(15) what the cost of licensing a personal protection weapon is; [287618]

(16) how many personal protection weapon applications there were in each month of the last five years; [287620]

(17) for what average length of time personal protection weapons were held in the latest period for which figures are available; [287621]

(18) how many personal protection weapons were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each month of the last five years; [287622]

(19) how many personal protection weapons applications were refused in each month of the last five years; [287624]

(20) how many personal protection weapons were issued in each month of the last five years; [287625]

(21) how many officers are based in the Police Service of Northern Ireland headquarters; [287627]

(22) how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers are based in each of the policing districts in Northern Ireland; [287628]

(23) how many Police Service of Northern Ireland warrant cards have been reported stolen or missing in the last 12 months; [287635]

(24) how many members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland have received specialist training in *(a)* serious public disorder and *(b)* counter-terrorist activities; [287639]

(25) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time Police Service of Northern Ireland officers there are of each rank; [287640]

(26) how many recruits to the Police Service of Northern Ireland since 2004 had previous policing experience; [287647]

(27) how many recruits to the Police Service of Northern Ireland of each *(a)* religion and *(b)* country of residence there were in each month of the last two years; [287648]

(28) what plans there are to introduce mounted police in Northern Ireland; [287649]

(29) what discussions he has had on proposals to introduce mounted police in Northern Ireland; [287651]

(30) which duties accounted for the highest proportion of overtime accrued by Police Service of Northern Ireland officers in the last 12 months; [287652]

(31) how much was spent on overtime for Police Service of Northern Ireland officers for *(a)* counter-terrorism duties and *(b)* other duties in each of the last five years; [287653]

(32) what percentage of the Police Service of Northern Ireland budget was spent on overtime in 2008-09; [287654]

(33) how many incidents of *(a)* violence and *(b)* other crime were reported against ambulance personnel whilst on duty in Northern Ireland in each month of the last five years; [287660]

(34) how many incidents of *(a)* violent and *(b)* other crime were reported against fire service personnel whilst on duty in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [287661]

(35) how many officers recruited to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last 12 months can speak *(a)* Irish and *(b)* Ulster Scots; [287664]

(36) how much the Police Service of Northern Ireland spent on translating documents into *(a)* Irish and *(b)* Ulster Scots in the last 12 months; [287665]

(37) how many people are employed in the personal protection weapon licensing department; [287669]

(38) what the average *(a)* length of time and *(b)* cost was for processing a personal protection weapon application in the latest period for which figures are available; [287670]

(39) how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers have been sent out alone on the beat in the last 12 months; [287984]

(40) how many new recruits to the Police Service of Northern Ireland since 2004 have had criminal convictions of each type. [288690]

Paul Goggins: These are operational matters for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and copies of his letters will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Aircraft

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what arrangements are in place for the Army and the RAF to provide aerial support to the Police Service of Northern Ireland; and how many times in the last two years such support has been provided. [287613]

Paul Goggins: Military support is available to the Police Service of Northern Ireland under the Military Assistance to the Civil Power arrangements.

The number of times that the support has been requested in the last two years is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Reserve Forces

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pieces of correspondence he has received in the last 12 months *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* against maintaining the level of the police full-time reserve. [287606]

Paul Goggins: As the information requested is not held in the format requested, to answer this question would incur disproportionate costs.

Political Directorate: Manpower

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were employed in his Department's political directorate at the latest date for which figures are available. [286426]

Paul Goggins: On 1 July 2009 there were 124 people employed in the political directorate of the Northern Ireland Office.

The political directorate provides parliamentary and private office support to Ministers as well as policy support for the NI political process and other issues including elections, human rights and public inquiries. In preparation for the completion of devolution, the directorate, which will form the core of the future NIO, has also taken management responsibility for relevant corporate services.

Public Opinion

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each of the last five years; what surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [287561]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 782-84W.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times companies have been notified of the refusal of an application they have made for a security licence in each of the last five years. [287643]

Paul Goggins: The numbers of companies notified of the refusal of a licence are as follows:

	Number of licences refused
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	5

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many security companies have been licensed in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [287645]

Paul Goggins: The number of companies licensed are as follows:

	Number of companies licensed
2004	92
2005	101
2006	95
2007	115
2008	132

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new security staff notified to his Department under the provisions of paragraph 13(1) of Schedule 13 to the Terrorism Act 2000 failed vetting; and for what reason in each case. [287673]

Paul Goggins: There were no new security staff notified under the provisions of paragraph 13(1) of schedule 13 to the Terrorism Act 2000 that failed vetting.

The Terrorism Act 2000 provisions fell in 2007 and were replaced by interim arrangements as set out in schedule 6 to the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many changes in security staff have been notified to his Department by private security companies in Northern Ireland as required under paragraph 13(1) of Schedule 13 to the Terrorism Act 2000 in each of the last five years; what arrangements are in place for vetting those staff; how many changed staff were vetted; and on average how long each vetting took. [287674]

Paul Goggins: The Terrorism Act 2000 provisions fell in 2007 and were replaced by interim arrangements as set out in schedule 6 to the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007. The information requested regarding changes to security staff is not readily available and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Under the Terrorism Act 2000 arrangements, the Secretary of State took into account a range of information from differing sources to determine if a company should be issued with a security licence. It was not the practice to vet individual security staff under these arrangements.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many companies are licensed as private security companies in Northern Ireland under the provisions of paragraph 6 of schedule 13 to the Terrorism Act 2000; and how many individuals are recorded as employed in those companies. [287676]

Paul Goggins: There are no companies licensed as private security companies in Northern Ireland under the provisions of paragraph 6 of schedule 13 to the Terrorism Act 2000.

The Terrorism Act 2000 provisions fell in 2007 and were replaced by interim arrangements as set out in schedule 6 to the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007.

Swine Flu: Prisoners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) whether any cases of swine influenza have been diagnosed in the Northern Ireland prison population; [287709]

(2) what contingency arrangements are in place to protect the health of staff in prisons in Northern Ireland in the event of cases of swine influenza among prisoners. [287710]

Paul Goggins: There have been no cases of swine influenza reported among prisoners or prison staff in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) is working in close partnership with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, the Public Health Agency and other health service colleagues to prepare for a potential outbreak within the prison population.

Pandemic flu contingency plans have been developed and NIPS has a range of measures in place. The key objectives will be to minimise onward transmission of infection and maximise appropriate healthcare interventions.

Advice on infection control is being kept up to date throughout the prison estate and guidance for staff and prisoners has been issued. Infection control measures, including hand gel dispensers and enhanced cleaning regimes, are in place. All three NIPS establishments have been supplied with stocks of personal protection equipment (PPE) for both healthcare and operational staff, and training for staff with regard to PPE is underway. Stocks of antivirals have been issued to each establishment, as well as additional medications for managing the symptoms of swine flu, such as paracetamol, antibiotics and respiratory drugs.

Terrorism

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent steps he has taken to ensure the safety of Northern Ireland politicians from threats to their personal safety from *(a)* dissident republicans and *(b)* loyalist groups. [287484]

Paul Goggins: Both the Chief Constable and I take seriously the security of all those in Northern Ireland considered to be at risk. In accordance with the state's article 2 obligations, protection is provided commensurate with the threat. I regularly discuss changes to the threat profile with my security advisers.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of punishment shootings. [287485]

Paul Goggins: While the most recent Independent Monitoring Commission report confirms that the number of shooting casualties is down on the preceding six months period, my Department will continue to work with the PSNI and other agencies in an effort to reduce the level of such criminality.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were convicted of offences relating to punishment shootings in the last 12 months. [287488]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested. Conviction data are collated by offence, but there are no offences provided for by legislation that relate specifically to paramilitary-style shootings.

It is possible, however, to provide information on the number of casualties resulting from paramilitary-style shootings. In 2008-09, there were 20 such casualties, two of which were attributed to loyalists and 18 to republicans.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what steps are being taken to ensure the security and safety of community halls in Northern Ireland; [287490]

(2) how many attacks involving *(a)* petrol bombs, *(b)* blast bombs, *(c)* paint bombs and *(d)* pipe bombs there were in Northern Ireland in each month of the last five years; [287567]

(3) how many *(a)* petrol, *(b)* pipe, *(c)* blast and *(d)* paint bombs were recovered by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of last 12 months; [287572]

(4) how many members of dissident republican groups have been arrested in the last two years; [287573]

(5) how many people have been arrested for offences in connection with the activities of loyalist paramilitary groups in the last five years; [287574]

(6) how many people arrested for offences in connection with the activities of *(a)* dissident republican groups and *(b)* loyalist paramilitaries in the last 12 months had (i) a gun licence and (ii) licensed weapons at the time of arrest; [287575]

(7) how many legally-owned weapons have been confiscated in connection with *(a)* dissident republican and *(b)* loyalist paramilitary activities in the last 12 months; [287576]

(8) how many vehicles have been hijacked by *(a)* dissident republicans and *(b)* loyalist paramilitaries in each of the last 12 months; [287577]

(9) how many *(a)* attempted, *(b)* threatened and *(c)* completed attacks there have been by dissident republicans on police stations in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months; [287578]

(10) how many *(a)* attempted, *(b)* threatened and *(c)* completed attacks there have been by dissident republicans on schools in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months; [287579]

(11) how many *(a)* attempted, *(b)* threatened and *(c)* actual attacks there have been by dissident republicans on army bases in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months; [287580]

(12) how many barrack buster mortars have been recovered by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last five years; [287582]

(13) how many attacks by dissident republicans have involved barrack buster mortars in the last five years; [287583]

(14) how many video cameras have been seized by the Police Service of Northern Ireland from dissident republicans in the last 12 months; [287605]

(15) how many times *(a)* the Army and *(b)* the RAF have been asked to provide assistance to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; [287615]

(16) how many police vehicles in Northern Ireland have been *(a)* damaged and *(b)* taken out of service due to criminal acts in each month of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse has been; [287616]

(17) how many death threats were issued to former members of the *(a)* Police Service of Northern Ireland, *(b)* Royal Ulster Constabulary and *(c)* Ulster Defence Regiment by (i) dissident republicans and (ii) loyalist paramilitaries in each month of the last four years; [287626]

(18) what damage has been sustained by Land Rovers used by the Police Service of Northern Ireland whilst on patrol in Northern Ireland as a result of paramilitary activity in each of the last 12 months; [287629]

(19) what damage has been sustained by soft top vehicles used by the Police Service of Northern Ireland whilst on patrol in Northern Ireland as a result of paramilitary activity in each of the last 12 months; [287630]

(20) how many threats have been issued by *(a)* dissident republicans and *(b)* loyalist paramilitaries against off-duty members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; [287631]

(21) what recorded attempts have been made by *(a)* dissident republicans and *(b)* loyalist paramilitary groups to acquire weapons and munitions using legitimate gun licence holders in the last 12 months; [287632]

(22) how many threats have been issued by *(a)* dissident republicans and *(b)* loyalist paramilitary groups against named individuals (i) in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and (ii) not in the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months; [287633]

(23) how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers have been injured by paramilitary activity whilst on duty in each month of the last two years; [287636]

(24) how many times Police Service of Northern Ireland officers have come under *(a)* attack and *(b)* attempted attack from an explosive device whilst (i) on duty and (ii) off duty in the last 12 months; [287637]

(25) how many times in the last 12 months Police Service of Northern Ireland officers have come under gun fire whilst *(a)* on duty and *(b)* off duty; [287638]

(26) what percentage of calls answered by the Police Service of Northern Ireland related to counter-terrorism activities in the latest period for which figures are available; [287641]

(27) how many police dogs were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed as a result of paramilitary activity in each month of the last five years; [287650]

(28) how many times Police Service of Northern Ireland officers *(a)* drew and *(b)* fired weapons in each month of the last five years; [287668]

(29) how many threats have been issued by *(a)* loyalist paramilitaries and *(b)* dissident republicans against former members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [287679]

Paul Goggins: As these are operational matters for the Chief Constable, I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of his letters to be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his estimate is of the number of rocket launchers held by dissident republicans. [287584]

Paul Goggins: It would be inappropriate to comment on what are security and intelligence matters.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to protect Police Service of Northern Ireland officers whilst they are off duty. [287634]

Paul Goggins: Both the Chief Constable and I take seriously the security of all those in Northern Ireland considered to be at risk. In accordance with the state's article 2 obligations, protection is provided commensurate with the threat. I regularly discuss changes to the threat profile with my security advisers.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent estimate is of the number of individuals involved in *(a)* dissident republican activity and *(b)* loyalist paramilitary activity. [287642]

Paul Goggins: It would be inappropriate to comment on what are security and intelligence matters.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received on paramilitary punishment shootings; and if he will make a statement. [287985]

Paul Goggins: Ministers receive representations relating to criminal activity, including punishment attacks, on a regular basis. Where offences have occurred they are actively investigated by the PSNI.

Weapons

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many personal protection weapon applications which were refused in each month of the last five years were subject to *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful appeals against the refusal. [287619]

Paul Goggins: The following table indicates the number of appeals relating to PPWs that were allowed or refused in each month since January 2004. In March 2009 the decision was taken not to make any further decisions on appeals until the outcome of the PSNI's internal review was known. I am now considering those appeals that were suspended during that period.

	Appeal	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	Allowed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Refused	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
2005	Allowed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Refused	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1
2006	Allowed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
	Refused	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
2007	Allowed	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	Refused	—	—	2	1	2	1	7	—	—	—	—	—
2008	Allowed	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Refused	—	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	1	—
2009	Allowed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Refused	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many personal protection weapons are held in Northern Ireland. [287623]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland has informed me that there were 3,224 personal protection weapons held on firearm certificates in Northern Ireland at the end of June 2009.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bingo Industry

14. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the future of the bingo industry; and if he will make a statement. [287450]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We have not received any recent representations on the future of the bingo industry, but I am aware of such representations being made to my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

We recognise the important social role bingo clubs play in many communities and continue to engage with the industry on a range of issues affecting the state of the sector.

Royal Opera House: Thurrock

15. **Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on future uses of the Royal Opera House production campus in Thurrock. [287451]

Barbara Follett: I have had no discussions on the future uses of the Royal Opera House production in Thurrock.

However, I have recently discussed with the Minister for Skills (Kevin Brennan) at the Department for Business Innovation and Skills the progress of the capital bid that the Creative and Cultural Nationals Skills Academy has put in for a national training centre in Thurrock in partnership with the Royal Opera House.

Tourism Industry

16. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the tourism industry of changes to the furnished holiday lettings rules. [287452]

Barbara Follett: My Department has been working with the tourism and hospitality industry to produce a detailed assessment of the impact that the changes made to the furnished holiday lettings rules in this year's Budget could have on the 50,000 individuals who declare income from them each year.

Although a range of other reliefs continue to be available under property income rules, I am making representations on behalf of the industry to the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on this matter.

Local and Regional Newspapers

17. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department plans to provide to local and regional newspapers during the recession. [287453]

Mr. Simon: The Government have taken action to support local and regional newspapers including a local media summit held in April; a recent OFT review of the media merger rules; an invitation to the audit commission to look at local authority free sheets; Killian Pretty's recommendations on planning and advertising and a commitment in the Digital Britain White Paper to introduce independently funded news consortia which would be broadcast and syndicated more widely across the local and regional news environment.

Community Sports

18. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of levels of revenue and capital funding for community sport projects in the regions in the period to 2012; and if he will make a statement. [287454]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The new Sport England strategy focuses investment predominantly through the national governing bodies of sport. This funding is used to deliver Government's key community sport objectives across the country. £480 million has been made available to these national governing bodies for the period between 2008-09 and 2012-13. A further £220 million of mixed and open funding will also come on line throughout the period.

Pub Closures

19. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of public houses which have closed in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [287455]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment does not identify the number of pubs in England and Wales; but rather the number of premises authorising the sale or supply of alcohol by means of a premises licence or a club premises certificate. We understand that CGA Strategy, the pub and drinks market analyst, which tracks the pub closure rate on behalf of the British Beer and Pub Association, currently estimates that between 51 and 53 pubs a week are closing. At 53 per week, the pub closure level would equate to around 2,750 per year.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what sites *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department plan to visit in Crewe and Nantwich constituency in July and August 2009. [287716]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have no current plans to do so.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287338]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's annual report and resource accounts for 2008-09 will be published by the end of July 2009.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288740]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the last two financial years the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has paid the following amounts to the Royal Mail:

	£
2007-08	35,538.40
2008-09	22,677.86

Digital Broadcasting: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to prepare Northern Ireland for digital switchover. [287476]

Mr. Bradshaw: As digital switchover in Northern Ireland in 2012 draws closer, Digital UK will run a communication programme about switchover and what people can do to ensure that they receive digital television in the area covered by the Ulster TV region.

In respect of digital radio, we will be working with broadcasters and transmission providers in the coming months to consider how and when the coverage of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) will be extended and improved across all parts of the UK. We plan to deliver the digital radio upgrade programme by the end of 2015, as set out in the recently published Digital Britain White Paper, but the top-level principle of the programme is that it should not result in reduced access to radio services.

Hotels: DVD

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with VisitEngland on its guidance to hoteliers on the DVD concierge licence. [287906]

Barbara Follett: VisitEngland recently explained in its 'Quality Edge' magazine (which is distributed to all properties quality assessed by VisitEngland) that under copyright law businesses such as bed and breakfast accommodation should purchase a licence if DVDs are made available to guests.

I have had no discussions with VisitEngland about this matter.

Tourism

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage people to take a greater proportion of their holidays in the UK. [287839]

Barbara Follett: In partnership with other Government Departments, the tourism industry and the wider public sector, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has a clear and coherent policy framework for industry growth. This includes branding and marketing improvement led by VisitBritain; the national tourism skills strategy; and work across Britain on driving up product quality through the accommodation grading schemes.

Central Government are committed to providing £130 million between 2008 and 2012 for marketing Britain overseas and England to the British. In addition, between £3.3 million and £3.5 million is provided annually to the regional development agencies for tourism support. In addition to this, Government have committed £350 million to helping small businesses get the training they need to get through the economic downturn. This investment is across the economy but we encourage small and medium-sized enterprises in the tourism industry to take full advantage of it.

Specifically, in recent months VisitBritain has emphasised its "Value Britain" message, which aims to impress on potential overseas visitors the wide range of affordable accommodation, transport and attractions available in Britain. VisitEngland has also launched its "Enjoy Every Minute, Enjoy England" campaign, designed to inspire and stimulate consumers to take day visits, short breaks and holidays in England this year based on the range of experiences, fantastic quality and value on offer.

Tourism: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding from the public purse has been made available for tourism regeneration projects in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency in the last five years. [287833]

Barbara Follett: I have been informed by the North West Development Agency that spending on tourism regeneration projects in Morecambe and Lunesdale in the last five years is as follows:

Project	*Description*	*Funding (£)*
Midland Hotel Morecambe	Redevelopment of Midland Hotel, Morecambe	4,070,523
The Whoop Hall, Burrow, Kirkby Lonsdale	Refurbishment of redundant rooms to create four letting bedrooms	6,221
Carnforth Market Town—Winter Promotion Scheme	Partnership launch event and retail promotion of Carnforth retail centre	42,667
Winter Gardens Morecambe	Feasibility work only to allow for HLF bid	15,000
Winter Gardens, Morecambe	Detailed Planning Stage—Various technical reports to support funding applications	298,381
Seaside Square—site clearance	Site clearance and improvements to land adjacent to the Midland hotel	226,253
Total	—	4,659,045

Winter Gardens Project: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding from the public purse has been given to the Winter Gardens Project in Morecambe since its inception. [287834]

Barbara Follett: The Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) funding the Winter Gardens in Morecambe started in 1996 and was managed by Government office for the north-west. The SRB Programme was passed to the North West Development Agency (NWDA) to manage, upon its inception in 1999. I am informed by the NWDA that the total SRB funding between 1996 and 2001 was £546,864, and that additional investments totalling £313,381 were made by the NWDA after the closure of the specific SRB.

World Heritage Sites

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to visit *(a)* Blaenavon and *(b)* other UK World Heritage sites. [288802]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have no current plans to visit Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site, but I will be undertaking a series of regional visits in the coming months and hope to be able to include some of the UK's World Heritage Sites. The Minister for Culture and Tourism recently visited Stonehenge.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House on what date she last met Mr Damian McBride in the course of her official duties. [287407]

Ms Harman: I have had no contact with Damian McBride since his resignation from the post of special adviser to the Prime Minister.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Leader of the House whether she plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288925]

Barbara Keeley: My right hon. and learned Friend has no plans, at this time, to visit Glasgow on official business.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House how much has been spent under the communications allowance in each year since it was established. [287210]

Barbara Keeley: The communications allowance—renamed the communications expenditure on 1 April 2009—was established on 1 April 2007. Since then, the following amounts have been spent in each financial year:

	Amount (£000)
2007-08	4,699
2008-09	5,126

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House when she plans to introduce proposals to amend controls on the communications allowance payable to hon. Members to take into account the pre-candidacy spending limits introduced by the Political Parties and Elections Bill. [287362]

Barbara Keeley: My right hon. and learned Friend hopes to bring forward the necessary amendments after the summer adjournment.

Members: Correspondence

Sir George Young: To ask the Leader of the House when she plans to reply to the letters of 2 June and 6 July from the right hon. Member for North-West Hampshire on the rules on registration of earnings. [287811]

Barbara Keeley: My right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House has recently met with House authorities on this issue and will reply in full in light of the outcome of that meeting.

Political Parties and Elections Bill

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Leader of the House whether she plans to bring forward proposals to amend controls on expenditure from the communications allowance during the pre-candidacy regulated period to be introduced on commencement of the provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill. [289079]

Barbara Keeley: My right hon. and learned Friend hopes to bring forward the necessary amendments after the summer adjournment.

Scottish Grand Committee

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Leader of the House what consideration the Government have given since November 2003 to arranging for a sitting of the Scottish Grand Committee; and if she will make a statement. [288410]

Barbara Keeley: The Government keep the matter of Grand Committees under constant review. My right hon. and learned Friend the Leader and I are happy to hear any suggestions, from my hon. Friend, on the matter.

Written Questions

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Leader of the House what recent assessment she has made of the quality of answers given by Ministers to parliamentary questions for written answer. [288401]

Barbara Keeley: My right hon. and learned Friend and I keep the quality of answers given to written parliamentary questions under constant review.

We welcome the recent report of the Procedure Committee on this subject and will be carefully considering the proposals in that report.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Disabled

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps he has taken to ensure that all English local authorities meet the readiness criteria for the distribution of Aiming High for Disabled Children short breaks funding in 2010-11; [287707]

(2) which local authorities did not meet the readiness criteria for the distribution of Aiming High for Disabled Children short breaks funding by March 2009. [287708]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has contracted with the organisation Together for Disabled Children (TDC) to support local authorities and primary care trusts in improving short-break services.

Early in 2008 the Department asked those local authorities that fell outside of short break pathfinder areas to undertake preparatory work on short break service reform, ahead of receipt of major new funding from April 2009. Nine criteria were set against which robust preparation could be measured.

TDC informs us that by March 2009, 15 authorities had met six, seven or eight of the criteria, these were: Brent, Hackney, Havering, Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Darlington, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, St. Helens, Warrington, Southampton, Kirklees, Wiltshire

Three non-pathfinder local authorities had met less than six criteria, these were: City of London, Oldham, Sheffield.

The remaining 111 non-pathfinders authorities met all the criteria.

TDC also reports that as of the end of June 2009, 122 of the 129 non-pathfinder areas had met all nine criteria, a further six had met eight criteria, while one authority had yet to meet four criteria.

The short break national programme has now moved beyond the preparation stage and all areas have received short break funding. Readiness criteria are not being applied to the 2010-11 financial year, however TDC continue to concentrate their resource on those authorities where progress is slowest, and are providing remedial support where readiness criteria remain unmet.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures his Department has in place to reassess a student's eligibility for the education maintenance allowance in the event of a change in the student's financial circumstances. [287046]

Mr. Iain Wright: For most young people, eligibility for education maintenance allowance (EMA) is subject to an assessment of their household income based on the financial year prior to the academic year in which they start their course. A successful assessment provides a young person with a guaranteed entitlement of up to three years of EMA on the same rate regardless of whether their income increases. If there is a drop in income from one year to the next then a young person may apply to be reassessed for the subsequent academic year. They could be assessed as eligible for EMA where they were not previously, or an increased rate of it. They would receive the EMA guarantee based on the rate awarded following the most recent assessment.

There are a limited number of exceptional circumstances in which a young person may apply to be reassessed for EMA during the academic year. Those circumstances are:

(i) someone whose income was taken into account in determining financial eligibility has died;

(ii) a person whose income was taken into account in determining financial eligibility has experienced a reduction in income due to their own disability, or the disability of any other person for whom he or she has responsibility as primary carer (disability means as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995);

(iii) Since the assessment of income was made, the young person has become estranged from their parents, guardians or someone else whose income was taken into account in determining financial eligibility;

(iv) The young person has become a parent with responsibility for their own child.

The financial needs of young people can be affected by a range of circumstances, including reductions in household income due to redundancy, or reduced working hours. Other mechanisms exist to help with the costs of

supporting young people aged 16 to 19 in learning. Child benefit provides support for parents regardless of income, and tax credits are designed to tailor support to current circumstances and to be responsive to changing needs.

In addition to the support provided to families, discretionary learner support funds are made available via the Learning and Skills Council to colleges and local authorities. This funding is provided to enable schools and colleges, using their discretion, to help individual learners facing hardship and financial barriers to learning that are not addressed through other mechanisms. This funding can be used to respond to any hardship needs of learners that may arise through sudden changes in circumstance.

Extended Schools: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to local education authorities on the distribution of extended schools funding in respect of children *(a)* with special needs and *(b)* entitled to free school meals. [286237]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government are committed to every school providing access to a core offer of extended services and has provided significant funding to support the delivery of extended services, including committing over £1 billion in the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Funding is allocated to local authorities. DCSF guidance states that local authorities should work closely with their schools and other children's service partners through the children's trust to develop and agree strategic plans for using the extended services funding. Local authorities are strongly encouraged to devolve as much of their extended schools funding to schools as possible. In determining allocations, local authorities are encouraged to consider the needs and context of schools and their population, including levels of deprivation, of which free school meals is one of the indicators. DCSF guidance also states that extended activities and services will be of particular benefit to disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs.

As part of this funding, there is over £200 million of extended services subsidy. This is focused on supporting the access to extra-curricular activities by disadvantaged children, including children eligible for free school meals. The DCSF has issued the message to local authorities that all subsidy funding is to be passed to schools to help increase the level of participation for those children. The DCSF has, working with the Council for Disabled Children, issued guidance: "Extending Inclusion—Access for disabled children and young people to extended schools and children's centres: a development manual", emphasising the importance of making extended services accessible to all children. This is available from www.teachernet.gov.uk

Residence and Guardianship Orders

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* residency and *(b)* guardianship orders there were in force in each local authority social services area in each of the last five years. [286436]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The number of residency and special guardianship orders made in England and Wales over the last five years are contained in the following table.

In the majority of cases individuals, not local authorities, apply for these orders in private law proceedings. Special guardianship orders came into force on 30 December 2005 and are provided for in sections 14A to 14G of the Children Act 1989.

A court may resolve a local authority's public law application by making a residence or special guardianship order to a named individual.

Residence and Special Guardianship Orders for England and Wales

	Private Law		*Public Law*	
	Residence	*Special Guardianship*	*Residence*	*Special Guardianship*
2007	23,703	451	2,529	1,096
2006	22,991	730	2,700	176
2005	26,253	n/a	2,580	n/a
2004	31,878	n/a	2,976	n/a
2003	31,966	n/a	2,866	n/a

Note:
These figures are for 'Orders made' not orders in force

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have applied for the exceptional capital funding for new kitchens in schools announced in December 2007; which local authorities have received such funding; and if he will make a statement. [286960]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department announced in 2006 that it would make £150 million targeted capital funding available in the next spending review period to local authorities to build new kitchens in areas of greatest need. Bids totalling £49,908 million were received in this first round and approved from the following local authorities:

Local authority

West Sussex
Swindon
N E Lincolnshire
Lincolnshire
North Somerset
Dorset
Wigan
Harrow
Hillingdon

Plymouth
Buckinghamshire
Bournemouth
Kingston upon Thames
Northamptonshire
Worcestershire

Bids from Gloucestershire and Hull did not meet the criteria. Payments to successful LAs are being phased over the three years 2008 to 2011 according to the needs of the individual authorities.

The Government announced in December 2007 that local authorities could bid for the remaining £100 million to support the improvement of kitchens and dining areas in order to improve school lunch take up.

Bids were received from 133 authorities and totalled just under £200 million. Although the bids varied significantly, all of them met our criteria. It was therefore decided to apply an across the board cut of just under 50 per cent. so that all LAs received a proportionate amount of their bid.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Members' Constituency Work: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Solicitor-General if the Attorney-General will meet the hon. Member for Hemsworth to discuss a constituency issue. [287705]

The Solicitor-General: A meeting has been scheduled with the Attorney-General.

Patrick Brendon Smith: Sentencing

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Attorney-General considered lodging an appeal against the sentence imposed on Patrick Brendon Smith by Preston Crown Court in October 2008. [288093]

The Solicitor-General: Mr. Smith was convicted of attempting to abduct a child and was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. Section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 empowers the Attorney-General to refer certain sentences to the Court of Appeal for review. The offence of child abduction is not an offence to which section 36 applies and the Attorney-General could not therefore consider referring the case.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Breast Feeding

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received on the proposals in the Equality Bill in relation to a mother breastfeeding in a public place who is asked to *(a)* leave that place by a person in authority and *(b)* stop breastfeeding by a member of the public. [288049]

Michael Jabez Foster: Following Second Reading of the Equality Bill, interested organisations raised concerns that, as drafted, the Bill reduced the existing protection against discrimination for pregnant women and new mothers. This drew our attention to an unintended consequence of the drafting which would have potentially allowed discrimination against pregnant women or new mothers if this could be shown to be reasonable. Therefore on 9 June, we tabled amendments to the Bill which represent a return to the level of protection given against pregnancy and maternity discrimination under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (as amended). These amendments were briefly debated on 16 June and agreed, and now stand part of the Bill.

The Bill makes absolutely clear that breastfeeding mothers are protected from sex discrimination in relation to provision of services to the public, whatever their baby's age. So a woman who is breastfeeding her baby in a restaurant or on a bus cannot lawfully be asked to leave, or get off, for that reason. At present we have no plans to bring forward proposals to provide a legal right for women to breastfeed in public places.

Departmental Operating Costs

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the running costs of the Government Equalities Office have been in each year since its establishment. [286942]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since its establishment on 12 October 2007, the running costs for the Government Equalities Office have been:

Expenditure

£000

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Pay costs	3,118	3,996	5,142
Non-pay costs	339	1,212	2,701
Total	3457	5,208	7,843

Equality Bill

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received from religious organisations on the provisions of the Equality Bill. [288122]

Michael Jabez Foster: My officials and I have received a number of representations from religion and belief organisations and individuals since the introduction of the Equality Bill in April this year.

Since April there have been meetings with the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, the General Synod of the Church of England and the National Secular Society.

In that same period we have also received 45 letters from religious or belief organisations and members of the public on the provisions within the Bill. The main issues raised were:

The public sector equality duty;
The occupational requirements employment exception;
Catholic adoption agencies;
The harassment provisions;
The curbing of religious freedom and expression; and
A perceived hierarchy of rights where some protected characteristics take precedence over others.

In addition to the representations mentioned above, a number of religious and belief organisations made submissions to the House of Commons' Public Bill Committee on the Equality Bill. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the British Humanist Association presented written evidence. Oral evidence

was presented by the British Humanist Association, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, the General Synod of the Church of England, the National Secular Society and the Muslim Women's Network.

Members: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to reply to the letter of 23 February 2009 and 23 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling on behalf of Mr Colin Packman. [287298]

Michael Jabez Foster: I am sorry that the right hon. Member has not received a response.

The office for the Minister for Women and Equality had no record of receiving the correspondence referred to. Following contact with the right hon. Member's office, the Government Equalities Office has now received a copy the relevant correspondence, and I will reply by the end of July.

Terrorism Bill

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what expenditure the Commission for Equality and Human Rights incurred on commissioning legal advice on the compliance of the Terrorism Bill with the European Convention on Human Rights. [286798]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Equality and Human Rights Commission spent £9,603 (including VAT) on expert legal advice from counsel.

Women and Work Commission

Meg Munn: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she expects the Women and Work Commission to report on the impact of the recommendations adopted by the Government in response to the report of the Commission in 2006. [287736]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Women and Work Commission are due to publish their report on 29 July 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what properties his *(a)* Department and *(b)* Department's non-departmental public bodies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many of these have been sold for housing development. [286495]

Mr. Michael Foster: In the last five years, the Department for International Development and the non-departmental bodies it oversees have sold no property in the United Kingdom.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what databases which will be managed by his Department and which will contain personal information are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* expected to go live in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286505]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has no current plans to build new databases containing personal information.

We do expect to replace existing databases used for internal administration of human resources and correspondence within the next five years.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286544]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

The Department for International Development complies with the mandatory requirements of the security policy framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many interns work in his Department; what terms of reference apply to their appointment; what remuneration they receive; and how long on average an intern appointment lasts. [286821]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development does not have an intern scheme.

Food Security Initiative

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding the UK has pledged to the new G8; what the timescale for that funding is; and whether this funding is additional to existing funding provision. [287267]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK announced £1.1 billion for agriculture, rural development and food security over the period 2009-10 to 2011-12.

£370 million of this had previously been announced in 2008-09 as part of the UK's £900 million response to the food crisis.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Jacqui Lait) of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 252W, on planning permission: aerials, what progress has been made on the review of planning regulations affecting mobile telephone masts; and if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require full planning permission for the construction of such masts. [284004]

Mr. Ian Austin: We will be announcing the conclusions of our review of permitted development rights for telecommunications shortly.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much of the £3 million fund for high streets adversely affected by the economic downturn has been *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent in each region; [288525]

(2) how many unused commercial premises have been taken over for community creative use since his announcement on such usage in April 2009. [288526]

Mr. Malik: There has been widespread interest in the "Looking after our town centres" guide, with nearly 9,000 downloads of the document since it was published in April. However, information on how commercial premises are being used is not collected centrally, as this is a matter for local authorities and their partners. An announcement will be made shortly on how the £3 million funding will be allocated.

Central Manchester Development Corporation: Archives

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on the Central Manchester Development Corporation: archives, which archives of the Central Manchester Development Corporation are within the Government Office for the North-West registry. [287405]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no Central Manchester Development Corporation archives held in GONW. All such files were sent to an external storage facility in March 1998 with instructions to be securely destroyed on 1 April 2006.

Council Tax: Pensioners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of introducing a council tax deferment scheme for home-owning pensioners. [286564]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have no plans to assess the merits of introducing a council tax deferment scheme for home-owning pensioners. Regulation 21 of Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/613) already enables local authorities to defer payment of council tax for individual taxpayers, including pensioners. The details of such arrangements are a matter for individual local authorities.

Councillors: Allowances

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statistical information his Department holds on average councillor allowances. [288294]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not collect or report on allowances paid to local authority members, which are matters for each council to decide, having regard to the recommendations of their independent remuneration panel, and on which the council is accountable to their local electorate.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286549]

Mr. Malik: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

Communities and Local Government complies with the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284394]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each of his Department's and its agency's databases expected to become operational in the next five years; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286494]

Mr. Malik: New databases containing personal data are set up by Communities and Local Government as and when policy development and implementation of policy dictate the operational need for them. It is not possible to plan or predict how many individuals' details nor what categories of their personal information are likely to need to be held on new databases that are

required for the business of the Department up to five years ahead. None the less, Communities and Local Government always takes steps to ensure that new databases are fully compliant with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286178]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Communities and Local Government are reviewing its use of such devices with the aim of reducing the numbers and moving to a more carbon efficient approach in line with the requirements of the "Greening Government ICT programme".

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest estimated total gross cost is of the FIREControl project. [283697]

Mr. Malik: We will be updating the cost figures contained in the FiReControl Business Case in due course to reflect the rescheduling I announced to the House on 15 July 2009.

Fires

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths were caused (i) by all fires and (ii) by fires with a source of ignition in (A) wires and cables and (B) leads and appliances in each year since 2003. [287083]

Mr. Malik: The latest data on the number of injuries and deaths by the types of source of ignition requested are shown in the following table.

Casualties in fires by source of ignition, England, 2003-07[1]

	All casualties	*Leads to appliances*[2]	*Wires and cables*[3]
2003			
Fatal casualties	468	1	2
Non-fatal casualties	12,383	89	263
2004			
Fatal casualties	368	1	2
Non-fatal casualties	11,447	60	225
2005			
Fatal casualties	387	2	3
Non-fatal casualties	11,251	68	243
2006			
Fatal casualties	398	5	3
Non-fatal casualties	11,042	64	224
2007			
Fatal casualties	356	1	5
Non-fatal casualties	10,446	69	236

[1] Data for 2007 are provisional and subject to change.
[2] Leads to appliances includes extension leads.
[3] Wires and cables include: switch gear, meters, fuses, junction boxes, fixed mains wiring (before and after meter) but excludes sockets and switches in vehicles and plugs.
Source:
Fire data reports to CLG

Floods: Gardens

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for the Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 335W, on floods: gardens, when he expects to *(a)* receive and *(b)* publish the final report of the research into the effects of the paving of back gardens on levels of flood risk. [286510]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government have now received the research report on permeable and impermeable surfacing. We intend to publish the report shortly with the consultation on a package of measures to respond to the recommendations from Killian Pretty for improving the planning process.

Government Office for London: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* administrative cost and *(b)* total expenditure of the Government Office for London were in 2008-09. [286514]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 2008-09 administrative costs for Government Office for London (GOL) were:

Salary: £10,799,080
Non-pay: £972,438
Total: £11,771,518

The gross accommodation spend for GOL for 2008-09 was £4,458,591 and related tariff/minor occupier income of £358,700. The net accommodation expenditure was £4,099,891.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of registered home inspectors there were in each of the last three years. [286421]

John Healey: No estimate of the number of inspectors registered to produce home condition reports in each of the last three years has been made. The number of registered inspectors on 14 July 2009, which is the most recent date for which numbers were available, was 963.

Homes and Communications Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much he expects to provide the Homes and Communications Agency in grant in aid in 2009-10. [288492]

John Healey: The latest estimate of the amount of grant in aid that the Department expects to give the Homes and Communities Agency is published in the notes to the Department's Main Estimates 2009-10, on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_me08_dclg_lst.pdf

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource allocation for (i) the Homes and Communities Agency and (ii) the Tenant Services Authority is for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [286439]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 202W.

Homes and Communities Agency: Guardian

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* financial and *(b)* administrative support the Homes and Communities Agency provides to the Guardian newspaper website for its Housing Horizons microsite; and if he will make a statement. [288405]

John Healey: The HCA has made no financial contribution or administrative support for the housing microsite, Housing Horizons.

Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to how many local newspapers the Minister for Housing and Planning's letter on being green while tackling the recession was sent. [286685]

John Healey: No such letters were sent out. However, an article I wrote was made available to local newspapers through the Central Office of Information.

Housing: Energy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of demand for the services of accredited energy assessors of his Department's funding for energy assessments to be performed by Eaga. [286324]

John Healey: My Department does not provide funding for energy assessments performed by Eaga plc.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* energy efficiency in council homes, *(b)* the number of new social rented homes, *(c)* the number of households in temporary accommodation, *(d)* repairs to council housing stock and *(e)* the progress of regeneration and housing infrastructure projects of the £775 million in capital funding for housing and regeneration, brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 and 2008-09; and how much of the funding has been spent in each month since it was announced. [286654]

John Healey: The £775 million consisted of £150 million for social rented housing, through the Affordable Housing Programme; £250 million for decent homes, which has been allocated to fund improvements and improve energy efficiency in council homes; £175 million for major repairs to council housing stock; and £100 million and £80 million respectively for the regional development agencies and Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to support key regeneration and housing infrastructure projects.

The investment in social rented homes forms part of the National Affordable Housing Programme and is reported as part of that programme. Information on spending for new affordable housing is published in HCA's Annual Report and Accounts. The money for decent homes has been allocated directly to local authorities as part of the overall Decent Homes programme and is not reported on separately. £162 million of the £175 million for major repairs has been allocated to 39 local authorities.

A large number of our programmes are aimed at reducing the number of people in temporary accommodation. Over the past year those households placed in temporary accommodation has reduced by 17 per cent. to 64,000 from a peak of 101,000 in December 2004 (as at 30 March).

The regeneration funding was intended for 2009-10. As sponsor Department for the regional development agencies, the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills leads on the monitoring of the £100 million reprioritised for critical regeneration projects with relevant projects due to begin work in the autumn. The HCA are due to begin investment of the £80 million allocated to them shortly, with work beginning on relevant priority projects during the autumn/winter.

Because these schemes represent elements of wider programmes with established reporting mechanisms, monthly breakdowns of spend are not available.

Housing: Low Incomes

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [285479]

(2) how many homes for social rent have been built in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [285480]

(3) how many properties he expects to be added to the stock of social rented housing through *(a)* construction and *(b)* purchase in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in (A) 2009-10 and (B) each of the next four years. [285529]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of new affordable homes built in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years.

	Castle Point	Essex
2003-04	0	350
2004-05	30	500
2005-06	0	840
2006-07	0	660
2007-08	20	1,260

The following table shows the number of new social rented homes built in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years.

	Castle Point	Essex
2003-04	0	330
2004-05	30	450
2005-06	0	650
2006-07	0	490
2007-08	10	840

Note:
Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG.

Not all social rented and affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, in 2007-08, a total of 1,440 additional affordable homes were provided in Essex (new build and acquisitions).

Communities and Local Government do not set targets for the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP) at a local level. The Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP) awards grant funding for the provision of social housing on the basis of competitive bidding.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent in the West Midlands under the My Choice HomeBuy scheme in 2009-10. [286334]

John Healey: We have not set individual budgets for each HomeBuy scheme to ensure flexibility within the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing programme 2008-11.

To the end of June £953,055 had been spent on My Choice HomeBuy in the West Midlands.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government during what periods bidding has taken place for funding under the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Rent to HomeBuy and *(d)* the First time Buyers initiative since the inception of each scheme. [286398]

John Healey: An *Official Journal* of the European Union compliant competition to select suitable schemes and providers for HomeBuy Direct commenced on 1 October and closed on 7 November 2008.

FTBI schemes were procured by the former English Partnerships in 2006-07.

For the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP), bidding for the 2006-08 programme took place between July and October 2005. The initial bid round for the 2008-11 programme ran from September to early November 2007. This was followed by two Regular Market Engagements (RME). The first RME bid round ran from mid-April to mid-May 2008 and the second ran in July 2008. From September 2008 we moved to Continuous Market Engagement under which there are no longer pre-defined bid rounds and bidding is always open.

New Build HomeBuy and Rent to HomeBuy are part of the NAHP.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on Rent to HomeBuy in 2009-10 to date. [286422]

John Healey: Up to the end of June £26,954,819 had been spent on Rent to HomeBuy in 2009-10.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect the decision to end the Open Market HomeBuy scheme will have on other HomeBuy schemes. [286811]

John Healey: The Government remain committed to helping households who could not otherwise afford to buy into homeownership and the HomeBuy Direct, New Build HomeBuy and Rent to HomeBuy schemes remain available to help those who cannot afford to purchase without Government assistance.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for the future operation of OpenMarket HomeBuy; and if he will make a statement. [287726]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement to the House on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 8-10WS.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the level of take-up of OpenMarket HomeBuy in each region; and how many purchases were made under what scheme in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009 to date; and what the monetary value of those purchases was in each period. [287727]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement to the House on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 8-9WS. Since 1997, we have helped over 35,000 households through the Open Market HomeBuy scheme. However, we want to maximise our efforts behind building of new affordable homes, so we are closing the open market homebuy scheme to new applicants and in future our low cost home ownership programme will be directed to schemes which support new build homes.

The following table shows the take-up of, and number of purchases made through Open Market HomeBuy by scheme and region for 2007-08, 2008-09 and the first quarter of 2009-10.

Number

	2007-08		2008-09[1]	2009-10[1]		
	eOMHB	Mychoice homebuy	Ownhome	eOMHB[2]	Mychoice homebuy	Ownhome
Eastern	455	151	40	52	30	1
East Midlands	60	625	81	292	182	0
London	624	1,072	158	191	268	0
North East	9	15	10	3	1	0
North West	181	101	56	87	23	0
South East	904	1,176	198	412	255	12
South West	286	393	137	158	48	2
West Midlands	133	228	68	124	26	5
Yorks and Humber	97	165	51	79	8	0
Total	2,749	3,926	799	1,398	841	20

The following table shows Government investment on open market homebuy by scheme and region for 2007-08, 2008-09 and the first quarter of 2009-10.

£

	2007-08		2008-09[1]	2009-10[1]		
	eOMHB	Mychoice homebuy	Ownhome	eOMHB[2]	Mychoice homebuy	Ownhome
Eastern	12,646,571	3,700,539	886,598	1,355,608	981,494	21,345
East Midlands	1,302,182	20,410,497	2,208,860	9,434,277	6,955,301	0
London	21,709,182	55,687,444	5,603,082	7,840,091	13,540,200	0
North East	202,916	374,546	185,200	69,138	32,335	0
North West	3,807,132	2,424,249	1,226,558	2,039,110	763,443	0
South East	27,484,354	37,648,932	5,755,648	13,998,812	10,679,519	332,391
South West	7,047,391	10,864,285	3,683,044	4,719,230	1,785,254	85,656
West Midlands	2,575,689	5,729,820	1,489,892	2,706,973	953,055	77,010
Yorks and Humber	2,281,400	3,951,227	1,140,239	2,111,025	234,567	0
Total	79,056,817	140,791,539	22,179,121	44,274,264	35,925,168	484,662

[1] 2008-09 and 2009-10 figures are provisional.
[2] eOMHB: Transitional arrangement for those households who had already been approved in 2007-08.
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many potential homebuyers have been informed that their applications to the MyChoice Homebuy scheme have been refused as a result of all the scheme's funding having been allocated. [288227]

John Healey: The total number of people contacted is not held centrally.

Funding for the MyChoice HomeBuy scheme is confirmed only at the point when the equity loan provider has approved an applicant's purchase in writing. Applicants are always advised not to incur any costs until they have received written confirmation from the equity loan provider stating that their chosen property is eligible, that funding has been reserved for them and confirming that the applicant can proceed with their purchase.

Applicants who have not received confirmation have been contacted by MyChoice HomeBuy providers informing them that funding has been fully committed and that the scheme is now closed.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes for *(a)* intermediate low cost ownership and *(b)* social rent he expects to be (i) started and (ii) completed in each local authority area in each of the next three years. [288491]

John Healey: We do not make future estimates of the number of intermediate affordable homes and social rented homes started and completed by local authority area.

Improvement and Development Agency: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much direct funding his Department has allocated to the Improvement and Development Agency in each year since 2000. [286576]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Improvement and Development Agency receives revenue support grant (RSG) funding from my Department to provide core services for local government improvement. We give additional money for specific projects from CLG allocations. Since 2000 they will have received the following amounts

	Improvement and Development Agency funding allocated (£)
2009-10	32,670,000
2008-09	28,730,000
2007-08	30,688,000
2006-07	36,924,000
2005-06	38,549,978
2004-05	21,097,000
2003-04	20,563,000

	Improvement and Development Agency funding allocated (£)
2002-03	14,212,000
2001-02	17,041,000
2000-01	14,939,000

Knowledge Network Project

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 538W, on the Knowledge Network project, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance provided for staff in his Department on using the Knowledge Network. [284765]

Mr. Malik: Communities and Local Government has no specific guidance relating to staff using the Knowledge Network.

Local Democratic Renewal Programme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for implementation of the policies outlined in the Local Democratic Renewal Programme; and if he will make a statement. [286613]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Government are preparing to consult shortly on a range of issues around local democratic renewal. A number of questions around future policy will be posed in that consultation, and we will take forward ideas in the light of comments received.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department is taking steps to reform the parish cheque payment system operating in local authorities. [286580]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The reform of the parish cheque payment system is the subject of continuing discussions with the National Association of Local Councils and other interested parties. Once these discussions are concluded it is our policy to look for an appropriate legislative vehicle to replace the relevant legislative provisions.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department is taking steps to protect local authorities against vexatious objections to the local authorities auditing system. [286581]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Code of Audit practice makes it clear that auditors should reject objections that disclose no reasonable cause for action, are frivolous or vexatious objections to the local council auditing system.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which *(a)* specific and *(b)* area-based grants are distributed to local authorities by each division of his Department; [285043]

(2) what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to *(a)* his Department of distributing each grant made by it to local authorities and *(b)* local authorities of administering each such grant. [285044]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government believe in giving local authorities greater flexibility to take decisions on local priorities. The introduction of the area based grant has reduced ring-fencing, giving councils increased flexibility to manage their budgets. Alongside this, the new local performance framework has provided a simplified and more effective structure for priority setting and performance measurement.

The following specific grants are being paid by this Department direct to local authorities in 2009-10:

Cornish Language 2009

Housing Option Grant 2009-10

Minor Repairs and Adaptations "Handyperson" Grant 2009-10

Overcrowding Grant 2009-10

Supporting Local Delivery Grant for Local Improvement Adviser Support 2009

Planning Sector-Led Support 2009-10

Homelessness Revenue Grant 2009-10

Fire and Rescue Authorities Capital Funding 2009-10

Olympic Park Grant 2009-10

Growth Fund 2009-10

Olympic Security Funding—Dorset Fire and Rescue 2009-10

Olympic Security Funding—LFEPA 2009-10

Timely Information to Citizens 2009-10

FiReControl Implementation Funding 2009-10

Preventing Repossession Revenue Grant 2009-10

Minor Repairs and Adaptations "Enhanced Services" Grant 2009-10

Capacity Building and Efficiency Grant for Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships 2009

Fire and Rescue Authorities Capital Funding (Diversity Recruitment Target Commitment) 2009-10

Empty Shops Funding 2009-10

Local Public Service Agreements Performance Reward Grant 2009-10

Supporting Worklessness Delivery Grant for Regional Efficiency and Improvement Partnerships 2009-10

Business Rates Deferral Scheme 2009-10

Community Infrastructure Fund 2009-10

Fund to Manage Transitional Impacts of Migration (No 2) 2009-10

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (capital element)

Warden Resource Centre Grant

Coastal Communities Regeneration Handbook

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Supporting People Programme Grant

Disabled Facilities Grant

Rent Officers Pension Liabilities

New Dimension Grant.

Area based grant is paid by Communities and Local Government on behalf of the Government as a whole, in monthly instalments. Funding streams from this Department which are being paid through area based grant in 2009-10 are:

Community Cohesion

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (resource element)

Stronger Safer Communities
Supporting People Administration
Working Neighbourhood Fund
Preventing Violent Extremism
Climate Change.

The Department does not routinely estimate the costs of distributing grant each year, although it does consider the cost-effectiveness of proposals as part of the policy development process. It also assesses whether there will be any new burdens on local authoritjes, and ensures that these are fully funded when a policy is implemented.

Local Government Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what methodology his Department's *(a)* Total Place and *(b)* Place Shaping approach to local service delivery was based. [286522]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Total Place project is based on a refinement of the methodology developed by the Leadership Centre for Local Government. The idea emerged from an in depth analysis of the leadership of places run by the leadership centre in February 2007.

Our planned approach to local service delivery was set out in the 2006 Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities", which was in turn informed by the work of the Lyons Inquiry into the future role, function and funding of local government. The improved delivery of services through local strategic partnerships and local area agreements has been further developed by provisions within the Local Government and Public involvement in Health Act 2007, and its success is being measured both through the new comprehensive area assessment and through evidence including the Citizenship Survey and Place Survey.

Local Government: Procurement

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the procurement of halal meat; and whether that guidance differentiates between stunned and pre-stunned meat. [287725]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not issued any guidance to local authorities on the procurement of Halal meat. However, the Food Quality Standards, published by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) in November 2008, offers guidance to public authorities on purchasing Halal food. The standards can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/food_food_quality_standards.asp

Mortgages

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effects of the level of availability of high loan-to-value mortgages on the ability of first-time buyers to obtain mortgages. [288099]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government is working closely with Her Majesty's Treasury and the Financial Services Authority to support sustainable mortgage lending to first time buyers.

The current median average loan-to-value percentage secured by first-time buyers is 75 per cent., down from 90 per cent. in December 2007. However, the Government have substantially increased investment in low cost home ownership products; such as HomeBuy Direct which provides a 30 per cent. equity loan that can be used as a deposit.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much money has been allocated to the *(a)* Mortgage Rescue and *(b)* Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme for expenditure in (i) Test Valley borough and (ii) Southampton; and whether his Department has placed a limit on the number of households which may be assisted under each such scheme; [286320]

(2) how many households in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* Southampton have received assistance under the (i) Mortgage Rescue and (ii) Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme to date. [286321]

John Healey: The £285 million Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across the country since 1 January 2009. The Government do not allocate money directly to local authorities under the scheme. It is a demand-led scheme, with the number of vulnerable households benefiting [illegible] local authority dependent on numbers of eligible [illegible]ants approaching their local authority for assistance.

As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data for January to May 2009, provided by local authorities and broken down by Government office region, are available on the Department's website

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Figures reported by local authorities from January to May 2009 are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

The Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme provides enhanced support for homeowners who have fallen on difficult times by enabling them to reduce their mortgage interest payments to affordable levels. The Government do not allocate money directly to households under the scheme. There is no target or limit to the number of households who may be assisted under the scheme in any particular region or area. Official figures on numbers of households entering HMS will be published later this year.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be assisted by the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme in *(a)* West Derbyshire and *(b)* the UK in the next 12 months. [286408]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) on 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 961W.

Non-domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will establish a cross-Government review on the effect of the new regime of retrospective business rates on *(a)* businesses and *(b)* cross-border trade. [286681]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There will be no cross-Government review, as the business rates legislation concerning when a business becomes liable to pay rates has not changed.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 768W, on non-domestic rates: small businesses, what timetable his Department has set for the publication of data on the take-up rate of small business rate relief. [286814]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No timetable for this work has yet been set. We are currently examining data reported by local authorities on the annual national non-domestic rate return to assess their quality before making a decision on whether they are suitable for publication.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 921W, on non-domestic rates: small businesses, what the maximum cash value of small business rate relief, including the value of the lower small business multiplier to a firm in *(a)* London and *(b)* outside London is in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [279885]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Eligible businesses which have been granted small business rate relief have their rates calculated using the small business rates multiplier, and those under £10,000 in rateable value also receive a discount. The maximum value of the small business rate relief will apply to properties of £5,000 rateable value, as properties up to that value receive the maximum 50 per cent. discount.

The maximum cash value of small business rate relief that could be granted to a firm both inside and outside of London (excluding the City of London) was £1,165 in 2008-09 and £1,222.50 in 2009-10.

The City of London authority is allowed to add an additional supplement onto the rates multiplier of 0.4p in the pound. This means the maximum cash value of small business rate relief that could be granted to a firm in the City of London was £1,175 in 2008-09 and £1,232.50 in 2009-10.

This does not take into account any deferral of the rate increase for 2009-10.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 962W, on non-domestic rates: ports, if he will place in the Library a copy of the items of correspondence. [286686]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No. It would be inappropriate for Ministers to release correspondence they receive from hon. Members and their constituents without their authority.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 912-13W, on non-domestic rates: ports, what guidance his Department provided to the Valuation Office Agency on the 2005 revaluation. [287107]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The assessment of rateable value and the maintenance of rating lists is the responsibility of the Valuation Office Agency and not this Department. We do not provide guidance to the Valuation Office Agency on professional valuation issues.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 912W, on non-domestic rates: ports, (1) for what reasons the Valuation Office Agency did not initiate its review of all major ports in 2005; how many properties identified by the review as separately rateable had not been assessed; for what reasons those properties were not separately listed in 2005; and when and how the owners of such properties were notified of the findings of the review in respect of their properties; [287111]

(2) how many separate assessments on port businesses were undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency in 2005; whether such assessments were listed in respect of how many other businesses it was established that a separate assessment should be made; when such assessments were *(a)* made and *(b)* listed; and how many businesses which were separately assessed in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006 consequent on the review of all major ports were reassessed in (A) 2007, (B) 2008 and (C) 2009; [287112]

(3) how many port businesses have been subject to separate assessments; and how many of those businesses were reassessed in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [287165]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The original assessments in the 2005 rating list were produced in good faith on the basis of the information held by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). The VOA did not undertake a review of occupations within ports at this time because it had not identified evidence that such a review was required.

Once evidence that additional properties within ports should be separately assessed came to the Agency's attention, it had a statutory duty to carry out such assessments and enter them onto the rating list.

Over 1,600 properties within the 45 ports in England were separately assessed immediately prior to the completion of the review of each port. After review, some of those properties were no longer separately listed or had their list entry altered.

A total of 748 additional properties were separately assessed for the first time with an effective date of 1 April 2005 as a result of the Agency's review of ports, of which 28 are no longer separately listed. As at 8 July 2009 the number of properties within ports that are separately assessed was 2,207, a net increase of around 600 compared with the position immediately prior to the review of each port.

The Agency notified the occupiers of these properties of the findings of the review as and when each review was completed. The exact date and method of notification varies from port to port and occupier to occupier.

Information on the date that each separate assessment was made and information on the number of separate assessments within ports that have been re-assessed in each of the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Privacy: Impact Assessments

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on performing privacy impact assessments to accompany new regulations or legislation. [284917]

Mr. Malik: It is the Department's policy to follow the Information Commissioner's guidance on when a privacy impact assessment is required and how it should be carried out.

Regional Government: Operating Costs

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the running costs were of each regional Government Office in the last year for which figures are available. [287018]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1062-64W.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated through regional efficiency and improvement partnerships in the last three years. [286577]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships were set up in April 2008 and receive core funding from my Department. My Department has provided £50 million core funding for Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships since their inception in April 2008, and is committed to providing a further £135 million core funding over the remaining CSR07 period, including the £68 million investment I confirmed on 15 July 2009 for this year (2009-10). We also provide additional money for specific projects. Funding provided is as follows:

£

	Revenue funding	*Capital funding*
2008-09	74,922,000	26,412,000
2009-10	54,000,000	13,500,000
Total	128,922,000	39,912,000

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial support his Department has provided to local authorities and their representative bodies through *(a)* regional efficiency and improvement partnerships and *(b)* regional empowerment partnerships in the last three years. [286579]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships were set up in April 2008 and receive core funding from my Department. My Department has provided £50 million core funding for Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships since their inception in April 2008, and is committed to providing a further £135 million core funding over the remaining Comprehensive Spending Review 07 period, including the £68 million investment I confirmed on 15 July 2009 for this year (2009-10). We also provide additional money for specific projects.

It would not be possible to disaggregate how much the RIEPs support individual local councils and their representatives bodies.

This Department has also provided funding, via the Community Development Foundation, to the Regional Empowerment Partnerships (REPs), to support local government of all types to help improve their empowerment and engagement practice. It would not be possible to disaggregate how much the REPs support different types of councils.

Regional Planning and Development: West Midlands

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at what phase of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy review an assessment of ecotown applications will be made. [288327]

Mr. Malik: The Examination in Public into the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy took place between 28 April and 24 June 2009. The Examination considered what role in principle eco-towns or new settlement proposals might have in providing for housing development in the region.

The Panel Report is anticipated in September. Following this the Secretary of State aims to publish Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy before the end of the year.

Rented Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards the target for all new *(a)* private sector and *(b)* social rented housing to be zero carbon by 2016. [286524]

John Healey: The Government announced in July 2007 that all new homes will be zero carbon from 2016. Following a consultation paper released last December, I made a written ministerial statement to the House announcing further decisions on the definition of zero carbon homes on 16 July 2009 *Official Report*, columns 43-44WS. A summary of consultation responses and updated impact assessment were published on the same day see:

www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/theenvironment/zerocarbonhomes/

Government continue to support the transition to low and zero carbon homes in a number of ways:

in my 16 July 2009 statement, I announced the first four pioneering locations for eco-towns in England and the publication of the planning policy statement on eco-towns. Eco-towns will demonstrate the highest levels of sustainability and will be zero carbon across all the town's buildings;

the Technology Strategy Board is working with partners to enable it to harness the market for environmentally sustainable buildings, since 2004 investing £46 million in this area. Under its Low Impact Buildings Innovation Platform a further total of £50 million is now earmarked for allocation to research relevant to new build by 2011. This includes over £30 million of capability building work to be awarded over the next two years and up to £8.5 million in new build demonstration programmes;

the Government's Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) provides a single national standard to guide industry in the design and construction of sustainable new homes. Recently, post-construction certificates were issued for the first homes built to Code level 6 (zero carbon achieved on-site or via private wire);

the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Carbon Challenge programme aims to accelerate the home building industry's response to climate change by building homes that reach Code level 6. Four new communities are planned which will together provide around 1,700 zero carbon and highly sustainable homes. Work on the first site at Hanham Hall, near Bristol, is expected to start in late 2009;

Budget 2009 announced a £400 million Kickstart Housing Delivery programme targeted at currently stalled sites, to support construction of high quality mixed tenure housing developments. This amount was subsequently increased under the Housing Pledge as part of Building Britain's Future last month. Homes built to higher levels of the Code are encouraged under this programme;

my Department is providing funding support to the Zero Carbon Hub, the industry-led delivery body for zero carbon homes. The Hub reports to the 2016 Task Force, which I jointly chair with the Executive Chairman of the Home Builders Federation and which provides strategic oversight of our zero carbon homes policy;

stamp duty land tax exemption or reduction is available for the first acquisition of a zero carbon home.

In relation to social housing:

social housing funded under the National Affordable Housing Programme is required to meet level 3 of the Code. The HCA is reviewing the timetable for requiring housing funded under this programme to be built to higher levels of the Code;

Budget 2009 announced £100 million of new funding for local authorities to deliver new social housing at higher energy efficiency standards. This funding has been increased under the Housing Pledge to enable up a four-fold increase in new social homes to be built by local authorities.

Social Rented Housing: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association homes in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point met the decent homes standard in each of the last five years. [285481]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table outlines the proportion of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association homes in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point that failed to meet the decent homes standard in each of the last five years.

Proportion of dwellings that are non-decent

Percentage

	Local authority					*Registered social landlords*				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Castle point	14.4	11.8	16.0	11.5	10.6	n/a	11.3	7.1	7.9	10.3
Essex	33.7	32.7	30.9	26.9	18.9	n/a	7.6	7.3	5.7	19.5

Source:
Annual returns, from all LAs that retain social housing stock, to Communities and Local Government and annual return from Registered Social Landlords.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social homes in each region have not reached the Decent Homes standard; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of bringing such homes up to the standard. [283831]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table provides the information requested:

Number of social sector non-decent dwellings as 1 March 2008

	Non-decent dwellings	*Total stock*	*Percentage non-decent*
North East	72,000	274,000	26
North West	94,000	576,000	16
Yorkshire and the Humber	104,000	424,000	24
East Midlands	53,000	305,000	17
West Midlands	62,000	424,000	15
East of England	54,000	387,000	14
London	175,000	786,000	22
South East	58,000	483,000	12
South West	41,000	306,000	13
England	714,000	3,965,000	18

Source:
Annual returns, from all LAs that retain social housing stock, to Communities and Local Government and annual return from registered social landlords.

Landlord statistical returns show that the 18 per cent. of the social housing stock is non-decent compared to 38 per cent. in 2002.

The cost per house of meeting the decent homes standard varies across the country and the Department does not collect that information. Some landlords are refurbishing the houses in their area above the decent homes standard. Any higher local standard, and how that is to be achieved, will be determined by local circumstances and the level of resources that can be delivered into the programme locally. The Government expect over £40 billion to have been spent on refurbishing council houses by 2010.

Temporary Accommodation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* disabled and *(b)* elderly people were in temporary accommodation in each year since 1997. [288493]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* dependent children, *(b)* expectant mothers and *(c)* children aged (i) 16 and (ii) 17 years were in temporary accommodation in each year since 1997. [288494]

John Healey: Information is not collected or available in the form requested.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of people who undertook a health test administered by Atos on behalf of her Department were scored at zero out of 15 in the latest period for which figures are available. [283983]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The information is not held centrally and could be made available only at disproportionate cost. Decisions about the total points applicable from a work capability assessment or a personal capability assessment are made by Jobcentre Plus decision-makers in each case, taking account of the available evidence, including any evidence provided by the claimant in a work capability assessment questionnaire, a personal capability assessment questionnaire, the claimant's general practitioner, and advice provided to Jobcentre Plus by the Atos health care professional. Although the decision-maker records the points scored in each individual case, there is no central record of how many people score zero points.

Attendance Allowance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of total expenditure on benefits payments attendance allowance accounted for in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1997, *(c)* 2001, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2008. [287417]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table.

Percentage of DWP total benefit expenditure accounted for by attendance allowance

	Percentage
1980-81	1.3
1997-98	3.0
2001-02	3.1
2005-06	3.3
2008-09 estimated out-turn	3.4

Note:
DWP total benefit expenditure excludes benefits that are no longer within the remit of DWP. Child benefit and war pensions have been excluded.
Source:
DWP accounting data

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism is in place for the recovery of child maintenance payments from British national absent parents who are resident overseas. [281844]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. The Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what mechanism is in place for the recovery of child maintenance payments from British national absent parents who are resident overseas. [281844]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission retains the power to pursue a non-resident parent who moves overseas, but only where the non-resident is regarded as being habitually resident in the UK. The criteria for establishing jurisdiction when a non-resident parent leaves the United Kingdom is described at Section 44 of the Child Support Act. There is no distinction made between an EU state and a non-EU state.

There are certain cases where the nature of employment will bring the non-resident parent under the jurisdiction of the Commission, for example those employed in the Civil Service or a member of the naval, military or air forces. The Commission may also have jurisdiction where a non-resident parent is employed by a company that is prescribed in Child Support (Maintenance Arrangement and Jurisdiction Regulations) 1992, Regulation 7A(2).

The Ministry of Justice, however operates a system for administering international child and spousal maintenance cases where the non-resident parent can not be treated as habitually resident in the UK; this is known as the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders (REMO).

Where a parent with care applies to their local magistrates' court or family proceedings court, details of the maintenance liability can be referred to the foreign jurisdiction - where the non-resident parent now resides - whom will be able to apply their domestic collection and enforcement mechanisms in order to recover the amount due. They will then refer this money back to the UK REMO administrators.

The UK has reciprocal maintenance agreements with over 100 states and territories.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents making payments to the Child Support Agency have their full liability reduced because they have responsibility for the care of their child for more than one night per week. [283211]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents making payments to the Child Support Agency have their full liability reduced because they have responsibility for the care of their child for more than one night per week. [283211]

The Agency estimates that at the end of March 2009, there were around 180,000 cases across both schemes where the maintenance liability has been reduced to take into account a shared care arrangement between the non resident parent and parent with care.

It should be noted that the current statutory maintenance scheme defines a shared care arrangement as one where a qualifying child spends at least 52 nights per year with the non-resident parent. However the original statutory maintenance scheme defined a shared care arrangement as one where the qualifying child spends two days or more per week with the non resident parent. The figure quoted above is based on these definitions.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date she last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of her official duties. [287419]

Yvette Cooper: I can confirm that I have not met with Mr. Damian McBride in the course of my ministerial duties.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information databases her Department *(a)* maintain and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284383]

Jim Knight: The Department maintains a variety of large and small databases in order to process benefits, run the Department and deliver the range of services for which the Department is responsible. Those that contain personal information include: operational systems such as our Customer Information System; databases for research purposes; databases that contain staff-related resource management information and others that relate to the administration of specific benefits. Where personal information is stored and processed on such databases these comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in her Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [286162]

Jim Knight: The Department had 5,243 photocopiers in April 2007; 4,952 in April 2008 and 4,294 in April 2009. 181 scanners and 1,377 fax machines have been ordered through the DWP IT catalogue since July and November 2007 respectively. Information on other orders and the total numbers in the Department are not available.

The Department is currently undertaking a project to rationalise the Department's printers and photocopiers and introduce where ever possible multi-functional devises with the capability to print, copy, fax and scan. This initiative will lower the total cost of printing and copying in the Department, reduce our carbon footprint and provide better support for our staff.

Departmental Risk Assessment

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many investigations her Department's Risk Assessment Division carried out with external programme providers in each of the last five years; and how many resulted in *(a)* prosecution, *(b)* an administrative financial penalty, *(c)* other further action and *(d)* no further action. [285198]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* Data in the format requested are only available from 2006-07.

The figures are shown in the following table:

	1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	*1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008*	*1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009*	*1 April 2009 to present*
Number of investigations	26	34	15[1]	2[1]
Prosecutions	0	0	0	0
Other further action	13	14	4	0
No further action	13	20	6	0

[1] Five investigations in 2008-09 and two investigations in the current year to date are continuing and no conclusion has been reached.

All DWP contracts contain robust clauses that allow us to terminate or seek damages for breach. 'Administrative financial penalties' are not included in DWP contracts because penalty clauses, as such, are unenforceable through the courts. Contracts will be terminated where the breach of the contract terms is sufficiently serious.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of her Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284883]

Jim Knight: Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the industry and Parliament Trust. Details on numbers of civil servants from this Department that have had such an attachment is not held centrally.

Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in each region were referred from Jobcentre Plus to Progress2Work in 2008-09; [284992]

(2) how many people in each region were referred from Jobcentre Plus to Progress2Work-LinkUP in 2008-09. [284993]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* The available information is in the table.

Customers in each region who started on the progress2work and progress2work-Link UP following a referral by Jobcentre Plus, in the 2008-09 operational year

Region	Starts onto progress2work	Number Starts onto progress2work-Link UP
East Midlands	100	180
East of England	0	200
London	280	80
North East	100	40
North West	480	640
Scotland	540	540
South East	100	160
South West	140	40
Wales	100	60
West Midlands	280	240
Yorkshire and Humberside	240	420
Total	2,360	2,820

Notes: 1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 20. 2. Although the question has asked how many were referred by Jobcentre Plus in 2008-09 we can only say of those who started in 2008-09 how many were referred by Jobcentre Plus offices. *Source:* Department for Work and Pensions progress2work/Link Up Evaluation Database.

Employment Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* lone parents, *(b)* incapacity benefit claimants and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance claimants she estimates will be covered by the single personalised employment programme pilot scheme. [282685]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* On 16 June 2009 we announced that we would pilot the Personalised Employment Programme in three Jobcentre Plus Districts: the London boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight district and Thames Valley district

These pilot areas will cover around 6 per cent. of benefit claimants across the eligible customer groups.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes have been made to the single personalised employment programme pilot scheme since it was first announced; and when it is expected to commence. [282684]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* In January 2009 the Department for Work and Pensions published a discussion paper on the next steps in implementing the Gregg Review. In this document the Government announced that the pilots would include parents with younger children in addition to jobseekers and those with health conditions or disabilities. The programme was also renamed and it is now known as the Personalised Employment Programme.

Changes to the programme have not altered the roll-out date for the pilots, which are expected to commence in March 2011.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the budget for *(a)* the Future Jobs Fund, *(b)* support to take an existing job in a key employment sector, *(c)* work-focused training places and *(d)* places on a community task force component of the Young Person's Guarantee is for (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [283577]

(2) what funding her Department has allocated for the delivery of *(a)* the Community Task Force and *(b)* additional training places provided under the Young Persons' Guarantee in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [286755]

(3) who in her Department is responsible for the delivery of the Community Task Force under the Young Person's Guarantee. [286756]

Jim Knight: The total funding for Young Person's Guarantee, which includes Future Jobs Fund, the Community Task Force, Sectoral Pathways and additional training, is £250 million for 2009-10 and £838 million for 2010-11. In addition, there is £20 million to support delivery through Jobcentre Plus. There is no funding allocated for 2011-12.

The Community Task Force will be delivered by contracted providers. The procurement process is being led by the Department.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how long the Government's Young Person's Guarantee will be offered; and what steps the Government plans to take to fulfil the Guarantee after the closure of the Future Jobs Fund in March 2011. [283579]

Jim Knight: The Young Person's Guarantee and Future Jobs Fund will last from April 2009 to March 2011. Those who join the offer on the last date will continue until their placement ends.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism there is for provision of the community task force under the Young Person's Guarantee; who will provide task force places; for how long on average a participant will be on the task force; how much Government funding has been allocated for provision of the task force; what incentives providers will receive to secure job entries; and whether young people participating in the community task force will receive a training allowance in place of jobseeker's allowance. [283611]

Jim Knight: The Budget announced a Young Person's Guarantee; a guaranteed offer of a job, work experience placement or training for all jobseeker's allowance customers approaching 12 months of their claim.

The Community Task Force is the work experience element of the Young Person's Guarantee. It will offer work-focused placements of benefit to the community, designed to move customers closer to the labour market.

When the Young Person's Guarantee is introduced in January 2010, the Community Task Force will be offered on a voluntary basis to all customers not taking up another element of the guarantee. It is expected to become mandatory for all customers who do not take up another element from spring 2010. Placements will last up to six months while the scheme is voluntary, and three months when it becomes mandatory, with the option in the latter case for young people to stay on for a further three months on a voluntary basis.

The Department for Work and Pensions will be contracting with external providers to provide these placements. The Community Task Force will use a standard funding model, comprising a service fee and outcome payment. The outcome payment will be paid to the provider when a customer finds sustained, paid employment.

Customers taking part in the Community Task Force will be paid a training allowance, rather than jobseeker's allowance. However, they will still be expected to be actively looking for work and to leave the programme if they find paid employment.

Funding for the Community Task Force is included in the Young Person's Guarantee funding and is not available as a separate figure. The budget for the Young Person's Guarantee is approximately £250 million for 2009-10 and £838 million for 2010-11.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism there is for provision of work-focused training places under the Young Person's Guarantee; who will provide such places; for how long on average a participant will receive training; how much government funding has been allocated for such places; what incentives providers will receive to secure job entries; and whether young people participating in such training will receive a training allowance rather than jobseeker's allowance. [283612]

Jim Knight: A range of public and private sector training providers will deliver the training element of the Young Person's Guarantee. Learners can access the training through their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser or by going direct to a provider.

The length of training depends on the type of course that the participant enrols in. Shorter, sector specific training through Sector Routeways is designed to take up to eight weeks, providing more focused training for people closer to the labour market. Longer training from three to six months is designed for people who need a more significant and sustained boost to their skills.

The budget for this training is £122,400,000 in total from 2009-11. The funding model for this offer, which will detail any provider incentives and training allowances, has not yet been finalised.

Employment Support Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of those who started claiming employment support allowance have moved into work since it came into force; and if she will make a statement. [286482]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number and proportion of people who have left employment and support allowance to move into work is not available at present.

Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit for new claims from 27 October 2008. The latest provisional headline figures available are for November 2008.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people she estimates will receive pensions under her Department's Financial Assistance Scheme; and of these how many she expects to have rights to do so based *(a)* solely and *(b)* partly on pre-1997 service. [286416]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* We estimate that the Financial Assistance Scheme will provide assistance payments to 147,000 members.

Of these, it has been estimated that 66,000 members have pension rights based solely on pre-1997 service and 74,000 members have pension rights based partly on pre-1997 service. The remaining 7,000 have solely post 1997 service.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the increase in *(a)* people in employment and *(b)* people of working age in employment between the third quarter for 1997 and (i) the third quarter for 2008 and (ii) the most recent quarter for which figures are available was accounted for by non-UK citizens. [286461]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the increase in *(a)* people in employment and *(b)* people of working age in employment between the third quarter for 1997 and (i) the third quarter for 2008 and (ii) the most recent quarter for which figures are available was accounted for by non-UK citizens. (286461)

The information requested is shown in the attached tables. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin, including the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Table 1: People aged 16 and over in employment by nationality: Three month period ending September 1997 and 2008; three month period ending March 2009—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

		Number in employment (thousand)			Change since 1997 Q3 (thousand)			Change since 1997 Q3 as proportion of total change (%)		
		UK nationals	Non-UK nationals	Total[1]	UK nationals	Non-UK nationals	Total[1]	UK nationals	Non-UK nationals	Total[1]
1997	Q3	25,725	986	26,707	—	—	—	—	—	—
2008	Q3	27,207	2,329	29,535	1,482	1,337	2,825	52	47	100
2009	Q1	26,763	2,397	29,128	1,042	1,372	2,421	43	57	100

[1] Includes those whose nationality was not known.

Table 2: People of working age[1] in employment by nationality: Three month period ending September 1997 and 2008; three month period ending March 2009—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

		Number in employment (thousand)			Change since 1997 Q3 (thousand)			Change since 1997 Q3 as proportion of total change (%)		
		UK nationals	Non-UK nationals	Total[2]	UK nationals	Non-UK nationals	Total[2]	UK nationals	Non-UK nationals	Total[2]
1997	Q3	24,928	964	25,893	—	—	—	—	—	—
2008	Q3	25,928	2,279	28,214	1,000	1,315	2,321	43	57	100
2009	Q1	25,454	2,313	27,775	526	1,348	1,882	28	72	100

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Includes those whose nationality was not known.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs are proposed to be created by bids for the Future Jobs Fund in total. [283571]

Jim Knight: The Future Jobs Fund will create 150,000 new jobs, of which we will specifically target 50,000 in areas of high unemployment.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the procedure will be for *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses to apply for funding from the Future Jobs Fund. [286631]

Jim Knight: The Future Jobs Fund is a fund of around £1 billion to support the creation of jobs for long-term unemployed young people and others who face significant disadvantage in the labour market.

Bids for funding can come from anyone, but we have a strong preference for partnership bids. We expect the majority of bids to the Future Jobs Fund to be led by local authorities, sub-regional, city region and local partnerships, or by national or local public sector and third sector bodies. We published the invitation to bid on 13 May, and had received over 200 bids by 30 June, which we are currently assessing. Up-to-date guidance on how to bid is available from the Future Jobs Fund website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/futurejobsfund

We expect that in most cases eligible candidates will be referred to employers by Jobcentre Plus. In some cases individuals may self-present to the employer, or may be identified by them directly. In these situations, Jobcentre Plus will need to confirm an individual's eligibility. Future Jobs Fund employers will be encouraged to sign a local employment partnership with Jobcentre Plus.

Health and Safety Executive: Reorganisation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many copies of the consultation paper on proposed changes to the Nuclear Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive have been printed; what methods have been used to publicise the consultation; and what financial impact assessment of the proposed changes has been undertaken. [286862]

Jonathan Shaw: The joint Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)/Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) consultation on the restructuring of the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Nuclear Directorate was launched on 30 June 2009 and will run until 22 September 2009. A total of 170 copies of the consultation document have been printed. Copies of the document are available from Publications Orderline, Admail 528, London SW1W 8YT. It is also available electronically via the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/hse_restruct/hse_restruct.aspx

A written ministerial statement announcing the launch of the consultation was made by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 30 June. The consultation was publicised through a press notice and on the DWP, DECC and HSE websites. Copies of the consultation document were sent electronically to around 2,200 contacts.

A partial impact assessment, which includes an assessment of the financial impact of the proposed restructuring, was published as part of the consultation document.

Health and Safety: Teachers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-fatal major injuries which were sustained in the workplace by *(a)* secondary, *(b)* primary and nursery and *(c)* special needs education teaching professionals resulted in legal proceedings in each of the last five years. [285727]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no prosecution cases recorded on the Health and safety Executive's database resulting from reported non-fatal major injuries to individuals in the teaching profession in the last five years.

Health Professions

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 684W, on social security benefits: medical examinations, how many of the health care professionals against whom complaints were made under the heading claimants experiences were the subject of more than one complaint and how many health care professionals have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed. [283836]

Jim Knight: Further to the answer of 22 June 2009, there were 15 health care professionals against whom complaints were made under the heading claimants experiences were the subject of more than one complaint.

The number of health care professionals that have been *(a)* disciplined is nil and *(b)* dismissed is nil.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the average cost of re-assessment of an existing incapacity benefit claimant as part of the programme to migrate the current incapacity benefit population onto the employment and support allowance by 2013; and how much her Department plans to spend on assessing the existing incapacity benefit population in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13. [288519]

Jonathan Shaw: The average cost of a medical assessment for an incapacity benefits claimant is commercially sensitive and can not be provided.

Planned expenditure on medical assessments for existing incapacity benefits customers is detailed in the following table.

Medical assessment expenditure

	£ million
2009-10	20
2010-11	45
2011-12	35
2012-13	35

Notes:
1. Figures include the planned expenditure on reassessing incapacity benefits claimants under the Personal Capability Assessment and the additional funding to reassess incapacity benefits customers under the Work Capability Assessment.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Industrial Injuries

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the average weekly saving to the public purse of an individual delaying making a claim for industrial injury benefit for beat knee and osteoarthritis of the knee. [286875]

Jonathan Shaw: Osteoarthritis of the knee was added to the list of diseases covered by the industrial injuries scheme on 13 July 2009. The disease prescribed disease A6 (commonly known as 'Beat Knee') has been prescribed since 1958.

Any person who feels they may be eligible to claim for either disease should do so as soon as possible. Awards may be backdated up to three months. If a person makes a claim for osteoarthritis of the knee within three months of 13 July 2009, any award may be backdated to that date only, as no payment can be made for the period before the law changed.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make available expert advisers from her Department to inform the public of beat knee and osteoarthritis of the knee industrial injury claims at public meetings organised by hon. Members. [286877]

Jonathan Shaw: The communication strategy for osteoarthritis of the knee has been deliberately targeted at the most effective means of reaching the mining community. My officials have met with senior representatives of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers (NACODS), and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM) at their headquarters to explain what the changes mean for their members, and have contacted the miners' pension schemes to ensure all retired miners would be aware of the change. Press releases and posters containing contact details for advice on claiming have supported that strategy and its effectiveness has already been demonstrated by the numbers of claims already received. I am satisfied with our publicity arrangements, and do not plan to routinely make officials available to attend public meetings.

Prescribed Disease A6 (commonly known as Beat Knee) has been covered by the IIDB scheme since 1958. It is well known and we have no plans to further publicise this disease.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision her Department is making with Atos Origin to allow local and cost-effective medical examinations for beat knee and osteoarthritis of the knee industrial injury claims. [286878]

Jonathan Shaw: Atos Origin IT Services Ltd. (Atos Healthcare) has Medical Examination Centres (MEC) across the country. All DWP customers claiming Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) for beat knee and osteoarthritis of the knee will be asked to attend the MEC nearest to their home. In addition the DWP do not require customers to travel further than 90 minutes, each way, by public transport. Where there is no MEC within 90 minutes of a customer's home address, Atos Healthcare can make alternative arrangements.

Discussions are under way between the DWP and Atos Healthcare to secure the best value for money solution to deliver this new requirement.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many industrial injury claims for beat knee and osteoarthritis of the knee were submitted in advance of the July start date for compensation payments. [286879]

Jonathan Shaw: 4,834 claims for osteoarthritis of the knee were received before the law came into force on 13 July 2009 to include this disease in the industrial injuries scheme.

Prescribed Disease A6, commonly known as 'Beat Knee', has been on the list of diseases covered by the scheme since 1958. There were 880 new claims for Prescribed Disease A6 received during the period October 2007 to September 2008. This is the latest full year validated figures held for that disease.

Source:
Clerical Count 100 per cent. data

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department has issued to claimants of industrial injury benefit for beat knee or osteoarthritis of the knee on charges levied by claims handlers. [286880]

Jonathan Shaw: Osteoarthritis of the knee was added to the industrial injuries disablement benefit scheme on 13 July 2009. We have made it clear in our publicity that customers do not need to involve solicitors and they should contact Jobcentre Plus industrial injury disablement benefit offices direct for advice about claiming.

Prescribed Disease A6 (commonly known as Beat Knee) has been covered by the industrial injury disablement benefit scheme since 1958. The Jobcentre Plus leaflet covering industrial injury disablement benefit advises individuals to contact their local Jobcentre Plus industrial injury disablement benefit regional centre if they require more information or want to make a claim.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many advertisements her Department has placed to explain industrial injury benefit claims for beat knee and osteoarthritis of the knee in the last 12 months. [286681]

Jonathan Shaw: We have not placed any paid-for advertisements in the last 12 months. We have, however, produced 500 posters to publicise the new entitlement to industrial injuries disablement benefit for miners with osteoarthritis of the knee. These have been distributed to MPs in their constituencies, and the major miners' unions to distribute through their networks (including National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers [NACODS], Union of Democratic Mineworkers [UDM], and National Union of Mineworkers [NUM]).

In addition, we have sent articles to pension trustees of the above unions to include in their newsletters and other communications. We have also placed an article in September's edition of Touchbase, the Department for Work and Pension's newsletter for its advisers.

We have worked with national and local media outlets to explain the change and achieved free coverage in the *Daily Mirror*, on the BBC news website, and throughout the country, particularly in mining and former mining communities, including the *Newcastle Journal, Northern Echo, Hartlepool Mail, Sunderland Echo, Wigan Observer, Warwickshire Telegraph, Coventry Telegraph, Nuneaton News, Staffordshire Newsletter and the Sheffield Star*.

The Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Burnley (Kitty Ussher), visited the National Coal Mining Museum in Wakefield, along with representatives from NUM and NACODS. The visit was covered by the *Yorkshire Post, Yorkshire Star and Sheffield Telegraph* newspapers, as well as BBC Look North and BBC Radio Leeds.

My hon. Friend wrote a letter advising potential applicants in South Wales to apply direct to Jobcentre Plus, after local solicitors were found to be targeting miners. The letter was published in the *Bridgend & Porthcawl Gem, South Wales Echo, Western Mail and the Cynon Valley Leader*.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claim forms for industrial injuries disablement benefit in relation to beat knee or osteoarthritis of the knee have been *(a)* ordered from and *(b)* returned to her Department by claims handlers working for the company BCP. [287016]

Jonathan Shaw: Jobcentre Plus does not keep information about the number of industrial injuries disablement benefit claim forms ordered by and returned from claims handlers and individual organisations.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will instruct Jobcentre Plus staff to seek to schedule regular meetings with jobseekers in part-time work to take place on days when they are not regularly employed. [284421]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if she will issue guidance to Jobcentre Plus that it should seek to schedule regular meetings with jobseekers in part-time work to take place on days when they are not regularly employed. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Regular face-to-face contact with people is the most effective method of helping them find work quickly, and ensuring they remain entitled to payment of benefit by demonstrating they are actively seeking work. People claiming Jobseeker's Allowance are therefore usually required to attend their nearest Jobcentre for regular jobsearch reviews and more in-depth interviews with a personal adviser if they do not find work quickly. Where someone is undertaking part-time work we will make every effort to make alternative arrangements to accommodate their part time working patterns. We will, however, ensure that the guidance is clarified in this respect.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when the results of the next Jobcentre Plus staff survey will be reported; and if she will place in the Library a copy of that report; [286638]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the results of each of the three most recent Jobcentre Plus staff surveys. [286639]

Jim Knight: Copies of the three most recent sets of survey results for Jobcentre Plus, from the Department for Work and Pensions Surveys conducted in 2009, 2008 and 2006, have been placed in the Library. There was no staff survey in 2007 as surveys were conducted in November 2006 and January 2008.

As part of the Cabinet Office cross-Government employee engagement programme the next staff survey of Jobcentre Plus, which is part of the Department for Work and Pensions Survey, will take place in October/November 2009. Results will be available in January/February 2010. The results will be placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Buildings

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether her Department consulted disability organisations on the most recent programme of refurbishment to Jobcentre Plus offices; [284017]

(2) whether the tendering contract for the most recent refurbishment to the Jobcentre Plus offices stipulated the provision of accessible seating for elderly and disabled people in Jobcentre Plus offices. [284247]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking: whether her Department consulted disability organisations prior to the most recent programme of refurbishment to Jobcentre

Plus offices and whether the tendering contract for the most recent refurbishment to the Jobcentre Plus offices stipulated the provision of accessible seating in Jobcentre Plus offices. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

During the programme to roll out Jobcentre Plus offices, in the period 2002 to 2006, Jobcentre Plus worked in partnership with the Department's Diversity and Equality specialist, to ensure the changes met the needs of all our customers. The Jobcentre Plus Project developed a Jobcentre Plus Environmental Guide (JPEG) in association with the project architects which referenced all relevant external legislation including the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). DDA requires all providers of public services to ensure that services to customers can be accessed by all, whether that is in regard to the physical office environments or by other means. The JPEG was reviewed throughout the rollout programme to ensure compliance with the Act. This was reflected both in the standards and specifications deployed in the physical refurbishment of our offices and in the design of specific components.

The tendering exercise for the national roll out of Jobcentre Plus offices between 2002 and 2006 identified a range of customer seating which complied with statutory requirements. The scope of the tenders included a range of design options that took account of our business-related Health and Safety considerations and also met key customer needs such as comfort, visibility and ease of use. Consultation with the Department's Diversity and Equality specialists provided Jobcentre Plus with assurances that the broadest range of customer requirements would be met.

As part of the planning for delivery of services through the new Jobcentre Plus network, each District drew up a local service delivery plan which was the subject of consultation with a range of local stakeholders, including customer representatives. Customer Service Directors have recently been asked to review their existing service delivery arrangements in meeting the challenge of the current economic climate, taking account of the planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years.

This exercise has identified that a number of Jobcentre Plus offices currently face capacity pressures. These pressures will be met through a range of solutions. This includes making our services more accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises. We are supplementing these measures by operating extended opening hours in some locations where the need for this is identified locally, including some offices opening to the public on Saturday. In the light of the increase in customer demand we have embarked on a programme to convert or extend our existing buildings where necessary, deploying existing components including similar seating to that already installed as part of the 2002-2006 roll out of Jobcentre Plus offices.

However, we will only acquire new space where all other measures are insufficient.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on projects to refurbish Jobcentre Plus offices since 2001. [284018]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking how much her Department has spent on projects to refurbish Jobcentre Plus offices since 2001. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus came into being in April 2002. The refurbishment of Jobcentre Plus offices was carried out over five years as part of the £1.9 billion rollout of the Jobcentre Plus office network, which included estates refurbishment costs of £782 million.

Jobcentre Plus: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting from injury at work was among Jobcentre Plus employees in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years; what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of such absences; and if she will make a statement. [283886]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the rate of (a) absence and (b) absence resulting from injury at work was among Jobcentre Plus employees in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of these absences. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The system we use to monitor sick absence is a relatively new system so I am only able to provide data from May 2007 to June 2009. I have therefore detailed below the average working days lost per member of staff in Jobcentre Plus in Essex between June 2007 and May 2008, and between June 2008 and May 2009 along with the associated financial cost. I am unable to provide you with details for Castle Point as we do not record them for this area specifically.

	Average work days lost to sickness (in days)	*Total cost of sickness days lost (£)*
June 2008 to May 2009	8.79	964,874
June 2007 to May 2008	11.17	1,072,866

The level of sickness absence data that Jobcentre Plus collects does not allow us to identify specific work related injuries as the cause of sickness absence.

Jobcentre Plus is very aware of the negative impact of sickness absence on customer service and is committed to improving performance in this area. Indeed, our strategies are delivering considerable success, with the latest data confirming the improving trend we have seen over the last 16 months. We remain committed to securing further improvements.

In addition, we are embarking upon a major health and wellbeing programme across all of our sites. The programme provides staff with a wealth of information and guidance to support healthier lifestyles. It gives them access to a confidential on-line health and wellbeing assessment and delivers targeted solutions to support the individual. The programme also provides managers at our Jobcentres with comprehensive information about the potential health risks to staff, ensuring specific preventative action is taken to address the issues.

My District Manager for Essex, Neil Brettell, will be happy to talk to you further if you have any further questions. He can be contacted on 01245 214242, by post at Government Buildings, Beeches Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2RT or by email at Neil.Brettell@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs have been advertised at customer-facing Jobcentre Plus units in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [283887]

Jim Knight: All Jobcentre Plus offices have access to all vacancies advertised by Jobcentre Plus. Each office has jobpoints that allow jobseekers to search for jobs by various criteria including location. Therefore jobseekers using the Jobcentre Plus offices in Essex and Castle Point will be able to access the same vacancies as would a jobseeker in any other part of the country.

The number of vacancies advertised for Essex and the Castle Point constituency in the latest 12 months for which data are available are shown in the following table.

	Number of notified vacancies		*Number of live unfilled vacancies*	
	Essex	*Castle point*	*Essex*	*Castle point*
June 2008	8,144	331	6,606	331
July 2008	6,706	270	6,662	366
August 2008	8,203	210	6,633	259
September 2008	6,299	263	5,939	253
October 2008	6,864	263	6,185	318
November 2008	6,855	180	5,803	188
December 2008	3,923	135	4,311	168
January 2009	2,241	108	2,687	103
February 2009	6,150	329	3,890	164
March 2009	4,782	254	3,954	226
April 2009	4,534	231	3,758	125
May 2009	5,503	246	4,112	241

Notes:
1. Interpretation of these data need to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the nomis website.
2. Notified vacancies include any speculative placings recorded by Jobcentre Plus. Datasets from May 2006 may reflect substantially reduced levels of speculative placings as part of the notified series. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. The stocks of unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (that is, excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural time lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
4. Data are unrounded.
5. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) have been available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether free at the point of use telephones are available to Jobcentre Plus customers in each jobcentre in Essex. [286356]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether free at the point of use telephones are available to Jobcentre Plus customers in each Jobcentre in Essex. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We have Customer Access Telephones in all our Jobcentres in Essex. These telephones are free for our customers to access a range of services. They are primarily used to make enquires about benefit claims and other services offered by us. They can also be used to contact employers and other agencies that can help customers find work. On request we can also make other telephones available, at no cost, for customers to telephone prospective employers or make other relevant calls.

Jobcentre Plus: Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of its annual budget Jobcentre Plus plans to spend on *(a)* staff and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus programmes in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [278232]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking how much and what proportion of its annual budget Jobcentre Plus plans to spend on (a) staff and (b) Jobcentre Plus programmes in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The available information is provided below.

Employment programme budgets are not held by Jobcentre Plus but are controlled centrally by DWP.

Jobcentre Plus administration budget

	£ million
2009/10	3,683
2010/11	3,951

Source:
DWP Three Year Business Plan

Based on our indicative plans for 2009/10, our best estimate is that approximately 70 per cent of the Jobcentre Plus administration budget will be spent on staff costs. The remaining 30 per cent will be spent on other non staff related costs. Detailed planning for 2010/11 has not yet commenced but it is expected that a similar proportion will also be spent on staff costs in that year.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on which programmes the planned additional £3 billion funding allocation to Jobcentre Plus will be spent. [285988]

Jim Knight: The Department was allocated £1.7 billion additional funding in the Budget 2009 in addition to the

£1.3 billion announced in the pre-Budget report in November 2008 to fund additional volumes. The funding will be used to support Jobcentre Plus activity and to fund additional long-term employment programmes.

The funding for long-term employment programmes is £620 million as announced in Budget 2009, plus £350 million announced at the pre-Budget report 2008. Most of the provision for the long-term unemployed will be provided through the Flexible New Deal over the next two years. However phased implementation means that there will still be some expenditure on New Deal and Employment Zones programmes over the next two years.

Jobcentre Plus: Job Description

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department gives to jobcentres on procedures to ensure that job advertisements placed with them are genuine. [285813]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking what guidance is given to jobcentres on procedures to ensure that job advertisements placed with them are genuine. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The following guidance is provided to Jobcentre Plus staff when handling vacancies from employers to ensure they are genuine. When advertising with Jobcentre Plus employers must provide us with:

a full and clear job description (which is lawful and unambiguous to our customers)

a rate of pay equal to or more than that stated in the National Minimum Wage Act

a guarantee that all other terms and conditions of employment are lawful; and

an assurance that all jobs are available on an open and fair basis to jobseeking customers using our services.

To ensure wherever possible that the employers and their vacancies are genuine we also require:

a full postal address

a landline telephone number

contact name, position with the company and direct telephone number

the type of business they are involved in

the number of employees they have at the individual site; and

a verbal/written National Minimum Wage assurance.

To ensure vacancies advertised by recruitment agencies are genuine, the recruitment agency must sign a service level agreement agreeing to the terms under which Jobcentre Plus will advertise their vacancies. This agreement specifies that all vacancies must be genuine and the agency must supply details of the employer on whose behalf they are advertising.

Jobcentre Plus also contacts all employers 48 hours after their vacancy was advertised to discuss the vacancy and this provides additional assurance that the employer and vacancy are genuine.

Jobcentre Plus: Opening Hours

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus offices operate extended opening hours. [271697]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus offices operate extended opening hours. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Extending opening hours is one of the ways in which we are responding to the demands on our service. The precise numbers of offices operating extended hours will vary week by week depending on the need.

However, as an example, between 15 and 28 June a total of 301 Jobcentres opened to customers on Saturday, 21 opened to customers on Sunday and 63 opened for extra hours during the week. Our Service Delivery plans are kept under constant review to make sure we offer the best possible service to meet the needs of our customers.

Jobcentre Plus: Qualifications

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has made an assessment of the merits of requiring minimum qualifications for Jobcentre Plus personal advisers; and if she will make a statement. [275406]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question to James Purnell asking whether he had made an assessment of the merits of requiring minimum qualifications for Jobcentre Plus personal advisers. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

I have recently commissioned a review to develop an accreditation strategy for a number of key job roles across Jobcentre Plus, which will include the personal adviser role. The results of this review will be available in the Autumn.

Currently, within the recruitment process all Jobcentre Plus personal advisers are required to meet a minimum entry standard. This is assessed through testing literacy and numeracy. Successful candidates will then go to the second stage interview where the individual's relevant competencies are examined.

Once recruited, in addition to an internal learning programme we invest in the S/NVQ programme where personal advisers work towards an externally recognised qualification in 'advice and guidance'. This is not a mandatory requirement.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure the provision of access to freephone Government helplines in Jobcentre Plus offices for benefit claimants; and if she will make a statement. [278372]

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will instruct Jobcentre Plus to ensure all calls to social fund offices are free of charge to customers using either landline or mobile telephones. [282636]

Jim Knight: The Department believes strongly that calls to its 0800 numbers should be free to mobile phone users as they already are to callers from landlines. Officials from the Department have accordingly held discussions with the Telephone Helplines Association, and with mobile telephone operators, seeking to secure the Department's customers a free service when contacting the Department's 0800 numbers via a mobile phone. These discussions are continuing.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants of each age who have skills levels equivalent to less than level 2. [287316]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 July 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for jobseeker's allowance were rejected owing to fraudulent documents being used in support of such applications in each of the last five years. [281986]

Jim Knight: We do not record the number of applications for jobseeker's allowance (JSA) rejected due to fraudulent documents being used. However, we can provide reassurance that rigorous checks of all documentation are undertaken when an application to JSA is made. If there is a suspicion about the validity of the documentation produced, the case is referred to our Fraud Investigation Service. The claim will not be put into payment until the questions around the documentation are resolved.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Personation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals have been found to be claiming jobseeker's allowance under a false or stolen identity in each of the last five years. [281987]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Lone Parents: Employment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the lone parents who were moved from income support onto jobseeker's allowance as a result of changes to benefit rules in December 2008 are in employment; and if she will make a statement. [286481]

Jim Knight: Due to unavoidable time lags in the collation and assessment of our benefits and employment data, the Department cannot provide this information at this point in time. Our comprehensive evaluation of Lone Parent Obligations will address benefit transitions and employment outcomes and this information will be available in due course.

New Deal Schemes: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have participated in a New Deal programme in each of the last three years. [282435]

Jim Knight: The figures for New Deal starters in Essex and in Castle Point are shown in the tables:

(a) Essex

	2006	2007	2008
New deal for young people—starters (spells)	2,450	2,640	2,590
New deal 25+—starters (spells)	1,260	2,140	1,740
New deal for lone parents—starters (spells)	2,240	2,940	4,730
New deal for disabled people—starters (spells)	930	940	1,070
New deal 50+—starters (individuals)	260	130	100
New deal for partners—starters (individuals)	10	10	40

(b) Castle Point

	2006	2007	2008
New deal for young people—starters (spells)	120	130	150
New deal 25+—starters (spells)	60	90	60
New deal for lone parents—starters (spells)	130	180	330
New deal for disabled people—starters (spells)	100	80	80
New deal 50+—starters (individuals)	10	10	—
New deal for partners—starters (individuals)	—	—	10

Notes:
1. Westminster Parliamentary Constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS postcode directory and customer's postcode.
2. Time series—year of starting: the calendar year of starting the New Deal. Latest data is to February 2009.
3. The measure used for New Deal 50 Plus and New Deal for Partners is Starters (individuals) as spells are not available in these cases.
4. Since June 2008, the New Deal for Disabled People has ceased to operate as a national programme.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate. Figures are available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/tabtool_nd.asp

New Deal: Pathways to Work

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* criminal and *(b)* administrative penalties are available in respect of contractors for work under the (i) New Deal and (ii) Pathways to Work programmes found to have defrauded her Department; and if she will make a statement. [283974]

Jim Knight: All DWP Welfare to Work contracts, including Pathways to Work and New Deal programmes, include mandatory clauses outlining the remedies where contractor fraud is committed. Remedies range from a formal warning with the recovery of any amounts paid by the Department in respect of any fraud or financial irregularity and damages that are appropriate through to termination of contract. Contracts will be terminated where the breach of the contract terms is sufficiently serious.

DWP deals with minor irregularities internally. Where the Department believes the matter is more serious, and where there may be sufficient evidence for a prosecution, the matter will be referred to the police.

DWP will always investigate any allegations and take action where there is sufficient evidence for us to do so.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many investigations her Department is undertaking into contracts for *(a)* New Deal and *(b)* Pathways to Work. [283975]

Jim Knight: The Department is undertaking four investigations into contracts for New Deal and one investigation into contracts for Pathways to Work.

Pension Credit: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley have received pension credit in each year since its inception. [286690]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table.

Household recipients of pension credit

As at November each year	*Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency*	*Bexley local authority*
2003	2,030	5,280
2004	2,690	7,020
2005	2,810	7,250
2006	2,820	7,340
2007	2,780	7,360
2008	2,770	7,390

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim Pension Credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data

Pension Credit: Derbyshire

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* West Derbyshire have received pension credit in each year since its inception. [286415]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table.

Household recipients of pension credit

As at November each year	*Derbyshire local authority*	*West Derbyshire parliamentary constituency*
2003	25,700	2,470
2004	34,090	3,400
2005	35,140	3,540
2006	35,420	3,590
2007	35,120	3,510
2008	34,800	3,560

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Pension Credit: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension credit recipients live in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency. [280704]

Angela Eagle As at November 2008, there were 5,230 households in receipt of pension credit in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency.

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Service: Internet

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many upgrades have been made to the Pension Service's state pension forecast e-service system since September 2008; when each upgrade was made; for how long the online form was unavailable as a result of each upgrade; and if she will make a statement. [287547]

Angela Eagle: Since September 2008 there have been three upgrades of the online state pension forecasting service.

To implement these upgrades, the online service was unavailable as follows:

From 00.00 on 24 October 2008 to 07:00 on 27 October 2008

From 17:00 on 23 January 2009 to 07:00 on 26 January 2009

From 19:00 on 3 April 2009 to 01:00 on 4 April 2009

Times are given using the 24 hour clock.

Pensioners: Council Tax

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make an assessment of the effect on the disposable income and quality of life of pensioners in receipt of pension credit of changes in council tax levels over the last 10 years. [275481]

Angela Eagle: Pension credit was introduced in October 2003. Between then and 2007-08 (the latest data available) average council tax liability for pension credit recipients has remained the same at around 7 per cent. of net income.

Notes:
1. Receipt of the guarantee credit element of pension credits brings entitlement to full help with a council tax bill through council tax benefit.
2. Based on the family resources survey and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.

Pensioners: Poverty

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the number of pensioners that would be lifted out of poverty if take-up of means-tested benefits was 100 per cent.; and if she will make a statement. [287325]

Angela Eagle: Our latest estimates show that if there were 100 per cent. take-up of all income related benefits by pensioners entitled to them the number of pensioners below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, after housing costs, would fall by around 700,000, after housing costs have been taken into account, based on 2008-09 benefit rates.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average monetary value of benefits in kind provided by her Department was to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples in York in respect of (i) NHS services, (ii) social services, (iii) travel concessions, (iv) television licences, (v) insulation and home repairs and improvements grants and (vi) other services in each year since 1996-97. [286008]

Angela Eagle: A wide range of services and benefits in kind are available to older people and these are administered both centrally and locally. As a result, the information is not available in the format requested: some information is not collected and some could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information which is available is given as follows.

(i) NHS services

People aged 60 and over are able to claim free prescriptions and eye tests on the grounds of age. Detailed information on prescription charges is not held in the format requested.

Free NHS sight tests were made available to people aged 60 and over from 1 April 1999. Information on the average value of NHS sight tests provided to people aged 60 and over within the area of the former York and Selby primary care trust is only available on a consistent basis for the three years 2003-04 to 2005-06 and is set out in the following table.

Financial year	Number of free NHS sight tests given to people aged 60 and over	Estimated cost of NHS sight tests to people aged 60 and over (£)
2003-04	26,254	453,144
2004-05	26,619	474,351
2005-06	25,057	460,798

PCTs were restructured in October 2006 and no equivalent data for 2006-07 are available. Information for 2007-08 is available for the North Yorkshire and York PCT area and is set out in the following table.

Financial year	Number of free NHS sight tests given to people aged 60 and over	Estimated cost of NHS sight tests to people aged 60 and over (£)
2007-08	88,428	1,708,429

NHS optical vouchers and free dental treatment may additionally be available to individuals in receipt of certain qualifying benefits, or if they have been assessed as eligible for assistance under the NHS Low Income Scheme. Information on the value of such NHS services is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(ii) Social services

The following table shows the gross current expenditure by York council on social services for people aged 65 or over from 1996-97 to 2007-08.

Gross current expenditure[1] by York council on older people (aged 65 or over)

1 April to 31 March	Gross current expenditure (£000)
1996-97	15,200
1997-98	16,300
1998-99	17,400
1999-2000	18,700
2000-01	19,100
2001-02	19,400
2002-03[2]	23,500
2003-04[3]	21,900
2004-05	25,600
2005-06	27,500
2006-07	27,600
2007-08	27,600

[1] Gross expenditure includes income from client contributions, but excludes capital charges and certain income items which count as expenditure elsewhere in the public sector, such as contributions from primary care trusts. This is to avoid double counting within the aggregate public sector accounts of the money involved.
[2] From 2002-03 onwards, the data includes clients who transferred to council with social services responsibilities (CSSR) support on 8 April 2002, who were formally in receipt of higher rates of income support under the Department for Work and Pensions preserved rights scheme.
[3] From 2003-04, additional funding was made available to CSSRs via the Supporting People grant.
Source:
R03 and PSS-EX1 returns

(iii) Travel concessions

The statutory minimum travel concession, introduced in April 2008, gives those aged 60 or over and eligible disabled people free off-peak local bus travel in any part of England. The Government provide around £1 billion a year to fund the concession.

Travel concession schemes are provided through local authorities, which have flexibility to enhance their schemes to offer more than the statutory minimum, so there are local variations in what is offered and take-up of concessionary travel also varies from one area to another. Therefore it is not possible to quantify the value of the benefit in kind in a specific local authority area.

(iv) Television licences

Free television licences for people aged 75 or over were introduced in November 2000. TV Licensing, who administer free licences as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of licences issued. However, figures, shown in the following table, are available for the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming winter fuel payments in York local authority. These people would be eligible for a free television licence.

York local authority area

	Number of households with someone aged 75 or over
2004-05	11,685
2005-06	11,930
2006-07	12,070
2007-08	12,240

Television licence fees for each year since the concession was introduced are shown in the following table:

TV licence fees

	£	
	Colour	*Black and white*
2000-01	104.00	34.50
2001-02	109.00	36.50
2002-03	112.00	37.50
2003-04	116.00	38.50
2004-05	121.00	40.50
2005-06	126.50	42.00
2006-07	131.50	44.00
2007-08	135.50	45.50
2008-09	139.50	47.00

TV licence fees

	£	
	Colour	*Black and white*
2009-10	142.50	48.00

(v) Insulation

The Warm Front scheme is the Government's main programme for tackling fuel poverty in vulnerable households in the private sector in England. Warm Front provides grants for heating, insulation and energy efficiency measures. The following table displays the number of pensioner households that have received Warm Front assistance in the York local authority area since the scheme's inception in 2000, and the average spend on each of those households.

	Number of single pensioner households assisted in York	*Average spend per single pensioner household assisted (£)*	*Number of two pensioners households assisted in York*	*Average spend per two pensioner household assisted (£)*
2000-01	63	345.50	16	791.74
2001-02	170	502.44	43	1,156.06
2002-03	184	611.81	46	1,424.28
2003-04	82	748.75	21	1,701.55
2004-05	87	693.71	22	1,596.59
2005-06	199	778.45	102	765.08
2006-07	364	753.92	252	657.25
2007-08	390	1,020.33	297	998.20
2008-09	199	1,741.24	155	1,612.50

Pensions

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rates of basic state pension payable to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* couples were in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest date for which figures are available; and what the rates would have been if they had been uprated in line with earnings. [285753]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table:

Financial year	*Level of the basic state pension (£ per week)*	
	Standard rate on own contributions	*Standard rate for couple where wife is reliant on husband's insurance*
1996-97	61.15	97.75
2009-10 (actual)	95.25	152.30
2009-10 (uprated by prices)	88.70	141.80

Notes:
1. All figures in cash terms.
2. Uprating calculations employ historic annual increase in the RPI series for September of the previous year.
3. There is no such thing as an actual 'singles rate' though the standard rate of the Category A pension is commonly referred to as the 'singles rate'. Similarly the sum of the Category A and Category B(L) pension is often referred to as the 'couples rate'.
4. Category B(L) pension is about 60 per cent. of the standard rate basic Category A pension. It is payable by virtue of a spouse's qualifying years or earnings.

Pensions: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons non-taxable war disablement pension is not disregarded in means-testing calculations for the provision of NHS and other services to armed services veterans. [286405]

Jonathan Shaw: Access to NHS services is a matter for my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health.

Armed service veterans who are in receipt of pension credit, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income related employment and support allowance have access to free prescriptions, dental treatment, eye tests and other NHS services.

For all means-tested benefits income is normally taken fully into account when calculating entitlement. However, a £10 disregard is applied to payments of War Disablement Pension, War Widow's Pension and their replacement under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme when calculating a person's entitlement to these benefits. This disregard, which gives war pensioners an advantage over other groups, is made in recognition of the special nature of these payments.

Certain elements paid with War Disablement Pension are disregarded in full. These are constant attendance

allowance, mobility supplement, severe disablement occupational allowance and dependency increases for anyone other than the applicant or his partner.

In addition to the statutory disregards mentioned, local authorities, who administer housing benefit and council tax benefit, have discretion to disregard all or part of a War Pension over and above the statutory £10 disregard. The cost of any further disregard is met by the local authority, not by central Government. It is, therefore, for each local authority to decide whether a higher disregard should apply.

Research Report

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in each birth cohort, as shown in Figure 4.3 on page 55 of DWP Research Report number 558, would be modelled as having payback equivalent to having received at least the full value of the assumed rate of return used in the modelling; and what the equivalent figures are under alternative scenarios (a) 1 and (b) 2 as referred to on page 57 of DWP Research Report number 558. [287114]

Angela Eagle: The Department's population-level modelling calculates payback rather than internal rate of return, and there is no simple correspondence between the two measures—for each individual it depends on their patterns of saving and decumulation through time. As a result it would be a major exercise to calculate the distribution of internal rates of return for birth cohorts, and the cost of producing this analysis would be disproportionate.

Sick Leave: Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working days were lost due to stress-related illness in each of the last 30 years. [286290]

Jonathan Shaw: The information the HSE holds on the estimated working days lost due to stress is as follows:

Estimated days lost due to stress, anxiety and depression

	Days lost—rounded to nearest 1,000
2007-08	13,547,000
2006-07	13,760,000
2005-06	10,537,000
2004-05	12,820,000
2003-04	12,803,000
2001-02	12,919,000
1995[1]	6,465,000

[1] The figure for 1995 was gathered using a different method from those for subsequent years, but is included for completeness; it should not be used for comparison purposes.

The Health and Safety Executive collects this information by commissioning a self-reported work-related ill-health (SWI) survey conducted on its behalf by the Office for National Statistics as part of its Labour Force Survey.

No data are available before 1995 and the SWI Survey has not always been conducted on an annual basis.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of each quarterly update of her Department's benefit expenditure tables produced in the last two years. [285844]

Jim Knight: The benefit expenditure tables are updated every half year following each Budget and pre-Budget report forecasting round.

The tables are not formatted for printing, and their number and size means that formatting could be done only at disproportionate cost. However, they are made available on the Department's internet site for public access.

The 2009 Budget report benefit expenditure tables are currently on the Department's website at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

State Retirement Pensions

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have opted to defer their state pension in each year since the deferred scheme was introduced. [286673]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer that was given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Mr. Waterson) on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 570W.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of women who would become eligible to receive a full state pension if the reduction in the number of qualifying years required for those reaching the state pension age at or after 6 April 2010 were applied to all women in receipt of a state pension in 2010-11; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the Exchequer of such an extension. [284491]

Angela Eagle: It is estimated that an extra 850,000 women in Great Britain would become eligible to receive a full basic state pension based on their own contributions if the number of qualifying years necessary to receive a full basic state pension were lowered from 39 to 30, along with the implementation of other changes in the 2007 pension reforms, for women already in receipt of a basic state pension in April 2010.

Calculating basic state pension entitlement on the basis of 30 qualifying years, along with the implementation of other changes in the 2007 pension reforms, for women pensioners would cost around £1 billion (2009-10 price terms) in 2010 (net of income-related benefits).

Unemployed: Qualifications

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applicants for Jobcentre Plus registered qualifications at levels one to five in *(a)* London and *(b)* Enfield in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009 to date. [286006]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Unemployment Benefits

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the Exchequer has been of unemployment benefits *(a)* in current prices and *(b)* as a percentage of gross domestic product in each year since 1997. [285697]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Benefit expenditure to unemployed, Great Britain

£ million (at 2009-10 prices)

	Housing benefit	Council tax benefit	Jobseeker's allowance	Total benefit expenditure	Percentage of GDP
1997-98	2,255	413	5,109	7,777	0.7
1998-99	1,820	348	4,571	6,739	0.6
1999-2000	1,581	315	4,102	5,998	0.5
2000-01	1,408	281	3,585	5,274	0.4
2001-02	1,266	247	3,170	4,684	0.4
2002-03	1,270	236	3,093	4,599	0.4
2003-04	1,098	248	2,933	4,279	0.3
2004-05	1,216	243	2,459	3,918	0.3
2005-06	1,271	264	2,527	4,061	0.3
2006-07	1,327	259	2,596	4,182	0.3
2007-08	1,329	251	2,323	3,903	0.3
2008-09 (estimated outturn)	1,645	299	2,909	4,854	0.3

Note:
GDP percentages calculated using HM Treasury Budget Report 2009.
Source (benefit expenditure):
DWP statistical and accounting data.

Unemployment: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of *(a)* claimant unemployment, *(b)* youth unemployment and *(c)* long-term unemployment was in Hemsworth constituency (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [288692]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of *(a)* claimant unemployment, *(b)* youth unemployment and *(c)* long-term unemployment was in Hemsworth constituency (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. (288692)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Estimates of youth unemployment and long term unemployment are not available for the Hemsworth constituency due to the small sample size.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The number of persons claiming JSA in June 1997 was 2,400 and in June 2009 was 2,300.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Unemployment: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Draft Legislative Programme 2009, Cm 7564, page 37, who in Oxfordshire will be responsible for delivering the proposed programme for access to jobs supported by recruitment subsidies, skills training or volunteering opportunities for adults who have been unemployed for six months or more. [284959]

Jim Knight: On 6 April 2009, the Department introduced an offer of extra support for customers who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months. This included access to recruitment subsidies, work-focused training and volunteering opportunities. Jobcentre Plus personal advisers discuss these options with customers at interview.

For the work-focused training element of the six-month offer, customers in Oxfordshire will be referred to Oxford and Cherwell Valley college or in some cases Newbury college if they reside in South Oxfordshire. These colleges have been contracted by the Learning and Skills Council for delivering this part of the six-month offer in Oxfordshire.

BTCV are the lead organisation responsible for delivering access to volunteering opportunities in England. In partnership with v, Volunteering England and Community Service Volunteers, they run a brokerage network offering work-focused volunteering opportunities to eligible jobseekers.

Jobcentre Plus is responsible for the delivery of the recruitment subsidy throughout England, Scotland and Wales. The recruitment subsidy is available through two delivery channels: it can either be issued as a voucher to individual jobseeker's allowance customers by their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser, or multiple vouchers can be delivered to employers with higher volume or long-term recruitment plans who are working with Jobcentre Plus account managers.

Winter Fuel Payments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse of

winter fuel payments was in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the cost in each of the next five years. [285844]

Angela Eagle: Published information is in the table.

Benefit expenditure, Great Britain (£ million)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Winter Fuel Payments (at 2009-10 prices)	2,109	2,166	2,166	2,166	2,720	2,730	2,121
Winter Fuel Payments (nominal terms)	1,962	1,982	2,015	2,071	2,604	2,730	2,153

Source:
DWP accounting data

These figures are published on the DWP website:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer question *(a)* 273933, *(b)* 273934, *(c)* 273935 and *(d)* 273936, tabled on 5 May 2009, on the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow. [281298]

Jim Knight: The hon. Member's questions were replied to as follows: 273933 on 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1021W; 273934 and 273936 on 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 553W; 273935 on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 139W.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer question 277517, on Jobcentre Plus, tabled on 21 May 2009. [283934]

Jim Knight: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 742-46W.

Young Person's Guarantee

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the effect of the introduction of the Young Person's Guarantee on predicted levels of referrals to the flexible New Deal; and whether young people unemployed for 12 months or more will have a choice of being referred to the flexible New Deal or one of the options offered through the Young Person's Guarantee. [285139]

Jim Knight: The Young Person's Guarantee will provide all customers aged 18-24 approaching 12 months of their claim to jobseeker's allowance with the opportunity of a job, work-focused training or work experience placement.

The flexible new deal gives providers the flexibility to offer personalised support tailored to each individual jobseeker. It will be introduced in phase 1 areas from October 2009 and from October 2010 in Phase 2 areas.

The Young Person's Guarantee will be available to all eligible customers on a voluntary basis from January 2010. In line with the jobseeker's allowance benefit entitlement rules, any customer who is offered suitable paid employment through the Young Person's Guarantee must accept it or could face a sanction. However, while the programme is voluntary, customers may choose to be referred to the flexible new deal instead of the training or work experience options of the Young Person's Guarantee.

The Young Person's Guarantee will become mandatory from spring 2010. Then all customers must complete an element of the Young Person's Guarantee before they are referred to the flexible new deal.

The Department will continue to liaise with the Flexible New Deal Preferred Bidders about any potential impacts on referrals to the flexible new deal as a result of the Young Person's Guarantee. Any impacts will be time-limited, as referrals to the Young Person's Guarantee will end in March 2011.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects the Community Task Force to be operational under the Young Person's Guarantee. [286742]

Jim Knight: The Young Person's Guarantee will provide all customers aged 18 to 24 approaching 12 months of their claim to jobseeker's allowance with the opportunity of a job, work-focused training or work experience placement. The community task force is the work experience element of the Young Person's Guarantee.

In phase 1 flexible new deal areas, the community task force will be available to all eligible customers on a voluntary basis from January 2010. The community task force will become mandatory in these areas later in 2010 for all customers who do not take up another element of the Young Person's Guarantee.

In phase 2 flexible new deal areas, the 'work experience placement' element of the Young Person's Guarantee will be delivered through the voluntary sector and environmental task force options of the new deal for young people. When referrals to this provision stop during 2010, customers will instead be referred to the community task force.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether young people aged between 18 and 24 years old who complete one of the options on the Young Person's Guarantee but who have not secured employment will be referred on to the Flexible New Deal; [286752]

(2) what plans her Department has to provide assistance for young people aged between 18 and 24 years old who complete one of the options on the Young Person's Guarantee but who have not secured employment. [286753]

Jim Knight: The Young Person's Guarantee will provide all customers aged 18 to 24 approaching 12 months of their claim to jobseeker's allowance with the opportunity of a job, work-focused training or work experience placement.

The flexible new deal will be introduced in phase 1 areas from October 2009, and in phase 2 areas from October 2010. It will give providers the flexibility to offer personalised support tailored to each individual jobseeker.

All customers in phase 1 areas who participate in work-focused training or take up a work experience placement and who do not manage to secure employment will be referred to the flexible new deal.

Prior to the introduction of the flexible new deal in phase 2 areas, customers who do not secure employment as part of the Young Person's Guarantee will be referred to the new deal for young people.

From October 2010, all customers in phase 2 areas who do not manage to secure employment after completing one of the options of the Young Person's Guarantee will also be referred to the flexible new deal.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his Chinese counterpart about the reported involvement of Chinese nationals in fighting UK armed forces in Afghanistan. [283025]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK and China routinely discuss issues of mutual interest, including Afghanistan. Although there are occasional media reports of Chinese nationals fighting inside Afghanistan, these reports are unconfirmed and no individuals killed or detained by UK forces operating in Afghanistan have been confirmed as having Chinese nationality.

Afghanistan: Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions British commanders in Afghanistan have requested the use of coalition helicopters; and on how many occasions this has been agreed to. [283433]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Helicopter support to ISAF operations in Regional Command (South) is provided from a multinational pool of helicopters, to which the UK makes a significant contribution. The UK routinely requests the use of the Regional Command (South) helicopter assets, and these requests are met by available assets. UK helicopters are also tasked by Regional Command (South) to support other nations within the Regional Command (South) area of operations. The specific number of requests and occasions when British Commanders have used coalition helicopters is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which helicopters owned by the armed forces of other nations and manned by *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK aircrew the UK has borrowed for service in Afghanistan since 1 January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [284819]

Bill Rammell: Helicopter support to ISAF operations in Southern Afghanistan, where the majority of British troops are located, is provided from a multinational pool of helicopters allocated by Regional Command (South), to which the UK makes a significant contribution. Therefore, the UK makes use of helicopter capability from other nations and also provides helicopter capability to support other nations. Helicopters are matched to tasks on the basis of capacity, capability and availability rather than nationality.

The UK does not provide complete crews for helicopters from other nations. On occasion the UK deploys exchange officers with the armed forces of other nations but we do not centrally record the individual missions which they are tasked with in Afghanistan. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many explosions caused by improvised explosive devices were recorded by the armed forces in Afghanistan in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 to date. [283559]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Records of incidents for the whole of Afghanistan are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data are more readily available for attacks within Regional Command (South), which includes the vast majority of UK forces deployed to Afghanistan.

The following table shows all improvised explosive device detonations in Regional Command (South):

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
January	20	54	83
February	19	44	78
March	31	55	85
April	26	76	74
May	61	64	98
June	56	76	
July	55	115	
August	46	120	
September	63	106	
October	56	90	
November	51	99	
December	46	104	

These figures do not include improvised explosive device finds with no detonation or improvised explosive device false alarms. These figures are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis of collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what investigations his Department has undertaken into incidents involving civilian death or injury as a result of the use by British forces of enhanced blast munitions in Afghanistan. [284854]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: UK forces thoroughly investigate all reports of civilian casualties in Afghanistan, regardless of their potential cause. We regret incidents where

civilians are accidentally killed as a result of actions by UK armed forces. In addition to investigating all reports of civilian casualties, procedures are in place, and being constantly updated in the light of experience, to minimise the risk of these casualties occurring.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which UK helicopter types were deployed in Afghanistan as at 13 July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [287699]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: ISAF helicopter support in Regional Command (South) in Afghanistan is provided through a multinational pool to which the UK makes a significant contribution. The UK currently has Chinook, Sea King and Lynx helicopters deployed to undertake combat support roles, and in addition has Apache attack helicopters deployed in theatre.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on day landings at Kandahar airbase. [287928]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence takes a risk based approach to landings at all operational bases, including Kandahar airbase. The level of risk takes into account the task concerned, the security situation and the aircraft. I am withholding further information on this subject as its disclosure would prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the Mk3 Chinooks currently being upgraded he expects will be deployed to Afghanistan; and what the dates of deployment will be. [287936]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We are converting the eight Chinook Mk3 helicopters to a support helicopter role. The first of these aircraft will be delivered to operational squadrons before the end of this year thus increasing the pool of Chinooks available for deployment. It is for the chain of command to determine how many and which of their aircraft should be deployed and when.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what supplies were lost when the Mi-26T helicopter carrying supplies to a British base in Afghanistan crashed on 14 July 2009; and of what nationality the crew members of that helicopter were. [288220]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Mi-26T helicopter was carrying non-sensitive cargo, including food and fuel, when it crashed. The crew members were Ukrainian.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* types of aircraft and *(b)* nationality of aircraft crews other than British, American and Canadian supply British forces in Afghanistan. [288221]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A combination of UK military and civilian charter aircraft are used to transport supplies to British forces in Afghanistan. Within Afghanistan, supplies are delivered to UK forces by UK Hercules and C17 aircraft, UK Chinook, Sea King and Lynx helicopters and by helicopters from troop contributing nations in Regional Command (South). Within Regional Command (South), helicopter support is provided from a multinational pool of helicopters, to which the UK makes a significant contribution. The UK also makes use of a range of civilian helicopters through the NATO logistics supply contract and a UK contract for transporting non-sensitive stores.

We are not able to comment on the types of helicopter deployed by other nations in Regional Command (South) or on the nationality of the crews which operate them, since this is a matter for each individual nation. Contracts for helicopter assets are let for the provision of a capability. Consequently, the types of contracted helicopter and the nationality of those who operate them are a matter for the contractor.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum number of *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Air Force helicopters is which could be deployed in Afghanistan. [288238]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) gave on 17 June 2009, *Official Record*, column 338W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Helicopters and crews from all three services continue to serve with distinction in Afghanistan. We have already deployed to Afghanistan the maximum number of helicopters that are both properly equipped for the challenges of the operational theatre, and that we can sustain on an enduring basis. While it would be possible to surge additional helicopters into theatre on a temporary basis, this would be unsustainable over time and would severely impact upon the achievement of harmony guidelines for helicopter air and ground crews and training of new and existing crews. We are working hard to increase the number of deployed helicopters but we need to do so sustainably. That is why we have been investing in additional aircraft and crews, logistics and infrastructure, as well undertaking significant modifications to our existing helicopter fleet to enhance their capabilities.

Helicopter capability is measured by flying hours rather than airframe numbers. The helicopter fleet is managed to ensure that our operational and other commitments are met, including an 84 per cent. increase in flying hours in Afghanistan between November 2006 and April 2009.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 999, on armed conflict: Afghanistan, what his policy is on the introduction of a single, uniform system by which all members of the International Security Assistance Force investigate and provide compensation to civilian casualties. [283871]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A civilian casualties tracking cell has been established by NATO ISAF to investigate reports, with the Government of Afghanistan, of alleged incidents involving ISAF in Afghanistan.

As detailed in my answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 999W, compensation claims brought against the Ministry of Defence as part of the International Security Assistance Force are considered on the basis of whether or not the Department has a legal liability to pay compensation. Where there is a proven legal liability, under UK law, compensation is paid.

Other members of the International Security Assistance Force will also assess liability when considering compensation claims though this will be against their own national law. This therefore precludes the implementation of a uniform system for providing compensation for civilian casualties.

Apache Helicopters

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what through-life upgrades are planned for the Apache helicopter; [288195]

(2) when he plans to start the Block 3 upgrade to the Apache helicopter. [288194]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD plans to upgrade the Apache helicopter throughout its life to sustain the capability provided, through a Spiral Development programme, starting before 2017 when the US Army will stop operating their AH64D block 1 aircraft on which the Apache AH Mk1 is based. A number of options have been identified, which include utilising US Army block 3 technology. The UK assessment phase of the upgrade is scheduled to commence in financial year 2012-13.

Armed Forces: Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of all Afghan government military forces are based in Helmand province; and what efforts are being made to increase that percentage. [287272]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of Afghan National Security Forces in Helmand province is approximately 7,500, the total number of Afghan National Security Forces in Afghanistan is approximately 170,000.

The decision on where to deploy Afghan National Security Forces is a decision for the Afghan Government. The UK is working closely with the Government of Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force, and the Combined Security Transition Command to ensure that new Afghan National Security Force units are deployed where they are needed most.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel have been killed or seriously injured while being transported in road vehicles on operations in Afghanistan in circumstances where helicopters would have been used for the transport if they had been available in each of the last five years. [287434]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence recognises the vital role that helicopters play in supporting operations in Afghanistan. There are also many tasks that can only be carried out by troops on the ground, and situations in which road vehicles are a more suitable or better means of transporting personnel than helicopters.

It is not possible to make an assessment of whether an incident in which a UK serviceman has been killed or sustained serious injuries could have been avoided should a helicopter have been used in place of a road vehicle. We constantly monitor and respond to the capability and protection requirements of our troops, and strive to ensure that our armed forces have the protection and mobility they need to do their jobs as safely and effectively as modern technology allows.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many service personnel his Department has purchased accelerated access to *(a)* NHS and *(b)* private treatment in each region in each of the last 10 years. [282936]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Accelerated access is a term used by MOD in the context of physical illnesses and injuries. It is separate to the specific "fast track" arrangements for orthopaedic treatment; separate provision is also made for access to in-patient care for mental health conditions.

Secondary healthcare accelerated access for Service personnel is commissioned through the NHS. In England, contracts have been established with selected NHS Trusts in the locations shown in the following table. There are no such formal arrangements with private sector providers for physical conditions.

Patients based in the devolved Administrations who require accelerated access will have this provided through local commissioning arrangements with relevant NHS Trusts.

Comprehensive data for the last 10 years are not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, during the period 2004-05 to 2007-08 a total of 100,112 treatments have been delivered through accelerated access arrangements in England. A detailed breakdown of this activity by hospital is provided in the following table.

	Derriford	*Frimley Park*	*Northallerton*	*Peterborough*	*Portsmouth*	*RCDM*[1]	*Royal Surrey*
2004-05	2,491	5,897	3,106	4,985	6,895	2,214	962
2005-06	1,858	5,554	3,421	4,762	6,605	1,777	876
2006-07	2,770	5,663	3,511	5,109	5,057	2,191	887
2007-08	2,470	6,754	3,011	4,741	2,953	2,684	908
Total	9,589	23868	13,049	19,597	21,510	8,866	3,633

1 Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, hosted by University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust

Final confirmed numbers for 2008-09 are not yet available.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions his Department has arranged fast access to *(a)* NHS and *(b)* private surgery under the orthopaedic-fast track programme for service personnel in each region in each of the last 10 years; [283007]

(2) what the average waiting time for service personnel to receive physiotherapy *(a)* on the orthopaedic-fast track programme and *(b)* in each of his Department's regional rehabilitation units was in each of the last 10 years. [283006]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The most common medical conditions in military patients are musculo-skeletal disorders. Since April 2004, for patients with these conditions, we have

arranged rapid access to diagnosis and, for the minority who are then found to need it, surgery in NHS facilities, thus enabling the services to respond to the current high operational tempo and return personnel to full fitness for task when this is clinically deliverable.

The following table shows how many referrals to fast-track surgery have been made by each rehabilitation and recovery unit in the UK in each financial year since 2005-06. Details as to which medical facility each referral was made could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Figures for 2004-05 are not readily available.

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[1]	2009-10[2]
Aldergrove	10	114	6	7	1
Aldershot	90	28	14	21	1
Belfast	39	32	36	13	18
Catterick	7	22	32	10	14
Colchester	24	35	39	9	7
Cranwell	40	40	27	7	1
Edinburgh	90	147	64	20	8
Halton	81	97	93	15	22
Honington	17	24	25	37	4
Lichfield	22	65	71	13	20
London (Headley Court)	3	14	20	9	1
Plymouth	43	96	115	68	19
Portsmouth	47	101	47	52	7

[1] 2008-09 statistics subject to final analysis and confirmation
[2] 2009-10 figures up to June 2009

Typically we achieve a decision as to which path the patient will follow, either to surgery or straight to physiotherapy/rehabilitation within 10-20 days of injury. Those needing only physiotherapy/rehabilitation treatment (the majority) are referred directly for treatment in one of the RRUs. Typically, these patients will start physiotherapy within four to six weeks of the decision on their treatment path.

Patients requiring physiotherapy following fast track surgery will receive this either at a local MOD Primary Care Rehabilitation Facility (PCRF) or by referral back to an RRU. This will usually commence within two weeks of surgery, depending upon the patient's individual and geographic circumstances. No strict measure of waiting times are taken, as each patient's care pathway is individually managed and co-ordinated by the referring RRU, and timescales will depend on continuing assessment and surgical outcome.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) at which armed forces medical centres the Defence Medical Information Capacity Programme is in use; and on what date the programme is expected to be introduced at medical centres where it is not yet in use; [283026]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to ensure the exchange of information between the Defence Medical Information Capacity Programme and health services in the devolved administrations; [283027]

(3) whether the roll-out of the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme has been completed; [283036]

(4) when the interface between the Defence Medical Information Capacity Programme and the NHS National Programme for IT is expected to be completed. [283082]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The roll-out of the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) is being undertaken in three parts, to fixed permanent defence medical facilities; to deployed defence medical facilities; and to enable information exchange with the NHS. The first part of the roll-out is now drawing to a close. The list of medical centres where DMICP is already in use and a list of the expected dates of implementation of DMICP in medical centres, where it is not yet in use will be placed in the Library of the House.

The second part of the roll-out is to cover deployed operational and maritime units. It is expected to start in September 2009 with field trials and pilot sites, with the main roll-out due to begin in January 2010. The deployed roll-out is expected to complete by December 2010, subject to any necessary rescheduling for operational reasons, ship upkeep and maintenance periods, and to reflect lessons learned from earlier phases.

Services to deliver the third part of the roll-out—the interface between DMICP and the NHS National Programme for IT (NPfIT)—will be introduced in a phased manner beginning later this year and are expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

Although NPfIT does not extend to the NHS in the devolved Administrations, we are in contact with their health officials so that as far as possible the same benefits, in terms of speedy and accurate exchange of data, will be available to defence patients and medical staff in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland over the same period.

Armed Forces: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy personnel (i) entered and (ii) completed pilot training for each helicopter type in each of the last five years. [284518]

Bill Rammell: Initial training for all three Services is provided by the Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS) at Shawbury. Around 140 new pilots complete the training

each year. On completion of single engine training at DHFS, the three Services conduct separate training streams leading to the final phase in which pilots convert onto specific aircraft types. This is known as Operational Conversion Flight/Operational Conversion Unit training.

The numbers of armed forces personnel who entered and completed helicopter conversion to type pilot training, by each helicopter type, in the last five years, where data are available, are provided in the following tables.

Royal Navy helicopters

Personnel numbers

	Merlin Mk1		*Lynx Mk8*		*Sea King*		*Sea King Commando*	
	Entered	*Completed*	*Entered*	*Completed*	*Entered*	*Completed*	*Entered*	*Completed*
2004-05	6	6	11	11	4	4	13	14
2005-06	4	4	8	7	0	0	17	17
2006-07	8	7	7	8	0	0	6	6
2007-08	8	4	11	8	0	0	12	14
2008-09	10	8	5	5	3	3	12	12

Army Air Corps helicopters

Personnel numbers

	Gazelle		*Lynx*		*Apache*	
Service	*Entered*	*Completed*	*Entered*	*Completed*	*Entered*	*Completed*
2004-05						
Royal Navy	2	2	8	8	1	1
Army	19	19	29	29	42	37
RAF	0	0	1	1	0	0
2005-06						
Royal Navy	0	0	6	6	0	0
Army	6	6	40	40	24	22
RAF	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006-07						
Royal Navy	0	0	4	4	1	1
Army	4	4	39	39	31	31
RAF	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007-08						
Royal Navy	1	1	5	4	0	0
Army	9	9	21	21	37	34
RAF	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008-09						
Royal Navy	0	0	4	4	0	0
Army	5	5	21	19	33	29
RAF	1	1	0	0	1	1

Royal Air Force helicopters

Personnel numbers

	Chinook		*Puma*		*Merlin Mk 3*		*Sea King*	
	Entered	*Completed*	*Entered*	*Completed*	*Entered*	*Completed*	*Entered*	*Completed*
2004-05	21	21	20	20	14	14	n/a	n/a
2005-06	23	23	19	19	13	13	n/a	n/a
2006-07	18	17	20	20	12	12	n/a	n/a
2007-08	28	28	8	8	13	13	13	13
2008-09	19	19	14	14	20	20	9	9

A breakdown by Service of pilots trained on RAF and Royal Navy helicopter types is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pilots entering training in one year may not complete training in the same year. Therefore, numbers entering and completing training in each of the financial years may not equate.

Armed Forces: Housing

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many emergency maintenance requests were made for properties occupied by service personnel and their families in each month since October 2007; and what the average time was for requested maintenance to take place. [277258]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not held centrally and will take a little time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Lady Sylvia Hermon:

In my answer of 1 June 2009 (Official Report, column 37W) I undertook to write to you with details of how many emergency maintenance requests were made for properties occupied by Service personnel and their families in each month since October 2007; and what the average time was for requested maintenance to take place.

The table below shows the number of emergency repair calls in the UK since October 2007. Like for like information about cases overseas is not held centrally or on a consistent basis.

	UK
October 2007	3,085
November 2007	3,784
December 2007	3,637
January 2008	4,105
February 2008	3,464
March 2008	3,412
April 2008	3,073
May 2008	2,389
June 2008	2,263
July 2008	2,621
August 2008	2,809
September 2008	3,046
October 2008	3,591
November 2008	4,044
December 2008	5,441
January 2009	5,022
February 2009	3,739
March 2009	3,447

Information on response times is not held in the format requested. The MOD contract sets the response time for attending emergency repairs as 3 hours, and repairs to remedy or make safe are to be completed within 24 hours.

In the UK, requests for repairs to Service Family Accommodation are classed as an emergency in cases where there is an immediate risk of injury to individuals or damage to property, or where the problem could give rise to serious inconvenience or hardship to occupants. Examples include a total loss of essential facilities or insecure premises.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of units of service *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation at each location in (i) England, (ii) Wales and (iii) Northern Ireland are in each condition grade. [287911]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of single living accommodation (SLA) and service family accommodation (SFA) units broken down by grade and location in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, as at June 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, SLA in each country was at the following "grade", an assessment of the physical condition of the accommodation and "scale".

	Grade 1	*Grade 2*	*Grade 3*	*Grade 4*	*Total*
England	30,705	15,702	18,862	56,799	122,068
Percentage	25	13	15	47	—
Northern Ireland	1,002	960	1,402	776	4,140
Percentage	24	23	34	19	—
Wales	671	1,277	160	1,129	3,237
Percentage	21	39	5	35	—

An asset survey of SFA in England and Wales is currently being undertaken to help plan and prioritise the maintenance and improvement of SFA properties more effectively and to target resources at areas of greatest need. As at 1 July 2009, of the 44,000 SFA properties in England and Wales, over 33,500 had been surveyed and were at the following Standard for Condition (SfC).

SfC	*Number of properties*	*Percentage*
S1fC	12,089	36
S2fC	19,525	58
S3fC	1,850	6
S4fC	231	[1]—

[1] Less than 1 per cent.

Although NI SFA has not been assessed for its SfC, it is generally considered to be in a good condition.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has given to each military department of community mental health in each year since their inception; and how much has been allocated to each department in the next two years. [283077]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD has 15 Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) in the UK (with additional satellite centres in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar), which have since 2004 provided out-patient mental healthcare for members of the armed forces. Responsibility for their individual management is shared between the single service commands, and it is not possible to separate out costs from overall unit medical budgets. Each service funds its respective DCMHs differently, with funding provision coming from a number of areas. Due to the number of budgets to which costs would be attributable, any detailed study of DCMH finances would incur disproportionate costs.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many military psychiatrists of each specialism there are in each of the armed services; and at what location each is working; [283663]

(2) how many service personnel have been referred to a military psychiatrist in each of the last 10 years. [283664]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All military psychiatrists are trained as general psychiatrists. There are currently 15 uniformed consultant psychiatrists working for the Defence Medical Services (DMS), as well as 13 civilian consultant psychiatrists, many of whom are former military members of the DMS. They work in the military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH), which provide out-patient mental health care for members of the armed forces. I will place a copy of the specific location of each consultant in the Library.

	Military psychiatrists	Civilian psychiatrists	Total
Aldershot	1	1.5	2.5
RAF Brize Norton	1	1	2
Catterick	2	1	3
Colchester	1	0	1
RAF Cranwell	1	0	1
Donnington	1	1	2
RAF Kinloss	1	0	1
RAF Leuchars	0.5	0	0.5
RAF Marham	1	0	1
Northern Ireland	0.5	0	0.5
Plymouth	0	3	3
Portsmouth	0	2.5	2.5
Tidworth	1	1	2
Woolwich	1	0	1
Rhine (Germany)	1	0	1
Holme (Germany)	0	1	1
Paderborn (Germany)	0	1	1
Gutersloh (Germany)	1	0	1
Other[1]	1	0	1
Total	15	13	28

[1] "Other" includes personnel in staff posts.

Note:
Two individuals work part-time at two separate DCMHs. These are shown as "0.5" at each location.

Service personnel who have a concern about their mental health will normally be referred in the first instance for assessment and/or treatment at one of the DCMHs, which are manned by multi-disciplinary teams of consultant psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, community mental health nurses and mental health social workers.

Since July 2007 the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation has reported on the psychiatric morbidity of the UK armed forces. Quarterly reports for the whole of 2007 and 2008 are available to view both in the Library of the House and on the DASA website at the following link:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The morbidity report shows numbers of new attendances at DCMHs or at the MOD's in-patient contractor during each quarter and the results of the initial mental health assessment. However, the data collected do not indicate whether an individual was seen by a military psychiatrist or by another qualified member of the mental health team.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel *(a)* entered and *(b)* completed fast jet training in each aircraft type in each of the last five years. [284519]

Bill Rammell: The following table provides the number of RAF and RN personnel who *(a)* entered and *(b)* completed fast jet training and the type of aircraft they trained on in each of the last five years. All personnel start training on the Hawk but move on to receive more advanced training on other types of aircraft.

	Financial year				
Aircraft type	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
(a)					
Hawk	65	61	71	70	69
(b)					
Harrier GR7/9	8	7	6	3	6
Tornado GR 4	28	27	26	29	26
Tornado F3	28	19	18	12	6
Typhoon	0	0	4	3	4
Jaguar	9	4	0	0	0
Total	73	57	54	47	42

Note:
Jaguar was withdrawn from Service after financial year 2005-06 and formal Typhoon pilot training commenced in financial year 2006-07.

With the introduction of Typhoon we are bringing into service a state of the art multi-role weapons system, suitable and adaptable to meet the challenges of the 21st century. It is in certain key aspects already a significantly more capable platform than the aircraft it replaced and it continues to develop and improve. Typhoon requires only a one-person crew rather than a two-person crew like the Tornado F3, which is being phased out.

Additionally, as the 2004 Defence White Paper "Delivering Security in a Changing World" made clear, "the effectiveness of modern precision weapons and sensors, which can be used in all weathers, day and night, mean that highly accurate air delivered offensive effects can be achieved with fewer fast jets than before... Similarly the air threat to deployed forces has greatly reduced and the capability of our air superiority aircraft and other air defence assets is continuing to improve. So we need fewer aircraft and fewer ground-based air defence systems to meet the threat."

The number of fast-jet aircrew completing training is sufficient to meet training requirements, and aircrew training for Typhoon is planned to increase over the next few years as the aircraft comes into wider service. Under current plans, by 2014-15 there will be an annual requirement for 16 newly qualified Typhoon pilots each year, to support a requirement for 92 front-line Typhoon pilots within a total force of 122 pilots.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what proportion of his Department's military training exercises *(a)* an injury to armed forces service personnel, *(b)* damage to public property and *(c)* damage to private property has occurred in each of the last 10 years. [286357]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I can assure the House, however, that every effort is taken to ensure that our service personnel undertake military training safely and to minimise damage to either public or private property.

We can identify the number of service personnel who have sustained an injury whilst on a training exercise as reported on the MOD Health and Safety systems between 2006 and 2008[1].

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Service	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Naval Service[1]	65	5	25
Army	240	240	325
RAF	30	15	20

[1] Naval Service figures include Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

Armed Forces: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were recruited to the armed forces through Armed Forces Career Offices in the Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 2001. [285704]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of officers recruited to the Royal Air Force through Armed Forces Career Offices in the Yorkshire and Humberside area can be found in the following table.

	RAF
2003-04	20
2004-05	10
2005-06	20
2006-07	20
2007-08	30
2008-09	30

The Naval Service currently recruit officers through one of seven Officer Careers Liaison Centres (OCLCs) situated throughout England, and Army officers are currently recruited by Army Career Advisors and are not recruited through the Armed Forces Career Offices. Both of these figures are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of Other Ranks recruited to the armed forces through Armed Forces Career Offices in the Yorkshire and Humberside area can be found in the following table.

	Naval Service	*Army*	*RAF*
2001-02	—	1,330	—
2002-03	—	1,510	—
2003-04	270	1,300	310
2004-05	260	1,020	180
2005-06	280	1,110	130
2006-07	250	1,390	180
2007-08	240	1,230	230
2008-09	260	1,300	320

Following a move onto a new reporting system accurate data for the Naval Service and RAF are only available from financial year 2003-04.

Yorkshire and Humberside covers the Armed Forces Careers Offices based in Hull, Leeds and Sheffield. Additionally Army Regular soldier figures include those recruited from Army Career Information Offices in York, Scarborough, Barnsley, Doncaster, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Wakefield.

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 to avoid disclosure and are provisional and subject to review.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the capacity of the new Husky vehicle to withstand the impact of improvised explosive devices and mines in Afghanistan. [287100]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 269W. Husky has been subject to a range of tests, including the impact of improvised explosive devices. It has passed these tests, but for reasons of operational security it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost per vehicle is of the extra armour added to the new Husky vehicle prior to deployment. [287101]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The armour solution on Husky is an integral part of the vehicle, embodied on the production line. There is no extra armour added to the vehicle prior to deployment. There is therefore no cost for extra armour.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the unladen weight is of the new Husky vehicle. [287102]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The unladen weight of the Husky cannot be released as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the operational security of our armed forces.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria were used in the evaluation process for the procurement of the new Husky vehicle. [287099]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Navistar Defence vehicle selected for the Husky programme was evaluated against a number of key user requirements, which included protection and mobility, a demanding delivery timeline and the requirement to provide value for money.

Army: Training

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average waiting time for an Army infantry recruit to enter basic training after passing initial entry assessments and requirements was in the latest period for which figures are available. [288199]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Over the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, the average waiting time between an applicant obtaining a pass at an Army development and selection centre and commencing infantry training was 79 days.

Having obtained a pass at a selection centre, a commencement date is mutually agreed by the individual and their recruiting staff, and is tailored to the Army's and the individual's circumstances.

Astute Class Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated in-service date is for each of the first four Astute-class submarines. [287192]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1667W. The Astute programme is currently being re-baselined and I will make an announcement in due course.

Baha Mousa Inquiry

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether legal aid has been made available to any persons who are to appear as witnesses at the Baha Mousa Inquiry. [287179]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* Legal aid is not available to participants in public inquiries. However, under the Inquiries Act 2005 the chairman may make awards where he considers it appropriate. I understand that the right hon. Sir William Gage, chairman of the Baha Mousa Public Inquiry, which is established under the Inquiries Act, has made two awards under section 40(2) of that Act in respect of legal representation for two of the Inquiry's core participants. Separately, legal assistance at no cost to the individual will be offered to all current and former service personnel and civil servants who are asked to provide evidence as a consequence of their employment.

Barron Report

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Barron Report on defence land needs. [245123]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A copy of the 'Barron Report', which was prepared some years ago, is being obtained and will be placed in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Liam Fox:

In my answer to your Parliamentary Question of 12 January (Official Report, column 86W), asking for a copy of the Barron Report on defence lands needs to be placed in the Library of the House, I advised that a copy was being obtained and would be placed in the library of the house as soon as practicable.

I regret that, given the amount of time that has elapsed since the production of the Report (some 20 years); and despite strenuous efforts by officials, it has not proved possible to locate a copy.

I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Clyde Naval Base: Radioactive Waste

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 753W, on radioactive waste: waste management, if he will introduce an annual review of compliance with best practice of arrangements for the handling, movement, processing, storage and disposal of radioactive waste at HM Naval Base, Clyde, Faslane. [288295]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Management of radioactive waste at Her Majesty's Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde is carried out in accordance with a comprehensive set of requirements, both statutory and those derived from MOD policy, including authorisation conditions (ACs) imposed by the Department's Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator. These ACs require an annual review to be carried out for all nuclear facilities, including the two facilities that deal with radioactive waste: the Active Processing Facility and the Radioactive Effluent Disposal Facility.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he last met Mr Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287396]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have not met with Damian McBride in the course of my official duties.

Defence: Procurement

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of the outcome of legal proceedings in the United States against L-3 Communications Corporation; if he will assess the effect on his Department's policies on *(a)* security and *(b)* ethical procurement of its contract with L-3 Communications Corporation to examine the replacement of the Nimrod R-1 fleet; and if he will make a statement. [278808]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence is aware of the legal proceedings in the USA involving L-3 Communications, with whom MOD has a number of contracts.

We have not yet made a final decision on the solution for sustaining the Airborne Signals Intelligence Capability, currently provided by Nimrod R-1.

All major equipment procurements are subject to MOD's assurance processes, which include an assessment of the suitability of prospective contractors before any commitments are entered into.

Departmental Buildings

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* land and *(b)* buildings his Department has sold since 1997. [278021]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Records of transactions prior to 2000 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I will write to the hon. Member with the information on land and buildings sold since 2000 as soon as this data has been verified and collated.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Susan Kramer

In my answer of 9 June 2009 (Official Report, column 831W) I undertook to write to you with details of what land and buildings have been sold since 1997.

I am placing a copy of the details of the land and buildings that have been sold since 2000 in the Library of the House.

As I indicated in my earlier response, records of transactions prior to 2000 are not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287798]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each *(a)* database and *(b)* ICT system run by his Department in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009; and if he will make a statement; [286557]

(2) how many attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each *(a)* database and *(b)* ICT system run by his Department in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009; and if he will make a statement. [286556]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It would not be in the interests of the UK's national security for the MOD to confirm whether it holds information about attacks against its data or ICT systems as this would enable individuals to deduce how successful the Department is in detecting these attacks.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261130]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Cleaning services are generally procured by the Ministry of Defence through wider Facilities Management and PFI contracts. The MOD requires contractors to comply with all applicable legislation. Above this, the Department does not have a specific policy regarding animal testing.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which requests for information received by his Department under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2008 were *(a)* classified as not resolvable and *(b)* refused in full; [286135]

(2) in respect of which requests for information received by his Department in 2008 under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has received permission to extend the deadline for a response by more than 40 days; and what the reason for the request for an extension was in each case. [286159]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2008 the Ministry of Defence received some 2,631 requests for information centrally, under the Freedom of Information Act.

As of 30 January 2009,258 cases were closed in which the information requested was withheld in full. A further 315 cases were closed and classed as not resolvable.

As at the same date, 49 cases required more than 40 days on top of the statutory 20 working day period and have now been closed. As of 30 January 2009, a further 69 cases remained open in which the statutory 20 working day period and a further 40 working days had passed.

The exact text of each of the 791 requests in the categories listed above, and the detailed reasons for each extension, could be provided at only disproportionate cost. However, I will write to the hon. Member to provide a short summary of each request for information received in 2008 that was classified as 'not resolvable' or 'withheld in full', and list any exemptions that applied. I will also set out simplified reasons for those that have required more than 40 working days on top of the statutory 20 working day period.

Departmental Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regular military, *(b)* Territorial Army and other part-time military and *(c)* civilian personnel were employed by his Department in (i) total, (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber, (iii) North Yorkshire and (iv) City of York in each year since 1997. [285733]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Regular military strength breakdown by Government office region prior to 2002, local authority level breakdown of MOD Civilians prior to 2006 and stationed location of Volunteer Reserve personnel are not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the total Regular Service, Civilian and Volunteer Reserve Force Strengths. Civilian strength is reported as full-time equivalents (FTE) and includes MOD permanent and casual personnel, trading funds, royal fleet auxiliaries and locally engaged civilians.

	Volunteer reserve force				
	Regular military personnel[1]	*Naval reserves*[2]	*Territorial army*[3]	*Royal auxiliary air force*	*MOD civilian personnel*
1997	210,820	4,260	n/a	2,020	133,330
1998	210,140	4,440	n/a	2,490	126,290
1999	208,640	4,520	n/a	2,620	123,010
2000	207,610	4,820	n/a	2,740	121,290
2001	205,650	4,830	n/a	2,570	118,170
2002	204,680	4,980	n/a	2,590	110,090
2003	206,910	4,910	n/a	2,580	107,580
2004	207,020	4,480	38,320	2,580	109,050
2005	201,100	4,360	37,260	2,450	108,470
2006	195,850	n/a	38,460	2,300	103,380
2007[4]	190,400	3,680	36,790	p2,160	97,690
2008[5]	187,060	3,590	p35,020	p2,200	89,500
2009[6]	188,370	n/a	p35,350	n/a	86,620

The following table shows the strength of regular military and civilian personnel in Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region (GOR). Civilian strength is reported in full-time equivalent (FTE) for MOD permanent and casual personnel only. GOR breakdown excludes trading funds, royal fleet auxiliaries and locally engaged civilians.

	Regular military personnel[1]	*MOD civilian personnel*
2001	n/a	2,880
2002	13,760	2,840
2003[7]	n/a	3,400
2004[7]	n/a	3,770
2005	13,830	3,790
2006	13,040	3,700
2007	13,790	3,590
2008	13,530	3,560
2009	14,730	3,640

The following table shows the strength of regular military and civilian personnel in North Yorkshire. Civilian strength is reported in full-time equivalent (FTE) for MOD permanent and casual personnel only. Local authority level breakdown excludes trading funds, royal fleet auxiliaries and locally engaged civilians.

	Regular military personnel[1]	*MOD civilian personnel*
2002	12,000	n/a
2003[7]	n/a	n/a
2004[7]	n/a	n/a
2005	12,690	n/a
2006	11,880	2,000
2007	12,540	1,980
2008	12,140	1,950
2009	13,310	1,930

The following table shows the strength of regular military and civilian personnel in City of York. Civilian strength is reported in full-time equivalent (FTE) for MOD permanent and casual personnel only. Local authority level breakdown excludes trading funds, royal fleet auxiliaries and locally engaged civilians.

	Regular military personnel[1]	*MOD civilian personnel*
2002	640	n/a
2003[7]	n/a	n/a
2004[7]	n/a	n/a
2005	730	n/a
2006	710	760
2007	800	650
2008	840	650
2009	880	680

n/a = not available
p = provisional
[1] UK Regular forces includes all trained and untrained personnel. Gurkhas, full-time Reserve personnel, and mobilised reservists are excluded.
[2] Includes the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marine Reserve.
[3] Territorial Army data prior to 2004 are not available.
[4] 2007 Territorial Army data are as at 1 March.
[5] 2008 Territorial Army data are as at 1 June.
[6] Data on Naval Reserves and Royal Auxiliary Air Force at 1 April 2009 are due to be published in September 2009
[7] 2003-04 Regular military stationed location figures are not available because of concerns over data quality.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian staff his Department *(a)* employed in each of the last three years, *(b)* employs and *(c)* plans to employ in each of the next three years. [287199]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Table 1 comprises the total number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) civil servants employed by the Ministry of Defence at each 1 April point since 2006.

Table 1: Total civilian personnel strengths

		FTE
	Civilian Level 1	*Civilian Level 0*
April 2006	78,140	103,380
April 2007	73,780	97,690
April 2008	69,050	89,500
April 2009	66,440	86,620

Notes:
1. Civilian Level 1 includes all permanent and casual civilian personnel and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, but excludes Trading Funds and Locally Engaged Civilians.
2. Civilian Level 0 contains all those at Level 1 plus Trading Funds and Locally Engaged Civilians.
3. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
4. Full time equivalence counts part time staff by the number of hours they work as a proportion of their full time conditioned hours.
Source:
DASA (Quad-Service).

The projected numbers of civilian staff employed across MOD for the remainder of this Spending Review period ending April 2011 are set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Current Level 0 FTE projections

	Civilian Level 0 (FTE)
1 April 2010 (projected)	[1]84,000
1 April 2011 (projected)	[1]81,500

[1] Provisional
Source:
Stat Mann.

Data provided are provisional and subject to review. As the Department develops more mature plans for the delivery of the required input savings and outsourcing then these figures will be subject to change.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281514]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283479]

Bill Rammell: The Department has a responsibility to ensure that it complies with all relevant EU legislation. The cost of complying with these obligations is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Future Lynx Helicopters

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the first Future Lynx helicopters to enter service; [287236]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the procurement of Future Lynx helicopters; [287237]

(3) what his policy is on proceeding with the Future Lynx contract. [287238]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are two variants of the Future Lynx aircraft which is now known as the Lynx Wildcat. The first aircraft is due to enter service in January 2012, leading to an initial operating capability in 2014 for the Army's Battlefield Reconnaissance Helicopter (BRH) and in 2015 for the Royal Navy's Surface Combatant Maritime Rotorcraft (SCMR). A contract has been agreed with AgustaWestland for the procurement of 62 Lynx Wildcat aircraft. The total cost of the demonstration and manufacture of the project is forecast to be some £1.7 billion.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gurkha soldiers who retired prior to 1997 would have qualified for a British Army pension given their length of service, if eligibility for a British Army pension was extended to such soldiers. [287432]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no plans to extend eligibility to transfer from the Gurkha pension scheme (GPS) to the armed force pension scheme (AFPS) to those Gurkhas who retired before 1 July 1997. Their pension arrangements have been found to be fair and lawful in two Judicial Reviews and a High Court appeal.

However, of the recipients of the GPS who retired before 1 July 1997 (which includes Gurkha veterans, their widows or dependants), it is estimated that about 1,800, would, by length of service or because of disability, be qualified for an immediate pension from the date of their discharge under the AFPS. A further 8,800 who were discharged after 1 April 1975 would be qualified for a preserved pension under the AFPS from the age of 60.

Those Gurkha service pensioners who served for less than 22 years and who discharged before 1 April 1975, would not be entitled to a service pension since there were no preserved pensions prior to the introduction of AFPS 75.

Helicopters

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost is of upgrading a Merlin helicopter for use in Afghanistan. [287103]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is envisaged that all 28 Merlin Mk3/3a helicopters will be upgraded at a cost in the region of £42 million. This equates to an average of £1.5 million per aircraft. These figures are lower than previously reported and stated in the written answer my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton), gave on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1364W, to the hon. Member for Congleton. This is due to improved maturity in our cost estimates following work undertaken in the intervening period.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the conversion of the eight Mark 3 Chinook helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [287104]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The conversion of the Chinook Mk3 helicopters is progressing well. The first successful test flight of the modified aircraft took place in June 2009. This is a significant milestone on the project. The programme is on schedule to deliver the first aircraft to operational commanders later this year.

HMS Invincible

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the disposal of HMS Invincible. [287194]

Mr. Quentin Davies: HMS Invincible is currently in a state of very low readiness and on present plans she will be withdrawn from service in 2010. Once she has been declared surplus to Royal Navy requirements, all disposal options will be considered.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training sorties have been flown by each aircraft type in each of the armed forces in each year since 2003. [284538]

Bill Rammell: Training does not cease after pilots have completed their formal training but continues throughout their flying career because all operational flying contains an element of training. The information is not held in the format requested; either by the number of training sorties undertaken during basic flying training or by qualified personnel undertaking training on other aircraft types. In addition, flying is not recorded by the number of sorties undertaken by individual pilots. Furthermore, the number of hours flown during basic flying training is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft Reach and Sustainability Programme

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce decisions on the future of the Military Aircraft Reach and Sustainability programme. [287191]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The requirements and procurement strategy for the Military Aircraft Reach and Sustainability programme are currently under review and we expect to announce a way forward later this year.

Military Aircraft: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of training instructors for each Royal Air Force aircraft type was in each of the last five years. [284545]

Bill Rammell: Historical information for each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The required and actual training instructor number for each aircraft type in the armed forces as at 9 July 2009 is provided in the following table. These figures are for RAF flying instructors in current flying instructional positions of all ranks.

Training instructor numbers fluctuate on a day by day basis as individuals are reassigned, medically downgraded or leave the service. The overall aircraft fleet is currently undergoing significant change with some aircraft types drawing down and new aircraft coming into service, such as with the rapid expansion of the Merlin Force. Numbers of training instructors are responding to reflect these changes and action is being taken to ensure that current operations are not affected.

Aircraft type	*Required training instructors*	*Actual training instructors*
Hercules C130J	37	38
Hercules C130K	8	8
VC10	25	22
TriStar	5	5
C17A	3	3
HS125	1	1
BAe146	1	1
Tornado GR4	50	39
Typhoon	27	20
Tornado F3	0	0
Harrier GR9	8	11
Nimrod MR2/MR4	32	29
Nimrod R1	7	7
Sentinel R1	5	5
E3D	25	21
King Air	30	24
Dominie	34	32
Tutor EFT	33	43
Tutor UAS	15	21
Tucano	51	49
Hawk	71	60
Puma	19	21
Chinook	25	23
Merlin	17	15
Squirrel	19	18
Sea King	15	12
Griffin	49	45
Augusta 109	1	1
Reaper	1	1
Islander	1	1

Military Bases: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 558W, on gifts and endowments, which military bases in Northern Ireland were sold to the Northern Ireland Executive; and at what cost. [287786]

Mr. Kevan Jones: To date, three sites have been sold to the Northern Ireland Executive at market value. They are Grosvenor Barracks, Enniskillen at £15.45 million, Girdwood Barracks, Belfast at £7 million and Clooney Barracks, Londonderry at £12.78 million.

In addition, working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department of Social Development, Oaklee Housing Association were appointed to take ownership of 112 former Ministry of Defence houses at Pond Park, Lisburn which were sold for £7 million in financial year 2008-09.

Navy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's plans are for replacing the Royal Navy's mine countermeasures vessels. [287166]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 891-92W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

Navy: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many naval officers are serving on all ships in commission, including those in refit. [287195]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answers my predecessor gave to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 127W and 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1257W.

Nuclear Weapons

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a British nuclear deterrent system consisting of *(a)* land-based, *(b)* air-launched and *(c)* ship-borne nuclear cruise missiles would be compatible with the provisions of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty. [287182]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty is a bilateral treaty between the US and Russia. The UK is not a state party to the treaty and our nuclear deterrent is not bound by its provisions.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the lifetime cost of a replacement system for Trident. [288433]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 19W, to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael).

Parachute Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much expenditure on parachute training his Department has incurred in each of the last five years. [284534]

Bill Rammell: The figures provided in the following table show the operating and staff costs for: No 1 Parachute Training School (PTS), RAF Brize Norton; its Parachute Support Wings; and the Joint Service Parachute Centres (JSPC). The training undertaken by the PTS and its support wings provide basic parachute training and specialist high altitude training. The JSPCs undertake freefall parachute training as part of military adventurous training.

	Cost (£ million)
2004-05	5.2
2005-06	5.5
2006-07	5.0
2007-08	4.6
2008-09	5.3

The costs include those incurred by the RAF Falcons Display team which cannot be separated. However, the majority of team members are instructors and their display activities are considered to be training in free-fall techniques which they then use in their role as instructors. Military aircraft costs are excluded as they have already been programmed as part of the RAF Management Plan and would be incurred whether the aircraft were used for parachute training or other activities.

During financial year 2005-06 the Parachute Support Wings were restructured, which is a contributory factor in the drop in costs in subsequent years.

Permanent Joint Headquarters

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons there is no permanent representation of *(a)* the Stabilisation Unit and *(b)* the Joint Civic Group at Permanent Joint Headquarters. [287937]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are good working relationships between the Ministry of Defence, Stabilisation Unit and the Joint Civil-Military Co-ordination Group at all levels. No requirement has been identified for permanent representation of the Stabilisation Unit or the Joint Civil-Military Co-ordination Group at the Permanent Joint Headquarters given the close engagement that exists on a wide range of issues.

There is an increasingly capable joint effort in Afghanistan brought together through the Civil Military Mission Helmand which is staffed by civilian personnel from across Whitehall and the armed forces.

Piracy

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 46W, on piracy: Navy, on what authority the Royal Navy has seized weapons during the boarding of pirate vessels in the last 12 months. [287714]

Bill Rammell: In the last 12 months, the Royal Navy has seized weapons from suspected pirates in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Article 105.

Principal Anti Air Missile System: HMS Daring

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost to the public purse is of the Principal Anti Air Missile System; and what the estimated cost is of the construction of HMS Daring. [287197]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As set out in the Major Projects Report 2008 (MPR08), the total procurement cost of the Type 45 programme is £6.5 billion. This includes the design and manufacture costs for all six Type 45s to be built and the Principal Anti Air Missile System (PAAMS), renamed Sea Viper by the Royal Navy. These costs are broadly split 60 per cent. for the ship and 40 per cent. for the weapons system. As set out in MPR08, the unit production cost for each Type 45, including PAAMS, is £649 million.

RAF Regiment Field Squadron

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce the UK basing arrangements for the new RAF Regiment Field Squadron. [286987]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement 'RAF Force Protection Wing' released on 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 51WS. The new RAF Regiment Field Squadron will be based at either RAF Shawbury or RAF Leuchars. The final outcome of the study to determine the optimum basing solution is expected by autumn 2009.

RFA Fort Austin

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how long RFA Fort Austin is planned to remain in extended readiness; and for what reasons it is not being used. [287195]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram), gave to him on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1854W. It is MOD policy not to publish details of the readiness states of individual Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels or types.

Thermobaric Weapons

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times thermobaric weapons have been used by UK armed forces in each of the last 12 months. [281928]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 23 June 2009]*: UK armed forces use variants of the AGM-114N Hellfire missile, which is an enhanced blast weapon, in Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Defence does not classify this weapon as thermobaric. It is, however, sometimes referred to as such in the media. The following table provides details of the number of enhanced blast munitions fired on operations over the last 12 months.

	Number
June 2008	5
July 2008	3
August 2008	3
September 2008	3
October 2008	1
November 2008	2
December 2008	0
January 2009	3
February 2009	4
March 2009	13
April 2009	3
May 2009	3
Total	43

Wind Power: Heysham

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department has objected to the siting of a wind turbine by British Telecom at Heysham, Morecambe. [287993]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has objected to the Heysham development on the grounds that the turbines would cause unacceptable interference to air traffic control radar at the nearby Warton airfield. It is believed that this would unacceptably jeopardise flight safety in the airspace around the turbines.

We are working with the developer and hope that we can find mitigation measures to enable us to remove our objection. Failing this, the objection will be maintained.

TREASURY

Assets: Sales

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-41, on Building Britain's Future, what categories of asset he plans to include in the proposed £16 billion asset sale. [284414]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2009 announced that new incentives and mechanisms would be introduced with the aim of realising up to £16 billion of property and other asset sales over the period 2011-14. This comprises fixed asset sales. As announced in "Building Britain's future", the Shareholder Executive will be strengthened by the appointment of a board of external experts to support this agenda.

Banks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many banks he has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [287955]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 901W.

Budget 2009

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many copies of the Budget 2009 Report his Department ordered; and what the cost was of that order. [287947]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury ordered 1,800 copies of the Budget 2009 report at a cost of £41,000. This figure has been rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and excludes VAT.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications have been made under the working capital scheme for small and medium-sized businesses to date. [255607]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

The Working Capital Scheme is not available directly to businesses. The scheme enables participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses.

By guaranteeing portfolios of working capital facilities, this will release regulatory capital held by the banks against these portfolios. The banks have agreed they will make commitments to re-deploy this capital in order to increase all types of lending to Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Mid Size Corporates above their current base line.

We have signed £1 billion of guarantees with RBS and Lloyds for portfolios of £2 billion. The financing for businesses it releases has already started from 1 March as a result of the lending agreements based on the Asset Protection Scheme and WCS. We will be allocating from the £10 billion WCS, guarantees for trade credit insurance in response to the constraint to working capital arising from withdrawal of trade credit insurance. We will also be consulting on the viability of using some of these guarantees for letters of credit and other forms of export finance which are also possible areas of constraint for working capital.

Charities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with charities which have lost money as a result of the collapse of Icelandic banks. [287954]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government take the problems faced by the charities affected by the Icelandic banking collapse seriously and Treasury Ministers—the Financial Services Secretary and the Economic Secretary—along with the Minister for the Third Sector, have met with representatives of the charities to understand the challenges they face.

Child Trust Fund

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the Child Trust Fund annual report for 2009. [287319]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is no date fixed for the publication of the next Child Trust Fund Annual Statistical Report.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of stakeholder child trust funds which have decreased in monetary value since they were taken out; and what estimate he has made of the average monetary value of such decreases. [288178]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold data on how many individual child trust fund accounts have fallen or risen in value, nor what the average rise or fall in those values has been. Child trust funds are long-term investments, and the first accounts will not mature until 2020.

Child Trust Fund: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley had received child trust fund payments by the latest date for which figures are available. [288228]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The most recent constituency level statistics on child trust fund accounts were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

There were 11,700 children born before 6 April 2007 in the London borough of Bexley who have a child trust fund account.

Child Trust Fund: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire had received Child Trust Fund payments on the latest date for which figures are available. [287861]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In Hertfordshire there were 57,300 children born before 6 April 2007 who have a child trust fund account. Similarly in Dacorum there were 7,100 such children.

I referred the hon. Member to the constituency level data available on the HM Revenue and Customs website in my answer to him on 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 422W.

Contracts

Mrs. McGuire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research has been carried out into the number of contracts for goods or services let by the Government which are then sub-contracted by the prime contractor. [286713]

Ian Pearson: No specific research has been carried out into the number of contracts let by Government which are then subcontracted.

The Glover report, "Accelerating the SME economic engine", refers to limited research conducted by Middlesex university and to earlier external research, both covering SME subcontracting and is available at:

www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Accelerating_the_SME_Economic_Engine.pdf

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287408]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The duties and responsibilities of the Chief Whip are not matters for the Treasury. However, I understand that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury has not met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287344]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's resource accounts for 2008-09 have been published.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of employees in his Department are on a *(a)* flexible working contract and *(b)* job share employment contract. [287105]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury offers flexible working and job share to staff where operational constraints permit in order to improve work/life balance. Many flexible working arrangements including job share are made informally between managers and staff and are therefore not formally recorded. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many flags his Department owns; and what the cost of maintaining them was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287958]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury owns five flags on which no maintenance costs are incurred.

Departmental Flowers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on flowers in each of the last five years. [287950]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For information on spending on flowers by the Department, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2101W to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt). Spending in 2004-05 on flowers was the same as in 2005-06.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on the maintenance of his Departmental website in each of the last two years. [287953]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For previous answer referring to maintenance costs of the departmental website for the last two years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 901W.

Economic Growth

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on economic growth rates over the next two financial years. [287960]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury's latest assessment of the economy was published in Budget 2009 (HC 407). HM Treasury continues to monitor all relevant factors to inform its assessment of the UK economy, and has regular engagements with outside organisations including relevant Government Departments on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Empty Property

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which public bodies are not required to report their actual and vacant property to the e-PIMS database. [287360]

Ian Pearson: The following public bodies are not required to report their actual and vacant property to the e-PIMS database:

1. HM Court Service Courts
2. Laboratories
3. Other specialist facilities owned, leased and occupied by central Departments, agencies and NDPB's such as museums, power stations and port facilities
4. Civil engineering infrastructure owned, leased and used by central Departments, agencies and NDPB's such as flood defences, roads, canals and railways.
5. English Heritage estate.
6. Historic Royal Palaces.
7. Defence military estate.
8. Prisons estate.
9. NHS Estate, e.g. hospitals.
10. DEFRA estate e.g. farms.
11. F and CO and Home Office overseas estate.
12. Doctors' surgeries and clinics.
13. Schools.
14. Higher Education facilities.
15. Police stations.
16. Fire stations.
17. All local government estate.
18. The Crown estate.
19. Parliament's estate.
20. Public corporations' estate
21. Devolved assemblies.

EU Grants and Loans: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 325W, on EU grants and loans: Wales, whether monies received by the Welsh Assembly Government from the EU Convergence Programme are paid through his Department. [287265]

Mr. Byrne: The European Commission makes cash payments from the EU Convergence Programme direct to the United Kingdom paying authorities, including the devolved Administrations, not through HM Treasury.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation on matters for which it is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283470]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union.

Holiday Homes

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consultation he undertook before deciding to reclassify income from holiday lets as unearned income; [288116]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effects on the revenue of the Exchequer of reclassifying income from holiday lets as unearned income. [288117]

Ian Pearson: The Government are not reclassifying income from holiday lets as unearned income.

Income from furnished holiday lettings will continue to be assessed as property income, but after the repeal of the FHL rules, it will no longer be treated as trade income for certain purposes.

This change was necessary because the FHL rules may not be compliant with EU law, it was therefore not appropriate to consult on whether a change should be made.

The repeal was announced in the Budget 2009 in order to provide advance notice of the change, and allow those affected time to plan. Although a formal consultation is not planned, the Government do intend to publish draft legislation at the pre-Budget report, and will be happy to receive comments at that time.

Estimates of the revenue impact of this change were published at Budget 2009, and an impact assessment will be published at PBR 2009 alongside the draft legislation.

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people claimed tax relief for expenditure on furnished holiday letting properties in each of the last five years; and how much was claimed in relief in each of those years. [288205]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs. Gillan) on 5 May 2009, for estimates for 2006-07, the last full year for which information is available. Estimates for earlier years are of a similar magnitude.

Housing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the sale and rent back market. [287949]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors to discuss as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

On 1 July 2009, the Government extended the scope of Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulation to include sale and rent back agreements. The FSA's regime affords borrowers important protections and provides

consumers with means of redress in case they experience problems. More information on the FSA's regime is available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Policy/Policy/2009/09_09.shtml

Housing: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W, on housing: valuation, what the value significance of each individual locality reference in each valuation area in the *(a)* North East and *(b)* North West is. [286813]

Mr. Timms: A list of locality reference numbers, ranked in order of value significance by valuation area within the areas covered by *(a)* the Government Office for the North East and *(b)* the Government Office for the North West, has been placed in the Library. The list is based on data extracted between 9 June 2009 and 17 June 2009.

Information that identifies the extent of each locality can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Individual Savings Accounts: Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of permitting persons with a value of £250,000 or over to add the proceeds of such accounts to their personal pension provisions in return for a guarantee of retirement with immediate effect. [287694]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Individual investors are free to use their savings from individual savings accounts as they choose. Any contributions to registered pension schemes will be subject to the tax rules that apply to those schemes. Those rules include limits on the amount of tax relief that is provided.

Industrial Health and Safety: Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on health and safety training in each of the last two years. [287951]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Estimated external expenditure on health and safety training was £36,500 in 2007-08 and £40,000 in 2008-09. Other information and training for officials is provided by our in-house health and safety team and costs cannot be identified separately from their other duties.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when the Financial Secretary plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 31 March 2009 on the KSFIOM Depositors Group; [286873]

(2) when the Financial Secretary will respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 31 March 2009 on the KSFIOM Depositors Group. [285493]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 778W, on Members: correspondence, for what reason the Answer did not set out the information requested on the time taken to reply. [287043]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The current economic and financial situation has given rise to a huge increase in the volume of correspondence received over the last 12 months in particular. There has been an increase of over 100 per cent. in Members' correspondence over the previous 12-month period, creating a considerable backlog, which HM Treasury is in the process of clearing. The hon. Member's correspondence was unfortunately part of that backlog and we apologise for the delay.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 31 March 2009 on a constituent, Mr Robert Phillips of Torquay. [287184]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The hon. Member's correspondence was transferred to the Department of Works and Pension for reply.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 9 April 2009 on the 2009 Budget; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply. [287185]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to reply to the letter of 10 June 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North, regarding a constituent, PO Ref: 6/00416/2009. [287899]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury will reply to the letters of 14 April and 20 May 2009 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, on funding for charities and loss of funds with KSF, reference FD1288. [287931]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 14 July.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letters of 16 April and 14 May 2009 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, on expatriates, reference FD7868. [287933]

Mr. Timms: The correspondence was transferred to the Department for Works and Pensions on 19 May and a notification sent to the hon. Member on that date.

Official Gifts

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of *(a)* bequests and *(b)* other gifts and donations made to the nation in

each of the last five years; and how much was given (i) in the form of (A) cash, (B) works of art and (C) property and (ii) in other forms. [287516]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does hold information on bequests and gifts where tax relief has been claimed. However HMRC's data systems do not hold sufficient information to distinguish those which might be regarded as "gifts to the nation".

Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has accepted the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Small Business Group report on access to public procurement in respect of *(a)* the introduction of specific proposals aimed at the micro-enterprise sector and *(b)* the provision of feedback on unsuccessful bids; and if he will make a statement. [287678]

Ian Pearson: The Government welcomed the report from the All-Party Parliamentary Small Business Group on 'SME Access to Public Procurement', which identified a similar set of barriers to SME participation as the Glover Review, 'Accelerating the Economic Engine'. The Government are now working to deliver the Glover recommendations, and will continue to take account of the needs of all businesses, including micro-enterprises.

Property

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of capital gains tax receipts which would have accrued from the UK property market if there had been no offshoring in the latest period for which figures are available. [287514]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

Property Unit Trusts

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the exemption from capital gains tax of authorised property unit trusts in the latest period for which figures are available. [287523]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not available.

Reforming Financial Markets: Public Consultation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he received from representatives of *(a)* bank employees and *(b)* consumer groups during the drafting of the proposals contained in Reforming Financial Markets, Cm 7667. [287828]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are consulting widely on the proposals contained in Reforming Financial Markets—this includes a formal 12-week consultation process, which concludes on 30 September 2009.

Revenue and Customs: Communication Service Providers

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests for communications data were made by HM Revenue and Customs to communication service providers (CSPs) under the Taxes Management Act 1970 in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003, *(e)* 2004, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2006, *(h)* 2007 and *(i)* 2008; and how many of these requests resulted in the requested communications data being disclosed by the relevant CSP. [284868]

Mr. Timms: Prior to 2005 when the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise merged to form HM Revenue AND Customs (HMRC) S.20 Notices under the Taxes Management Act were regularly sought by the Inland Revenue Inspectors of Taxes on a case by case basis and could be issued from any tax office and a copy retained in individual taxpayers folders. There was no form of central record of the issue of S.20 Notices and the type of information requested. It is therefore not possible to provide this information for this period.

In February 2006 the HMRC Single Point of Contact (SpoC) for the acquisition and disclosure of communications data was designated as the National Telecoms Unit who are responsible for all departmental matters relating to communications data, including RIPA requests, witness statements and Production Orders. From 2006 onwards the HMRC SpoC has not issued any S.20 TMA Notices.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* administration assistants, *(b)* assistant officers, *(c)* officers, *(d)* higher officers, *(e)* senior officers, *(f)* fast stream/trainees, *(g)* Grade 7 employees, *(h)* Grade 6 employees and *(i)* senior civil servants there were in each HM Revenue and Customs office in each of the last five years. [285536]

Mr. Timms: A table setting out the number of staff in each grade at each HM Revenue and Customs office in each of the last five years has been placed in the Library.

Tax Credits

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow South West constituency claiming family tax credit; [287596]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow South West constituency claiming working tax credit; [287597]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the level of take-up of working tax credit in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow South West constituency; [287598]

(4) what his most recent estimate is of the level of take-up of family tax credit in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow South West constituency. [287599]

Mr. Timms: Working families tax credit was replaced by working tax credit and child tax credit in April 2003.

The latest estimates of the average number of families benefiting from child and working tax credits in each Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency are published in the HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) finalised awards geographical publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards Geographical analyses" for 2007-08. The publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

The most recent child tax credit (CTC) take-up rates for United Kingdom regions and countries are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up2006-07.pdf.

Child tax credit take-up rates are not available below these levels.

Working tax credit take-up rates are not available for geographies below United Kingdom level.

Tax: Isle of Man

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Isle of Man government on Isle of Man tax reforms. [287948]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials hold periodic discussions with the Isle of Man.

Taxation: Banks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the banking industry on a code of practice on tax for banks. [287959]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The consultation document on the Code of Practice on Taxation for banks was issued on 29 June 2009. Since then HM Revenue and Customs has been in regular contact with banks, their industry representatives and advisers regarding the issues arising from this.

Taxation: Domicil

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria his Department uses to determine when to investigate alleged tax fraud cases concerning *(a)* non-domiciled status and *(b)* other matters. [278502]

Mr. Timms: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs criminal investigation policy is available on its website. The criteria for investigating people with non-domiciled status are no different from those for people with domiciled status. A decision to investigate any specific case is based on the available evidence, along with the facts and features of the case.

Taxation: Pensioners

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of recipients of tax relief on pension contributions are women. [287326]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There were 6.6 million women in receipt of tax relief on pension contributions. This represented 44 per cent. of all recipients. This information relates to 2008-09.

UK Financial Investments

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the chief executive of UK Financial Investments on its policy on publishing information about its activities. [287851]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has regular discussions with UK Financial Investments and regularly monitors UKFI's performance against its objectives. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

VAT: Overpayments

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the monetary value of claims lodged with HM Revenue and Customs for repayment of overpaid value added tax arising as a result of the decision of the House of Lords in the cases of Fleming and Conde Nast and *(b)* the amount paid out by HM Revenue and Customs in respect of such claims. [282981]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The Government have already made prudent provision in the public finances to represent tax and interest that might be repaid following this ruling.

The total value of claims received by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as a result of the House of Lords decision in the joined cases of Michael Fleming t/a Bodycraft and Condé Nast Publications Ltd. is estimated at around £8.5 billion. Past experience of such claims suggests that many will prove either to be speculative, incorrect or otherwise overstated.

In those cases so far verified by HMRC, around half the amount claimed by tax value has been refused following verification, and around £1.5 billion in tax and interest has been repaid to date. HMRC is also ensuring that taxpayers bring to account any direct tax liabilities created as a result of these repayments.

The provision for future repayments of tax and associated interest will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary, to reflect HMRC's continuing experience in verifying these claims.

Working Tax Credit: Morecambe and Lunesdale

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency claimed working tax credit in the latest period for which figures are available. [288447]

Mr. Timms: The average number of families benefiting from working tax credit in the Morecambe and Lunesdale parliamentary constituency was 3,720 for 2007-08.

This information is given in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) finalised awards geographical publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards Geographical analyses, 2007-08", available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

World Customs Organisation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister is responsible for representing the Government's interest at the World Customs Organisation. [287992]

Mr. Timms: The World Customs Organization (WCO) is the only intergovernmental organisation with competence on Customs Issues. HM Revenue and Customs officials usually represent the UK's interests at WCO. I am the Minister responsible for Customs policy, and I am accountable to Parliament for HMRC.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of local Zimbabwean bonds held by his Department was in each of the last 10 years, expressed in *(a)* Zimbabwean dollars and *(b)* pounds sterling. [287517]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The value held in the last 10 years is zero: local Zimbabwe bonds are not held in the UK's foreign currency reserves (the Exchange Equalisation Account).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of local government formula funding has been spent on tackling anti-social behaviour in 2009-10 to date. [282544]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the amount spent by local authorities on tackling antisocial behaviour is not collected centrally. In both England and Wales, it is for local partnerships to agree how the grants received should be allocated against locally determined priorities, including tackling antisocial behaviour.

Asylum

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1040-41W, on asylum, how many of the 500 Iraqi refugees identified for resettlement during 2008-09 under the Gateway Protection Programme are being or have been resettled from Syria. [255377]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* I wrote to my hon. Friend on 17 July 2009.

Asylum: Iran

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the effects on policy on Iranian asylum seekers of the recent unrest in Iran. [286308]

Mr. Woolas: We have not received any such representations. We continue to monitor closely the political and human rights situation in Iran through key governmental, non-governmental and other human rights organisations. The visa operation in Tehran is monitored on a daily basis by the UK Border Agency and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The asylum determination process assesses the protection needs of claimants and where the recent unrest in Iran impacts directly on the circumstances of an individual claimant, then it is duly considered as part of that individual's claim.

All Iranian asylum and human rights applications are considered by the Home Office on their individual merits, in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN refugee convention and the European convention on human rights (ECHR).

Each application is assessed against the latest available information about the situation in Iran. Specially-trained case owners consult these sources via the Iran Country of Origin Information Report produced by UKBA's Country of Origin Information Service, and the Iran Operational Guidance Note which gives guidance on the most common types of asylum claims received and the circumstances in which they are likely to prove founded or unfounded.

Asylum: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who entered through Northern Ireland airports in the last 12 months have presented as *(a)* having no identification, *(b)* being juveniles without any identification and *(c)* being juveniles without any identification and have subsequently absconded from social services accommodation. [274349]

Mr. Woolas: I have written to the hon. Member.

Asylum: Offenders

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals of each nationality who have been released from UK prisons since 2005 have subsequently applied for asylum in the UK. [282991]

Mr. Woolas: Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Borders: Police

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated to border policing in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [282651]

Mr. Hanson: Local forces have responsibility for policing at the border. However, between 1998-99 and 2008-09 the Home Office contribution to these costs rose from £121.4 million to £222.4 million, an increase of 83.2 per cent. over this period.

The costs of police at ports are met as part of the forces overall policing duties and the division of these funds is a matter for each force, in consultation with the police authority. In some cases, such as where an airport is "designated" under the Aviation Security Act 1982, contributions are provided by airport operators. Provisions included within the Police and Crime Bill currently being debated in the other place, include the requirement for all airports to provide such contributions. No central record is kept of these costs.

In addition, between April 1998 and April 2009 the Home Office made a contribution to the costs of special branch officers at ports as a part of the dedicated security post grants. From April 2009 funding of these posts will be made as part of the wider funding of police counter terrorism activity. The overall level of the dedicated security post grants for the years it was allocated is detailed in the following table. For security reasons, we do not disclose the breakdown of this grant between different security functions.

	£ million
1998-99	121.4
1999-2000	142.5
2000-01	146.8
2001-02	154.5
2002-03	155.3
2003-04	196.5
2004-05	203.4
2005-06	212.6
2006-07	212.6
2007-08	212.6
2008-09	222.4

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009; [273961]

(2) what car journeys he took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273962]

(3) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273963]

(4) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food he (i) incurred and (ii) officials in his Department in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273964]

Mr. Woolas: The then Home Secretary was accompanied by two officials during the Cabinet. No special advisers travelled.

For security reasons we do not disclose details of the Home Secretary's travel arrangements.

The cost incurred by the two officials supporting the Home Secretary came to a total of £926.45, including the cost of return flights, accommodation and meals.

For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

CCTV

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* police forces for the installation and operation of CCTV cameras fitted with microphones in the last 12 months. [284147]

Mr. Hanson: There has been no specific funding issued to local authorities or police forces for CCTV cameras fitted with microphones.

Between 1999 and 2003, £170 million of Home Office capital funding was made available to local authorities for investment in public space CCTV. Around 680 CCTV town centre schemes were set up with this funding.

Closed Circuit Television: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding allocated by his Department has been spent on closed circuit television in York since 1997. [285709]

Mr. Hanson: Yorkshire and Humberside (information is not available on a constituency-by-constituency basis) received a total of £20,357,137 as part of the Home Office Crime and Disorder Reduction Programme, between 1997 and 2003. No further funding has specifically been provided for the installation of town centre CCTV security systems by the Home Office since 2003. However, crime reduction funding could have been used by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships for CCTV.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1482W, on community relations: finance, which 33 projects receive funding from the £5.8 million fund to disrupt violent extremism; and how much each of these projects will receive in 2008-09 and in each of the two subsequent years. [259142]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is given in the table.

Project	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*[1]	£ *2010-11*[1]
UKBA West Midlands Pilot	190,000	—	—
Metropolitan Police Service	57,511	74,489	—
Swindon	14,560	50,440	—
Government Office East Midlands	191,251	608,749	480,530
Government Office West Midlands	52,665	242,335	—
Enfield Borough Council and Enfield Police	161,000	144,000	—
Lambeth Community safety Partnership	12,000	84,500	—
Wandsworth Borough Council	11,500	28,500	—
Slough Borough Council	50,000	56,750	—
Barnet Borough Council	51,300	59,520	—
Brent Borough Council	96,082	115,918	—
DIUS capacity building in Higher Education Sector	125,000	—	—
Universities for North East	15,631	29,369	—
London Borough of Croydon	243,000	—	—
London Borough of Newham	7,500	27,500	—
Cambridgeshire Police	56,000	—	—

Project	2008-09[1]	2009-10[1]	£ 2010-11[1]
Crawley Borough Council	130,000	149,000	—
Birmingham City Council	48,500	49,086	—
West Sussex County Council	8,100	112,900	—
ACPO TAM	375,370	—	—
Plymouth Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Plymouth City Council	61,594	31,406	—
Leeds Counter Terrorism Unit	70,000	—	—
Avon and Somerset Police	30,000	49,000	—
London Probation	58,000	190,000	190,000
Mosaic Mentoring Network	60,000	185,000	148,000
NOMS on behalf of HMP Woodhill	14,000	—	—
Government Office London	17,500	72,500	—
Lancashire Constabulary	180,500	—	—
Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations	14,250	34,150	—
Ealing Community and Voluntary Service	76,875	93,025	—
South Yorkshire Constabulary	—	50,000	—
Institute of Community Cohesion (ICoCO)	55,000	—	—
Yorkshire Universities	45,000	45,000	—
Total	2,579,689	2,583,137	818,530
Grand total		5,981,356	

[1] These figures are correct at 7 July 2009

Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* less serious wounding, *(b)* harassment, *(c)* assault without injury, *(d)* criminal damage to a dwelling, *(e)* criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling, *(f)* criminal damage to a vehicle and *(g)* other criminal damage which were deemed to be racially or religiously aggravated have been recorded in each police force area in each year since 1997. [286038]

Alan Johnson: The available information is given in the tables placed in the House Library. Racially aggravated offences have been included in the recorded crime series from 1999-2000. Religiously aggravated offences were added in 2002-03.

Crimes of Violence: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of violent crime committed in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available was perpetrated against (i) young people, (ii) families and (iii) pensioners. [287502]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Recorded crime data provided to the Home Office from each police force area cannot separately identify the individual circumstances of victims.

Criminal Records Bureau: Compensation

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid in compensation to people whose Criminal Records Bureau disclosure was delayed in each year since the inception of the disclosure service. [283426]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) makes financial awards to redress customers for its maladministration in accordance with Treasury Policy. It calculates each award on the merit of the claim. Awards range from small consolatory payments for inconvenience, to larger sums representing actual loss. The CRB does not maintain separate statistics which distinguish delay from the other elements which merit an award.

Cybercrime

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what his most recent estimate is of the cost of e-crime to the economy; [287110]

(2) how much money was misappropriated through online fraud in the UK in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286995]

Mr. Alan Campbell: These data are not kept centrally. The Government prosecute crimes on the basis of the offence committed and not the medium used. UK legislation does not distinguish between offences committed online or offline and so there are no estimated costs of e-crime or online fraud as a whole.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* the Chief Secretary to the Treasury last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of their official duties. [287368]

Alan Johnson: I have not met Damian McBride in the course of my ministerial duties, nor have I met him personally.

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether notice of the Tamil demonstration in Parliament Square and adjacent areas has been given to the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis under section 133 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005; and whether the Commissioner has given authorisation under section 134 of that Act. [271681]

Mr. Hanson: I am informed by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police that many of those demonstrating in Parliament Square and the adjacent areas did not notify the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police of their intention to demonstrate in accordance with section 133 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

On 20 April notice of a demonstration by the British Tamil Student society was given to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in accordance with section

133 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police authorised the demonstration notified to him as required under section 134(2) of the 2005 Act. I am further informed that a condition was placed on the organisers of this demonstration limiting the numbers of participants to 50 people.

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279501]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Department has no current contract with Demos. However, in 2008 Demos was engaged to run workshops on counter terrorism and ethics, and international context courses.

Departmental Consultants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department and its agencies have spent on consultants in each year since 1997. [286039]

Alan Johnson: It is not possible to provide figures going back to 1997 without incurring disproportionate cost owing to a change in accounting systems during the intervening period. Available information on Home Department's consultancy expenditure from 2004-05 is as follows:

£ million

Financial year	*Home Department including executive agencies consultancy expenditure*
2004-05	139
2005-06	139
2006-07	148
2007-08	96
2008-09	140

This expenditure on consultancy services is associated with the high volume of major programmes currently underway across the Department to deliver new technologies and business change, providing skills not readily available within the civil service. Consultancy services are procured under strict oversight from Commercial Directorate and are negotiated and contracted in accordance with Office of Government and Commerce/National Audit Office guidelines.

Departmental Drinking Water

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on *(a)* bottled water and *(b)* water coolers in each of the last six months. [284111]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many flags his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* maintains; and what the cost of maintaining them was in the last 12 months. [284106]

Mr. Woolas: For the Home Office HQ at 2 Marsham street the Department has 10 flags including replacements. Union flag replacements are needed every three to six months according to weather conditions at a cost of around £130 per flag. Flag pole maintenance costs are not held separately as they are part of the building's overall PFI charge. Information on the number and annual cost of flags held across the rest of the Department is not held centrally.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on maintenance of its website in each year since 2007. [284189]

Mr. Woolas: The costs of maintaining Home Office websites (i.e. hosting, licensing, domain registration, and updates but excluding staff costs) has been:

	£
2006-07	750,100
2007-08	620,000
2008-09	577,000

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284891]

Mr. Woolas: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code.

Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the industry and Parliament Trust. Details on numbers of civil servants from this Department that have had such an attachment are not held centrally.

Deportation

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals with addresses in Burnley were deported in each of the last five years; and how many of them had committed a crime in the UK. [286454]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide them with all the robust and accurate information available relating to foreign national criminals. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

Deportation: Prisoners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners who were released from prison between February 1999 and March 2006 have *(a)* since been deported and *(b)* remain at large. [286610]

Alan Johnson [*holding answer 14 July 2009*]: The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information on the removal and deportation of foreign national prisoners, including those released from prison before March 2006. A copy of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

DNA: Databases

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff of each organisation authorised to use the national DNA database have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for unauthorised or improper use of that database in each of the last five years; [276825]

(2) whether loss of data obtained from the national DNA database has been reported by any organisation which has access to *(a)* the database and *(b)* data from the database. [276826]

Alan Johnson: Direct access to information on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is restricted to a limited number of designated personnel under the control of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), either directly, or under a contract awarded to the Forensic Science Service (FSS) for operation and maintenance of the NDNAD and development of its IT systems. Throughout the lifetime of the contract, the FSS are required to demonstrate compliance with specified security requirements. Police and law enforcement personnel do not have access to the information on the NDNAD, but receive reports from the NDNAD Delivery Unit of matches between DNA taken from crime scenes and that taken from individuals.

In relation to those NPIA and FSS staff, there has been one instance of unauthorised use of the database during the last five years. This involved a contractor working for the FSS who was found to have used an administrator account on the IT system rather than his own. Following an investigation by the NPIA, no evidence of any improper access to database records was found. However, as use of the administrator account was in contravention of security procedures, the individual was removed from further work on the database. No incidents of unauthorised or improper use of match reports by police and law enforcement personnel have been reported to the NDNAD in the last five years.

Since the NDNAD was set up in 1995, two instances of loss of data have been reported. These took place in February 2009 when the FSS faxed DNA reports intended for two police forces to incorrect fax numbers. In both instances, the faxes were either retrieved by the police or destroyed within 36 hours of the event. A thorough investigation was undertaken by the NPIA and reported to the Home Office. No evidence was found of any malicious intent by any individual.

As a result of the investigation into this incident, an existing project to replace use of fax was accelerated. As from 17 April 2009, fax has no longer been used to transmit any DNA reports to forces. They are now sent in line with Cabinet Office guidance over a secure network either by email or as a web service on a secure network.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any *(a)* data and *(b)* samples relating to profiles on the National DNA Database have been released to (i) commercial and (ii) research organisations in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [283446]

Mr. Alan Campbell [*holding answer 2 July 2009*]: Requests for the release of data or samples relating to the DNA profiles held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) must be approved by the NDNAD Strategy Board. Requests are also considered by the NDNAD Ethics Group, which makes recommendations to the Board on whether the request should be approved. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) lays down that DNA samples and the profiles derived from them can only be used for the purposes of prevention and detection of crime, the investigation of an offence, the conduct of a prosecution or, since April 2005, for the purposes of identifying a deceased person. In accordance with these requirements, the Board does not approve any research unless it has clear operational benefit to the police.

Details of requests from commercial organisations for data or samples relating to profiles held on the NDNAD which have been approved by the NDNAD Strategy Board in each of the last three years and in 2009 to date can be found in the following table. No requests from research organisations have been approved during this time. The information provided from the NDNAD was anonymised (i.e. no details enabling individuals to be identified were supplied to the commercial organisations).

	Details of request
2006-07	Data requested by Cellmark Forensic Services to enable the further development of familial searching software.
	Data requested by LGC Forensics to enable the further development of familial searching software.
	Samples requested by LGC Forensics to enable the validation of a system to provide confirmation of rarely found types of DNA.
	Permission requested by Cellmark Forensic Services to provide profiles held by Cellmark to Cybergenetics.
2007-08	No requests approved
2008-09	No requests approved
2009-10[1]	No requests approved

[1] As at 30 June 2009

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long records relating to those *(a)* convicted of an offence and *(b)* released without charge are kept on the national fingerprint database. [283525]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Fingerprints records are currently retained indefinitely on IDENT1 (the national fingerprint database) for persons arrested for a recordable offence, whether or not subject to a conviction or acquittal or no further action. Proposals on future retention policy are set out in the public consultation paper 'Keeping the right people on the DNA Database' published on 7 May 2009.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made of people who were matched to a crime using the

national DNA database but who were not subsequently charged with an offence in the latest period for which figures are available. [285950]

Alan Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 165W.

Driving Offences: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* blood and *(b)* urine samples related to suspected incidents of drink-driving were processed at each Forensic Science Service centre in each of the last five years. [283333]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 30 June 2009]:* The records on blood and urine tests carried out by the FSS are generated by the machines running the analysis. These records do not differentiate between tests on or for blood and urine and cannot be broken down by type. The detailed breakdown of combined blood and urine is outlined as follows:

	Total samples analysed
2003	20,833
2004	20,361
2005	17,683
2006	13,336
2007	10,228
2008	9,257
2009 (year to date)	4,385
Total	96,083

The FSS estimates that 90 to 95 per cent. of these will be blood samples.

The Chorley laboratory is the only FSS laboratory currently processing such samples. This has been the case for more than 10 years

Drug and Alcohol Action Team

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department allocated to each drug and alcohol action team in England in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and how much has been allocated for 2009-10. [284831]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The following tables show the amount of funding allocated to each DA(A)T in England in the periods 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 under each of the specified grant programmes:

Table 1: Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant (YPSMPG)

Table 2: Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) Main Grant

Table 3: Alcohol Arrest Referral (AAR) Pilot Grant

Since 2008-09, arrangements for the payment of the YPSMPG have seen one element of the previously pooled budget routed through area based grant which is paid to local authorities by communities and Local Government on a non ring-fenced basis to allow maximum local flexibility; and other elements are paid to youth offending teams through the Youth Justice Board or to primary care trusts through the pooled treatment budget.

Table 1: Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant (YPSMPG): Home Office allocations for young people substance misuse services

£

DAAT	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total allocations*
Barking and Dagenham	114,008	78,857	78,857	271,722
Barnet	126,088	99,214	99,214	325,316
Barnsley	98,104	93,500	93,500	289,104
Bath and NE Somerset	49,691	30,589	30,589	110,869
Bedfordshire	108,350	71,597	71,597	251,544
Bexley	82,103	58,202	58,202	198,507
Birmingham	529,274	427,308	427,308	1,383,890
Blackburn with Darwen	85,922	48,017	48,017	181,956
Blackpool	78,513	43,245	43,245	165,003
Bolton	191,121	149,899	149,899	490,919
Bournemouth	58,467	40,776	40,776	140,019
Bracknell Forest	35,621	22,238	22,238	80,097
Bradford	346,561	286,332	286,332	919,225
Brent	169,467	136,677	136,677	442,821
Brighton and Hove	101,560	70,782	70,782	243,124
Bristol	243,618	202,971	202,971	649,560
Bromley	97,691	72,952	72,952	243,595
Buckinghamshire	117,902	79,989	79,989	277,880
Bury	75,812	45,376	45,376	166,564
Calderdale	155,228	130,943	130,943	397,114
Cambridgeshire	142,737	88,565	88,565	319,867
Camden	223,325	187,363	187,363	598,051
Cheshire	180,566	122,306	122,306	425,156
City of London	2,710	2,089	2,089	6,888
Cornwall	167,393	102,763	102,763	372,919
Coventry	137,228	96,843	96,843	330,914
Croydon	154,167	120,020	120,020	394,207
Cumbria	175,939	90,052	90,052	356,043
Darlington	51,296	24,032	24,032	99,360
Derby	101,826	65,819	65,819	233,464
Derbyshire	197,203	124,579	124,579	446,361
Devon	211,851	125,887	125,887	463,625
Doncaster	122,252	75,109	75,109	272,470
Dorset	106,370	64,113	64,113	234,596
Dudley	104,102	68,645	68,645	241,392
Durham	181,028	115,930	115,930	412,888
Ealing	226,969	194,847	194,847	616,663
East Riding of Yorkshire	90,396	45,851	45,851	182,098
East Sussex	151,736	105,521	105,521	362,778
Enfield	131,808	97,313	97,313	326,434
Essex	346,858	253,094	253,094	853,046
Gateshead	96,202	56,947	56,947	210,096
Gloucestershire	159,408	104,628	104,628	368,664
Greenwich	166,044	127,918	127,918	421,880
Hackney	326,567	275,352	275,352	877,271
Halton	64,113	42,369	42,369	148,851
Hammersmith and Fulham	135,641	107,898	107,898	351,437
Hampshire	268,977	210,351	210,351	688,779
Haringey	241,445	197,030	197,030	635,505
Harrow	79,661	57,326	57,326	194,253
Hartlepool	65,712	27,852	27,852	121,416
Havering	73,008	51,438	51,438	176,484
Herefordshire	58,831	30,568	30,568	119,967
Hertfordshire	265,090	207,120	207,120	679,330
Hillingdon	95,797	69,984	69,984	235,725
Hounslow	112,438	85,044	85,044	282,526
Isle of Wight Council	42,340	31,767	31,767	105,877
Isles of Scilly'	—	—	—	—

Table 1: Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant (YPSMPG): Home Office allocations for young people substance misuse services

£

DAAT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total allocations
Islington	252,369	207,221	207,221	666,711
Kensington and Chelsea	109,637	88,419	88,419	286,475
Kent	386,581	283,217	283,217	935,105
Kingston upon Hull	218,050	168,267	168,267	554,585
Kingston upon Thames	50,419	36,539	36,539	123,497
Kirklees	144,314	97,496	97,496	339,306
Knowsley	122,932	75,080	75,080	273,092
Lambeth	314,344	274,035	274,035	862,414
Lancashire	358,613	260,553	260,553	879,719
Leeds	411,448	347,660	347,660	1,106,768
Leicester	148,627	103,746	103,746	356,119
Leicestershire	136,968	82,514	82,514	301,996
Lewisham	201,175	166,017	166,017	533,209
Lincolnshire	200,624	110,353	110,353	421,330
Liverpool	399,349	329,020	329,020	1,057,389
Luton	91,744	61,732	61,732	215,208
Manchester	397,828	330,739	330,739	1,059,306
Medway	88,974	59,519	59,519	208,012
Merton	79,836	61,224	61,224	202,284
Middlesbrough	182,024	152,426	152,426	486,876
Milton Keynes	81,475	54,495	54,495	190,465
Newcastle upon Tyne	137,326	92,798	92,798	322,922
Newham	302,515	250,250	250,250	803,015
Norfolk	299,859	145,613	145,613	591,085
North East Lincolnshire	80,216	44,167	44,167	168,550
North Lincolnshire	63,151	32,015	32,015	127,181
North Somerset	56,512	33,557	33,557	123,626
North Tyneside	87,037	54,177	54,177	195,391
North Yorkshire	179,532	89,833	89,833	359,198
Northamptonshire	190,872	127,851	127,851	446,574
Northumberland	123,428	58,370	58,370	240,168
Nottingham	236,203	187,121	187,121	612,445
Nottinghamshire	213,683	142,917	142,917	499,517
Oldham	108,551	68,959	68,959	246,469
Oxfordshire	157,520	106,636	106,636	370,792
Peterborough	75,148	46,296	46,296	167,740
Plymouth	106,731	71,213	71,213	249,157
Poole	39,302	27,975	27,975	95,252
Portsmouth	83,161	59,537	59,537	202,235
Reading	123,481	105,324	105,324	334,129
Redbridge	98,532	71,590	71,590	241,712
Redcar and Cleveland	61,189	40,803	40,803	142,795
Richmond upon Thames	52,455	39,050	39,050	130,555
Rochdale	183,197	141,068	141,068	465,293
Rotherham	104,968	64,187	64,187	233,342
Rutland	6,418	7,925	7,925	22,268
Salford	190,566	147,003	147,003	484,572
Sandwell	147,319	99,353	99,353	346,025
Sefton	121,670	81,629	81,629	284,928
Sheffield	194,126	141,463	141,463	477,052
Shropshire	72,526	44,841	44,841	162,208
Slough	64,523	42,780	42,780	150,083
Solihull	72,643	45,170	45,170	162,783
Somerset	145,321	86,804	86,804	318,929
South Gloucestershire	61,763	39,196	39,196	140,155

Table 1: Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant (YPSMPG): Home Office allocations for young people substance misuse services

£

DAAT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total allocations
South Tyneside	91,956	53,128	53,128	198,212
Southampton	94,144	68,971	68,971	232,086
Southend on Sea	74,025	47,973	47,973	169,971
Southwark	314,878	272,018	272,018	858,914
St Helens	85,580	47,880	47,880	181,340
Staffordshire	207,713	136,265	136,265	480,243
Stockport	92,230	61,938	61,938	216,106
Stockton on Tees	85,160	49,359	49,359	183,878
Stoke on Trent	111,004	67,429	67,429	245,862
Suffolk	185,611	118,769	118,769	423,149
Sunderland	132,739	84,893	84,893	302,525
Surrey	236,487	170,336	170,336	593,159
Sutton	70,772	51,606	51,606	173,984
Swindon	62,778	38,168	38,168	139,094
Tameside	98,302	60,583	60,583	219,468
Telford and Wrekin	72,625	40,745	40,745	154,115
Thurrock	64,591	39,206	39,206	143,003
Torbay	60,670	35,263	35,263	131,196
Tower Hamlets	337,670	287,884	287,884	913,438
Trafford	79,784	51,199	51,199	182,182
Wakefield	119,818	75,506	75,506	270,830
Walsall	116,259	75,499	75,499	267,257
Waltham Forest	199,097	162,776	162,776	524,645
Wandsworth	197,972	175,161	175,161	548,294
Warrington	59,466	39,601	39,601	138,668
Warwickshire	137,033	88,851	88,851	314,735
West Berkshire	39,882	22,201	22,201	84,284
West Sussex	186,979	135,619	135,619	458,217
Westminster	173,489	142,615	142,615	458,639
Wigan	114,764	71,236	71,236	257,236
Wiltshire	121,867	72,425	72,425	265,917
Windsor and Maidenhead	38,075	24,827	24,827	87,729
Wirral	149,689	103,543	103,543	356,175
Wokingham	24,180	19,151	19,151	62,490
Wolverhampton	123,899	81,282	81,282	286,463
Worcestershire	137,264	94,923	94,923	327,110
York	53,515	31,996	31,996	117,507

[1] Due to long standing arrangements, figures for Isles of Scilly will continue to be shown as part of Cornwall's allocation and not separated out here

Table 2: Drug Interventions Programme (DIP): Main Grant

£

DAT (DIP Main Grant funding)	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Barking and Dagenham	273,407	277,508	277,508	828,423
Barnet	300,231	304,734	304,734	909,700
Barnsley	807,613	819,727	819,727	2,447,067
Bath and North East Somerset	134,594	136,522	136,522	407,547
Bedfordshire	348,434	353,711	353,711	1,055,907
Bexley	194,876	197,790	197,790	590,456
Birmingham	5,297,259	5,366,548	5,366,548	16,030,354
Blackburn with Darwen	277,023	281,789	281,789	841,204
Blackpool	472,805	479,897	479,897	1,432,599
Bolton	1,136,727	1,153,778	1,153,778	3,444,283
Bournemouth	196,173	199,116	199,116	594,404
Bracknell Forest	100,596	101,597	101,597	303,791
Bradford	1,926,297	1,955,181	1,955,181	5,836,659
Brent	1,203,160	1,221,267	1,221,267	3,645,573
Brighton and Hove	384,808	390,580	390,580	1,165,968

Table 2: Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) Main Grant

£

DAT (DIP Main Grant funding)	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Bristol	2,448,659	2,485,389	2,485,389	7,419,437
Bromley	255,437	259,269	259,269	773,974
Buckinghamshire	294,905	299,329	299,329	893,562
Bury	552,298	560,582	560,582	1,673,463
Calderdale	685,101	695,378	695,378	2,075,856
Cambridgeshire	399,366	364,734	364,734	1,088,832
Camden	1,191,678	1,299,593	1,299,593	3,660,780
Cheshire	367,961	373,480	373,480	1,114,922
City of London	320,297	325,101	325,101	970,500
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	386,895	310,595	310,595	927,195
Coventry	960,865	914,378	914,378	2,729,621
Croydon	1,041,817	1,016,844	1,016,844	3,035,504
Cumbria	339,955	345,054	345,054	1,030,064
Darlington	182,146	184,878	184,878	551,902
Derby	468,178	475,201	475,201	1,418,579
Derbyshire	662,661	611,640	611,640	1,825,881
Devon	325,754	330,640	330,640	987,035
Doncaster	1,317,965	1,337,734	1,337,734	3,993,434
Dorset	158,403	160,779	160,779	479,961
Dudley	723,648	734,300	734,300	2,192,047
Durham	500,671	508,101	508,101	1,517,033
Ealing	988,786	1,003,618	1,003,618	2,996,021
East Riding of Yorkshire	226,328	229,723	229,723	685,774
East Sussex	356,965	362,319	362,319	1,081,604
Enfield	759,282	770,682	770,682	2,300,646
Essex	826,742	839,143	839,143	2,505,028
Gateshead	627,966	637,363	637,363	1,902,670
Gloucestershire	361,046	366,462	366,462	1,093,969
Greenwich	827,395	839,613	839,613	2,506,622
Hackney	1,513,524	1,536,227	1,536,227	4,585,979
Halton	137,823	139,890	139,890	417,604
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,118,469	1,135,246	1,135,246	3,388,960
Hampshire	602,349	611,384	611,384	1,825,117
Haringey	1,343,541	1,362,194	1,362,194	3,767,930
Harrow	232,376	225,712	225,712	673,799
Hartlepool	609,010	618,145	618,145	1,845,300
Havering	172,767	175,359	175,359	523,484
Herefordshire	133,323	135,323	135,323	403,969
Hertfordshire	768,896	780,589	780,589	2,329,674
Hillingdon	249,873	253,621	253,621	757,115
Hounslow	794,244	806,158	806,158	2,406,559
Isle of Wight	109,619	121,413	121,413	362,446
Islington	1,333,277	1,353,276	1,353,276	4,039,830
Kensington and Chelsea	1,008,137	1,023,259	1,023,259	3,054,656
Kent	1,151,373	1,168,644	1,168,644	3,488,660
Kingston upon Hull	1,422,020	1,443,350	1,443,350	4,308,721
Kingston Upon Thames	116,026	117,766	117,766	351,559
Kirklees	1,219,885	1,238,183	1,238,183	3,696,252
Knowsley	221,701	225,130	225,130	672,033
Lambeth	1,930,537	1,959,495	1,959,495	5,849,526
Lancashire	1,119,486	1,136,278	1,136,278	3,392,043
Leeds	2,737,443	2,778,505	2,778,505	8,294,452
Leicester	1,598,632	1,582,011	1,582,011	4,722,655
Leicestershire	421,610	432,002	432,002	1,289,623
Lewisham	1,378,639	1,399,318	1,399,318	4,177,275
Lincolnshire	586,950	595,763	595,763	1,778,476
Liverpool	2,154,589	2,186,705	2,186,705	6,527,799
Luton	700,538	711,036	711,036	2,122,609

Table 2: Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) Main Grant

£

DAT (DIP Main Grant funding)	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Manchester	2,948,647	2,991,377	2,991,377	8,931,400
Medway	234,608	238,127	238,127	710,862
Merton	171,555	174,138	174,138*	519,832
Middlesbrough	1,022,237	1,037,571	1,037,571	3,097,378
Milton Keynes	163,880	166,338	166,338	496,556
Newcastle Upon Tyne	1,290,574	1,309,933	1,309,933	3,910,439
Newham	1,357,702	1,378,148	1,378,148	4,114,078
Norfolk	569,371	577,912	577,912	1,725,194
North East Lincolnshire	934,253	927,969	927,969	2,790,103
North Lincolnshire	786,869	798,672	798,672	2,384,213
North Somerset	116,374	118,120	118,120	352,613
North Tyneside	205,603	208,778	208,778	623,250
North Yorkshire	384,011	360,471	360,471	1,102,953
Northamptonshire	1,034,269	1,049,783	1,049,783	3,133,835
Northumberland	314,636	319,356	319,356	953,347
Nottingham	1,794,787	1,821,709	1,821,709	5,438,205
Nottinghamshire	2,339,136	2,374,223	2,374,223	7,087,582
Oldham	890,494	903,051	903,051	2,696,597
Oxfordshire	1,195,115	1,213,042	1,213,042	3,621,198
Peterborough	774,017	785,668	785,668	2,345,353
Plymouth	279,488	283,591	283,591	846,582
Poole	92,250	93,634	93,634	279,518
Portsmouth	282,670	286,918	286,918	856,504
Reading	1,106,837	1,123,440	1,123,440	3,353,716
Redbridge	663,012	673,769	673,769	2,011,550
Redcar and Cleveland	280,159	284,361	284,361	848,882
Richmond upon Thames	134,080	125,941	125,941	375,962
Rochdale	778,585	790,568	790,568	2,360,022
Rotherham	790,064	797,405	797,405	2,384,874
Rutland	5,956	6,045	6,045	18,047
Salford	771,116	782,683	782,683	2,336,481
Sandwell	1,003,679	1,018,734	1,018,734	3,041,147
Sefton	659,880	669,807	669,807	1,999,494
Sheffield	2,340,164	2,383,386	2,383,386	7,114,937
Shropshire	167,638	170,151	170,151	507,937
Slough	854,140	866,918	866,918	2,588,092
Solihull	407,151	413,258	413,258	1,233,667
Somerset	316,763	321,514	321,514	959,792
South Gloucestershire	132,798	134,780	134,780	402,348
South Tyneside	244,040	247,756	247,756	739,608
Southampton	307,778	312,395	312,395	932,567
Southend	166,947	169,451	169,451	505,849
Southwark	1,655,389	1,680,219	1,680,219	5,015,827
St Helens	230,790	234,252	234,252	699,294
Staffordshire	644,560	654,228	654,228	1,953,017
Stockport	664,181	674,144	674,144	2,012,468
Stockton	688,901	699,235	699,235	2,087,370
Stoke on Trent	363,986	369,040	369,040	1,101,066
Suffolk	451,164	457,931	457,931	1,367,027
Sunderland	782,823	794,565	794,565	2,371,954
Surrey	554,147	562,459	562,459	1,679,065
Sutton	159,878	162,276	162,276	484,430
Swindon	164,132	166,594	166,594	497,320
Tameside	823,139	835,477	835,477	2,494,094
Telford and Wrekin	173,915	176,524	176,524	526,962
Thurrock	150,379	152,635	152,635	455,648
Torbay	213,259	216,458	216,458	646,174
Tower Hamlets	1,441,658	1,436,895	1,436,895	4,289,448
Trafford	695,096	705,492	705,492	2,106,081

Table 2: Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) Main Grant

£

DAT (DIP Main Grant funding)	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Wakefield	1,094,589	1,110,977	1,110,977	3,316,514
Walsall	642,837	652,480	652,480	1,947,796
Waltham Forest	923,327	939,206	939,206	2,803,740
Wandsworth	1,034,156	1,049,668	1,049,668	3,133,493
Warrington	142,628	144,767	144,767	432,163
Warwickshire	474,417	481,533	481,533	1,437,484
West Berkshire	94,930	96,354	96,354	287,638
West Sussex	392,798	398,284	398,284	1,189,966
Westminster	2,016,350	2,046,595	2,046,595	6,109,540
Wigan	1,046,181	1,061,874	1,061,874	3,169,928
Wiltshire	218,549	219,797	219,797	656,143
Windsor and Maidenhead	103,195	104,743	104,743	312,681
Wirral	525,360	533,240	533,240	1,591,841
Wokingham	92,159	93,541	93,541	279,242
Wolverhampton	836,559	838,978	838,978	2,504,534
Worcestershire	332,987	337,982	337,982	1,008,951
York	187,359	190,169	190,169	567,698

Table 3 - Alcohol Arrest Referral (AAR) pilot grant: Alcohol Arrest Referral (AAR) pilot grant funding

£

Drug and Alcohol Action Team	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Chester	82,000	125,500	—	207,500
Cleveland	—	94,350	227,066	321,416
Cumbria	—	42,195	89,130	131,325
East Sussex	—	35,080	138,334	173,334
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	—	72,750	156,750	229,500
Lincolnshire	—	25,000	83,875	108,875
Liverpool	82,000	166,500	138,750	387,250
Manchester	82,000	91,500	—	173,500
North East Lincolnshire	—	31,250	75,000	106,250
Northamptonshire	—	54,333	129,831	184,166
Staffordshire	—	30,000	10,0000	130,000
Swindon	—	40,416	87084	127,500
Total	246,000	808,776	1,225,840	2,280,616

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible, which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available; [281862]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283474]

Mr. Woolas: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union and the consequent cost. All proposals for EU legislation are, however, deposited with Parliament with an assessment of any legislative changes that would be required to implement them in the UK and an explanation of the HMG policy in the area concerned, including in the case of proposals on migration and asylum, by choosing not to opt in to them where appropriate.

The origins of a regulation could be a devolved Administration or a local authority, as well as the Government or the EU. All regulations, irrespective of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. Regulations should be risk based, proportionate and well designed, so as to achieve their objectives whilst also keeping costs to a minimum. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of applications for family visit visas from *(a)* India, *(b)* Nigeria, *(c)* Bangladesh and *(d)* Pakistan have been refused in each of the last six years. [273592]

Mr. Woolas: The number of applications family visit visas (a) received and (b) refused at UK visa-issuing posts in India, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Pakistan in each of the last five calendar years is shown in the following tables, together with refusal rates for each country/year. Reliable data are not held for years prior to 2004.

	2004			2005		
	Applications received	*Refused*	*Refusal rate (percentage)*	*Applications received*	*Refused*	*Refusal rate (percentage)*
Bangladesh	6,703	2,169	43	9,356	3,458	36
India	83,089	15,648	19	99,341	20,024	21
Nigeria	41,137	16,781	41	60,065	25,125	44
Pakistan	31,932	6,727	36	57,122	25,901	43

	2006			2007		
	Applications received	*Refused*	*Refusal rate (percentage)*	*Applications received*	*Refused*	*Refusal rate (percentage)*
Bangladesh	12,760	4,547	36	13,909	5,351	40
India	108,572	20,548	19	108,233	22,193	21

	2006			2007		
	Applications received	*Refused*	*Refusal rate (percentage)*	*Applications received*	*Refused*	*Refusal rate (percentage)*
Nigeria	59,276	30,353	52	52,042	23,309	46
Pakistan	86,664	28,575	33	75,769	31,611	41

	2008		
	Applications received	*Refused*	*Refusal rate (percentage)*
Bangladesh	11,381	3,966	35
India	98,645	16,647	17
Nigeria	42,612	18,532	43
Pakistan	56,477	28,750	47

The data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* visa entry clearance officers and *(b)* risk assessment officers are employed in (i) Islamabad, (ii) Pakistan and (iii) Afghanistan. [280138]

Alan Johnson: For security and efficiency reasons, we have transferred visa decision-making for Pakistan to our visa sections in Abu Dhabi and the UK. We have 34 Entry Clearance Officers (ECOs) in Abu Dhabi, including seasonal relief staff, and a full staffing capacity of five ECOs in the UK working on Pakistan casework. 13 ECOs currently remain in Islamabad.

Risk and Liaison Overseas Network staff are employed on a risk assessment basis.

We do not have a visa office in Afghanistan.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of visa applications received by the consulate in *(a)* Karachi and *(b)* Lahore in the last 12 months for which figures are available were checked for fraud by entry clearance officers in each post. [272744]

Alan Johnson: There are no entry clearance officers (ECOs) posted to Karachi or Lahore. All checks for fraud are carried out in Islamabad, where there are 10 ECOs. All applications are checked for fraud.

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment has been made of the likely effect of a closure of the Chorley Forensic Science Service (FSS) laboratory on FSS response times for analysing evidence. [285003]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service has undertaken detailed analysis of projected casework demand, throughput and detailed force requirements in accordance with the National Forensic Framework Agreement, and in conjunction with the expected efficiencies from their ongoing Transformation programme. Their conclusion is that they can service demand, within contractually binding response times, from a reduced number of laboratories. Closure of the Chorley site is currently only a proposal, to be tested and challenged through the consultation process.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Forensic Science Service (FSS) has consulted all coroners on *(a)* the proposed headcount reduction in the FSS and *(b)* the proposed closure of the Chorley FSS laboratory. [285004]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) has a pathology laboratory based in Sheffield. Staff at this facility have held discussions on the transformation of the FSS with local coroners.

The FSS has discussed the principles of a revised site structure with all of its core customers. There have been no specific discussions on these proposals with coroners beyond those spoken to by the facility in Sheffield.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Forensic Science Service (FSS) has consulted all police authorities in the North West on *(a)* the proposed headcount reduction in the FSS and *(b)* the proposed closure of the Chorley FSS laboratory. [285005]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Police authorities have not been consulted on proposed changes but each police force has been consulted. It is the police forces who are the direct customers of the Forensic Science Service, and as such, they are the people with whom such discussions have taken place.

Forensic Science Service Transformation Plan: Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which consultants have been engaged to work on the Forensic Science Service Transformation Plan; what the monetary value of each contract is; and what task each contract is for. [283866]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The only major consultancy services engaged by the Forensic Science Service (FSS) have been obtained from Deloitte (who assisted in 2008 with preliminary thinking on business transformation). Deloitte has also been the FSS pension advisers for some time. FSS have used a number of specialist providers in a smaller way to support the design of the business transformation programme. The transformation team itself has also been staffed by a number of agency and interim specialists to work alongside and train in-house resources (for example Lean Sigma training). Some components of the transformation (e.g. IT enabling projects) will involve the engagement of a number of our existing external service support providers (e.g. Cap Gemini), but these companies are not involved in the provision of broader consultancy services.

The work undertaken by Deloitte in 2008, which constitutes the only single major contract, cost £1.5 million.

Forensic Science Service: Chepstow

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department has provided to staff at the Chepstow Forensic Science Service laboratory on the proposed Forensic Science Service closure and redundancy programme. [286623]

Mr. Alan Campbell: On 24 June, the Forensic Science Service (FSS) shared proposals about the approach to redundancy and operational site deployment with both trade union and employee forum representatives and copies of these proposals were made available to all FSS staff.

The approach to redundancy proposal covers:

Individual consultation

Appeals process

Maximising redeployment opportunities

Trial periods

Notice periods

Support and outplacement

Redundancy package

Voluntary redundancy.

The operational site deployment proposal covers the approach, rationale and proposed site deployment based on the proposed move to national business streams. It provides details about:

the options considered;

the criteria against which the proposed option was selected (e.g. co-location of body fluid/DNA casework;

available laboratory space;

delivery of the national framework products/services and quality;

lowest risk to customer disengagement;

the operational considerations and impacts.

Forensic Science Service: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on updating equipment at Chorley Forensic Science Service laboratory in each of the last five years. [283334]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 30 June 2009]:* During 2004-05, £451,000 was spent on new scientific equipment for the Chorley laboratory. In 2005-06, this fell to around £233,000 and in 2006-07, dropped to just under £48,000. In 2007-08 this figure stood at £163,000. There has been no spend on equipment during 2008-09.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations have been received from *(a)* police forces in the North West, *(b)* coroners based in the North West and *(c)* the Isle of Man Government on the proposed closure of the Forensic Science Service laboratory in Chorley. [286413]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As part of ongoing discussions with customers regarding the proposed restructure of the Forensic Science Service, senior staff from the company recently met with the north west Association of Chief Police Officers procurement lead from Cheshire constabulary, at his request, to discuss the plans in detail.

There have been no representations from coroners or from the Isle of Man Government.

Freedomain Radio

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received reports on the activities of Freedomain Radio in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [278289]

Alan Johnson: I have not been made aware of any reports on the activities of this website.

Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support the UK has undertaken to provide for the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT); where the secretariat of GICNT is based; and when the next meeting of participating parties will be. [287536]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has held two Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) events with international partners to date. A nuclear smuggling workshop in September 2007 and a knowledge proliferation seminar in October 2008. The next UK GICNT event will take place in London in early 2010, when we will host a joint workshop with the US on the issue of detecting radiological materials.

In addition to hosting workshops, we regularly send UK experts to events hosted by partners to share information on a range of issues spanning the GICNT principles. Recent examples of this are: a workshop in Garmisch in May 2009, to design a nuclear detection framework document; a workshop in Rabat in June 2009 concerning the trafficking of dangerous materials; and a workshop in Canberra in July 2009 on consequence management.

The GICNT does not have a secretariat. The US and Russia are co-chairs, with the annual plenary and workshops held by partners on a voluntary basis. The last plenary was held in June 2009 in The Hague.

The next meeting of partners will be in the Netherlands on 24-26 November 2009 at a workshop to examine international co-operation and information sharing in a nuclear-radiological security event.

Homicide

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of homicide involving killing by a sharp instrument there have been in each police force area in each year since 1997. [281673]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available information is from the Homicide Index and relates to the number of homicides recorded by police in England and Wales between 1997-98 and 2007-08.

Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2], by police force area: England and Wales

Year offence initially recorded as homicide[3]

Police force area	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	3	5	5	3	4	4	4	4	2	4	6
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	2	7	1	1	4	3	3	3
British Transport Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cambridgeshire	1	1	4	-	1	2	5	2	2	2	4
Cheshire	3	3	—	—	3	2	5	3	7	4	2
Cleveland	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Cumbria	3	1	3	3	1	2	1	1	—	—	3
Derbyshire	2	1	2	1	4	2	3	2	2	3	1
Devon and Cornwall	8	6	1	5	6	2	3	10	4	5	6
Dorset	1	1	1	3	—	3	6	—	—	2	2
Durham	3	2	—	1	2	3	—	2	3	5	—
Dyfed Powys	—	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	1	1
Essex	1	5	9	2	10	7	5	—	6	9	3
Gloucestershire	1	1	3	—	3	3	2	2	—	2	—
Greater Manchester	16	14	10	14	23	19	17	15	11	13	15
Gwent	—	1	1	2	2	2	—	4	1	2	2
Hampshire	1	3	5	5	7	10	3	7	4	7	7
Hertfordshire	2	1	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	6	3
Humberside	2	2	2	2	3	5	8	3	1	7	6
Kent	7	3	8	4	10	6	4	4	7	6	5
Lancashire	6	2	1	15	4	10	12	11	1	4	13
Leicestershire	1	1	—	4	2	4	9	3	3	5	3
Lincolnshire	—	1	2	—	1	2	2	—	—	3	3
London											
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Metropolitan	62	52	68	69	68	68	61	62	57	70	78
Merseyside	8	11	6	14	3	12	10	14	10	10	9
Norfolk	—	5	2	4	1	—	3	1	1	3	3
North Wales	2	—	2	1	2	4	—	5	2	1	3
North Yorkshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	2	—	—
Northamptonshire	2	2	1	3	3	5	1	—	6	6	4
Northumbria	11	5	9	5	4	8	8	6	7	10	14
Nottinghamshire	3	6	5	4	6	3	6	6	7	7	3
South Wales	9	9	6	3	10	1	3	4	2	7	5
South Yorkshire	2	3	4	4	6	7	2	7	6	3	8
Staffordshire	4	4	2	—	1	—	3	3	2	5	3
Suffolk	—	—	—	3	2	—	2	2	3	2	2
Surrey	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	3	—	3
Sussex	4	4	5	3	6	9	3	9	4	3	3
Thames Valley	7	7	8	3	9	13	3	6	7	8	6
Warwickshire	—	2	1	—	1	2	2	3	1	5	2
West Mercia	3	3	1	3	5	2	5	3	—	3	1
West Midlands	4	16	15	9	19	17	22	21	22	15	15
West Yorkshire	12	12	7	8	11	13	7	13	11	12	13
Wiltshire	2	—	1	—	3	2	2	3	1	1	2
Total	282	291	273	275	291	306	292	309	219	269	270

[1] As at 4 November 2008, figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Includes knives as well as other sharp instruments.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 94-5W, on human trafficking, what guidance has been issued by his Department to the agencies involved in the national referral mechanism on systematic identification of victims of human trafficking. [277244]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Specialist teams within the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the UK Border Agency have been set up to act as decision making competent authorities within the multi-agency national referral mechanism.

Comprehensive guidance and training, utilising expertise from within and outside Government, has been provided to these teams. Staff within these teams have been instructed to engage with external agencies to assist in the identification process.

In addition, myself and the Association of Chief Police Officers lead for human trafficking wrote to all

chief officers to direct them to the Home Office website which holds information about the national referral mechanism:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/humantrafficking005.htm

All other relevant agencies have also been directed to this information.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* fake and *(b)* fraudulently obtained national identity cards have been seized in each month since the introduction of the national identity card scheme. [285940]

Alan Johnson: As part of the national identity card scheme we began issuing identity cards to foreign nationals on 25 November 2008. To date we have not identified or recovered any cards found to be fake or to have been obtained fraudulently.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many national identity cards have been withdrawn, recalled or returned as a result of errors in the data *(a)* displayed on the card and *(b)* contained on the chip since the introduction of the scheme. [285941]

Alan Johnson: Since November 2008, over 50,000 identity cards have been issued to foreign nationals by the UK Border Agency. Of these, four cards have been withdrawn, recalled or returned as a result of errors in the data either displayed on the card or contained on the chip since the introduction of the scheme.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records checks have been made against the national identity card database by *(a)* police forces and *(b)* other agencies in each month since the introduction of the national identity card scheme. [285943]

Alan Johnson: The National Identity Register, which will hold the identity information of everyone issued with a national identity card, will not begin operation until later this year when we start to issue voluntary ID cards to airside workers at Manchester and London city airports as well as to British citizens living in the Greater Manchester area.

There have, therefore not yet been any checks made on the National Identity Register.

Identity Cards: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the National Identity Card Scheme; and what proportion of this expenditure has been on identity cards alone. [279615]

Alan Johnson: The Identity Cards are paid for by customer fees.

Between the financial years 2003-04 and 2005-06, £41.1 million was spent by the Home Office Identity Cards Programme in total in development. Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver passports including facial images and fingerprints, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the technology and operational processes needed to implement identity cards are also required for the implementation of these new passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives.

Much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of passports with facial images and fingerprints or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects which in the 2006-07 financial year amounted to £30.9 million, in 2007-08 £61.7 million and 2008-9 £81.5 million (subject to finalisation of the 2008-09 accounts process).

Identity Cards: Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to police *(a)* forces and *(b)* officers on the use of identity cards in policing. [285942]

Alan Johnson: In addition to the general guidance published on the Identity Card for Foreign Nationals, the UK Border Agency has engaged with representatives from police forces and produced guidance about the use of identity cards. This guidance is reviewed regularly and updates will be issued whenever necessary.

In respect of identity cards issued to British citizens, the Identity and Passport Service has yet to produce any guidance on identity cards and will be producing guidance on the security features to be incorporated in the identity cards issued to later this year.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the publication of his Department's report on Understanding the market for facilitated illegal entry in the UK has been delayed; and when he intends to publish it. [247896]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The normal process for publishing research is that such reports must undergo a rigorous quality assurance process including external peer review and only research that meets our high quality standards is published by the Department. Once this process has been completed in this case, we expect to be able to publish the report in summer 2009.

Immigrants: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the UK Border Agency or its predecessor informed Jobcentre Plus that Khadra Ali Hassan of Sheffield was no longer entitled to income support and related benefits arising out of her previous temporary leave to remain. [278876]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 June 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary wrote to my right hon. Friend on 15 July 2009.

Immigration

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people had awaited determination of their application for *(a)* leave to remain and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain under the immigration rules for more than (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four years; [250959]

(2) when he plans to answer question 250959, tabled on 21 January 2009, on the timescale for processing immigration cases. [286588]

Mr. Woolas: The data my hon. Friend requires are provided in the following table.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Leave to remain					
Two years	3,767	4,077	8,127	2,627	1,904
Three years	—	—	1,103	2,713	1,031
Four years	—	—	—	1,487	1,119
Five years	—	—	—	—	1,253
Indefinite leave to remain					
Two years	1,441	3,081	2,623	4,523	2,740
Three years	—	—	797	3,097	1,782
Four years	—	—	—	1,440	1,551
Five years	—	—	—	—	1,194

The above data are not provided under the National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Data for some of these periods are not available. This is because there was a major change in our IT systems in 2002. Data on cases lodged in or before 2002 will therefore not be complete. This means we are unable to supply reliable information on some of the cases you requested. The data could now be reliably gathered only by the examination of individual files for historic information and this could be achieved only at disproportionate cost to the organisation.

LTR and ILR outstanding applications are generally complex cases involving ECHR and those overstaying existing leave granted.

We are improving migration workstreams, as new processes are introduced with initial focus on clearing older cases, then improving overall throughput.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to announce his decision on the application for a residence permit submitted by Mrs Tatiana Stebel-Nowakowska. [284423]

Mr. Woolas: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 17 July 2009.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1163W, on immigration, whether the UK Border Agency has obtained the further information needed in order to be able to decide the immigration case of Mrs Mohinder Kaur. [286710]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* It is anticipated that the decision will be notified to Mrs. Kaur shortly.

Immigration Controls: Abuse

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many organisations purporting to be education and training providers have been closed for abuse of the immigration system in each of the last five years. [279320]

Alan Johnson: This information is not recorded centrally either by the UK Border Agency or the previous Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Gurkhas

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* legal status and *(b)* residency rights Gurkhas who do not qualify to settle in the UK but who are not subject to immediate deportation have. [273542]

Mr. Woolas: On 21 May 2009 the Home Secretary announced a revised policy for former members of the Brigade of Gurkhas who had been discharged prior to 1 July 1997. Under the terms of this policy any former Gurkha with more than four years' service who had been discharged from the Brigade of Gurkhas before 1 July 1997 would be eligible for settlement in the UK.

All Gurkhas who meet the criteria and who wish to settle in the United Kingdom will be eligible to do so unless there are particular reasons for excluding an individual from settlement, for example criminality. We therefore cannot foresee circumstances in which ex Gurkhas in the UK do not meet the criteria but are not subject to immediate administrative removal or deportation. If this unlikely situation did arise the legal status and residency rights of the individual would be considered on a case by case basis.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what potentially analogous categories of immigrant his Department considered when formulating its policy on the rights of residence of Gurkhas; and what elements of the Government's policy on such rights of residence would apply to each such category. [276908]

Mr. Woolas: When formulating the policy on the settlement rights of former Gurkhas it was important to find a package which met the needs of the Gurkhas, which was affordable and was consistent with our broader immigration policies. This included consideration of the settlement rules for Commonwealth soldiers, the policies on other immigration categories that provide a route to settlement, the time limits on applications, dependants and the UK Government's wider responsibilities under the Human Rights Act.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter to him dated 5 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. Paul Cookson. [260327]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency is meeting with the Centre for Social Justice in September and a reply to my right hon. Friend's letter will be sent out shortly.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 12 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Ms K Billington. [266372]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 9 July 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 25 February 2009, with regard to Mr. M Rashid; [269341]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter of 25 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, on Mr. M Rashid. [271024]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 9 July 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter dated 7 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms Yewande Augustina Adeleke. [278840]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 15 July 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 18 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. D Albubasinmwin. [283357]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 2 July 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 22 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Fawzia Izat and Hilla Akhterzi. [284722]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 10 July 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 18 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms Sujla Afrin Suma; [286794]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 18 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms Sajia Afrin Suma. [284726]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 10 July 2009.

Metropolitan Police: Volunteers

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many volunteers have been *(a)* acting and *(b)* recruited as independent lay custody visitors in the Metropolitan Police Authority in each year since 2000. [286236]

Mr. Hanson: The Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) advises that prior to 2006, individual boroughs managed independent custody visiting in their areas and that figures on recruitment are not centrally available. From April 2007, the MPA took pan-London responsibility for management of custody visitor and visit information. The authority has provided the following information:

As of December 2007 the MPA had 360 independent custody visitors of which 70 were new recruits during the year.

As of December 2008 there were 401 independent custody visitors of which 140 were new recruits during the year.

National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated to the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit (NETCU) in each financial year since 2003-04; and how many staff were employed by NETCU in each such year. [282011]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 24 June 2009]:* Funding to the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit is managed on behalf of the Home Office by the Association of Chief Police Officers Terrorism and Allied Matters (ACPO TAM). We do not disclose details of grants provided to individual units on security grounds. Nor do we disclose details of the numbers of staff employed by individual units.

National Identity Scheme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts his Department has signed for delivery of the National Identity Scheme to date; with which suppliers such contracts have been entered into; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* expected duration of each such contract is. [281970]

Alan Johnson: The contracts that have been signed for delivery of the National Identity Service which is necessary for the introduction of biometric passports to date are as follows:

Thales UK Ltd.

Thales UK Ltd was awarded a contract in July 2008 for the technology and process for early release of NIS which is worth £18 million. It has been awarded for four years with four successive six month options to extend.

De La Rue

De La Rue was selected in June 2009 as the preferred bidder for the Design and Production of next generation UK passport books which is worth £400 million. The contract was signed on 2 July, and has been awarded for a period of 10 years.

CSC

CSC was awarded a contract in April 2009 for the upgrade of IPS's Application and Enrolment system which is worth £385 million. It has been awarded for a period of 10 years.

IBM

IBM was awarded a contract in May 2009 to operate the biometric data base for passports and to support identity cards which is worth £265 million. It has been awarded for seven years with one three-year option to extend.

In addition, four existing contracts were amended to support the initial rollout of identity cards. These include:

secure mail delivery provider SMS for the passport book to extend delivery services;

Teleperformance to include an option to provide support for the introduction of identity cards;

3M SPSL to include production and personalisation of the identity cards; and

nCipher (now part of Thales) for specialist encryption equipment was amended to adapt this equipment for the rollout to UK nationals.

As spend has been in relation to only one contract and has therefore been with only one supplier, this information is considered to be commercially sensitive.

National Policing Improvement Agency: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the National Policing Improvement Agency spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [280341]

Mr. Hanson: The National Policing Improvement Agency was established by statute on 1 April 2007. Data are only available for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

NPIA consultancy spend was £71.4 million in 2007-08. The figure for 2008-09 is £57.2 million.

National Policing Improvement Agency: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each National Policing Improvement Agency office in each of the last five years. [279287]

Mr. Hanson: The National Policing Improvement Agency was established by statute on 1 April 2007. Data for 2007-09 are given in the tables. Data prior to this period are not available.

NPIA staff

1 April 2007

Location	Executive support and administration staff	Specialist and delivery managers	Senior managers	Directors	Total
Birmingham	—	25	—	—	25
Bramshill	170	126	4	—	300
Carterton	—	3	—	—	3
Harperley Hall	20	25	—	—	45
Harrogate	121	56	1	—	178
Hendon Data Centre	97	52	1	—	150
Hendon NCALT	21	25	—	—	46
London New King's Beam House	114	451	2	—	567
London Victoria St	18	128	3	5	154
Ryton	37	13	—	—	50
Wyboston	74	115	1	—	190
Total	672	1,019	12	5	1,708

1 April 2008

Location	Executive support and administration staff	Specialist and delivery managers	Senior managers	Directors	Total
Birmingham	6	22	—	—	28
Bramshill	173	128	1	—	302
Carterton	—	3	—	—	3
Harperley Hall	25	31	—	—	56
Harrogate	126	69	1	—	196
Hendon Data Centre	94	60	1	—	155
Hendon NCALT	30	15	—	—	45
London New King's Beam House	112	374	9	—	495
London Victoria St	43	173	4	5	225
Marsham Street	3	22		—	25
Ryton	38	14	—	—	52
Wyboston	73	115	3	—	191
Total	723	1,026	19	5	1,773

1 April 2009

Location	Executive support and administration staff	Specialist and delivery Manager	Senior managers	Director	Total
Birmingham	9	21	—	—	30
Bramshill	190	160	3	—	353
Carterton	—	8	—	—	8

1 April 2009

Location	*Executive support and administration staff*	*Specialist and delivery Manager*	*Senior managers*	*Director*	*Total*
Harperley Hall	24	36	—	—	60
Harrogate	134	79	1	—	214
Hendon Data Centre	93	63	1	—	157
Hendon NCALT	32	17	1	—	50
London New King's Beam House	143	403	9	—	555
London Victoria St	69	204	16	5	294
Marsham Street	4	20	—	—	24
Ryton	50	51	—	—	101
Salisbury	1	19	—	—	20
Wyboston	66	119	3	—	188
Grand total	815	1,200	34	5	2,054

Note:
The definitions used in response to this question are as follows: Directors—CEO and chief officers. Senior managers—NPIA Grades 4A - 4B. Specialist and delivery managers—NPIA Grades 2B - 3B. Executive support and administration staff—All other grades.

National Public Order Intelligence Unit

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has allocated to the National Public Order Intelligence Unit in each year since its establishment; and how many staff the unit employed in each such year. [284134]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not provide funding directly to the National Public Order Intelligence Unit. Funding is provided by top-slice of the police grant and a contribution from the Metropolitan Police Service.

We do not disclose details of grants provided to individual units on security grounds. Nor do we disclose details of the numbers of staff employed by individual units.

Offences Against Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cautions were given for the *(a)* possession of and *(b)* creation of pornographic images of children in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [282745]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* Information provided by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of offenders cautioned for the possession, taking, distributing or publishing of indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children in England and Wales, from 1998 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for possessing, taking, distributing or publishing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[2, 3]

Offence	*Statute*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Possession of an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph[3]	Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec. 160 as amended by the criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, and Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec 160 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Secs.84(4) and 86(1)	19	34	25	32	53	205	162	151	147	142
Take, permit to be taken, or to make distribute or publish indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children	Protection of Children Act 1978 Section 1 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 84 and Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.41(1).	26	31	35	38	63	239	201	195	168	185

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Evidence & Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Offenders: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were on bail on 28 February 2009. [263214]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the letter of 7 July 2009 from the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency to the Home Affairs Select Committee which is available in the House Library.

Office of Cyber Security: Cyber Security Operations Centre

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* number of staff of the (i) Office of Cyber Security and (ii) Cyber Security Operations Centre in Cheltenham is in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [286486]

Mr. Hanson: The Office of Cyber Security (OCS) will be established in September 2009 to provide strategic leadership for and coherence across Government, and to establish a cross-Government programme to address priority areas in pursuit of the UK's strategic cyber security objectives. The exact staffing and budgetary arrangements are currently being determined.

The Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC) will be established at the same time to bring together existing multi-agency efforts to provide situational awareness, analysis and incident response co-ordination in the cyber security field, making sure that new and existing resources are used to best effect in the areas where they are needed the most. The exact staffing and budgetary arrangements are currently being determined.

The additional resources for the Government's overall cyber security programme will be reported to the House in the autumn.

Official Residences

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid to Westminster City Council in council tax on the empty property of 62 South Eaton Place in each month since the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside vacated the Ministerial residence there. [273466]

Mr. Woolas: The following annual council tax payments have been made:

	£
2006-07	1,271
2007-08	825
2008-09	824

Discount for empty property was claimed for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Passports: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many biometric passports issued to applicants had subsequently been withdrawn on the basis of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* ineligibility of the applicant on the latest date for which figures are available. [276828]

Alan Johnson: In terms of fraud recording, the Identity and Passport Service does not yet differentiate between biometric and non-biometric passports.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fraudulent passport applications were detected in each year since 1997; and how many instances of passport fraud his Department estimates were undetected in each such year. [285925]

Alan Johnson: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) figures for passport frauds detected in each year since 1997 are shown in table 1:

Table 1

	Number
1997[1]	1,880
1998[1]	1,368
1999[1]	1,535
January to March 2000[1]	362
2000-01	1,484
2001-02	2,419
2002-03	1,973
2003-04	2,651
2004-05	1,497
2005-06	6,497
2006-07	6,108
2007-08	9,382
2008-09	9,254

[1] Calendar years were used until April 2000

The estimated number of fraudulent passport applications which go undetected, for years in which figures are available, is set out in table 2

Table 2

	Estimated proportion of fraudulent applications (percentage)[1]	*Estimated number of undetected frauds*[1]
1997	—	—
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
January to March 2000	—	—
2000-01	—	—
2001-02	—	—
2002-03	0.09	2,974
2003-04	—	—
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	0.25	10,058
2006-07	0.25	9,672
2007-08	0.25	5,372
2008-09	0.26	4,410

[1] Figures do not include cases in which a false declaration has been made by a passport applicant but identity and eligibility for a passport are not in doubt.

The process IPS uses to estimate the number of fraudulent applications it receives is based on sampling and statistical extrapolation.

The estimate of the number of fraudulent applications which evade IPS controls is derived from a simple arithmetical calculation in which the number of frauds identified and prevented is deducted from the estimated number of fraudulent applications received.

IPS first conducted an exercise to establish an estimate of the number of fraudulent applications in 2002 and details of its findings were made available to Parliament in response to questions.

In 2006 IPS introduced a more refined and robust sampling process drawing on the experience of 2002 and its increased understanding of the nature and pattern of fraud. This increased understanding of the nature and pattern of fraud has also enabled IPS to refine the way it records fraud and to identify fraudulent applications which had been stopped by routine controls but which had not been previously recorded as fraud.

Passports: Interviews

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of first-time passport applicants have been interviewed in each month since the interview system was established. [285794]

Alan Johnson: The proportion of first time adult passport applicants who have received passports and who had been interviewed in each month since the interview system was established in 2007 is approximately 90 per cent.

See following table:

	Total first time adult interviews conducted	*Total first time adult passports issued*	*Percentage of first time adults being interviewed*
October 2007	2,259	26,132	9
November 2007	5,207	25,778	20
December 2007	9,031	17,293	52
January 2008	10,373	16,680	62
February 2008	23,537	25,660	92
March 2008	32,054	36605	88
April 2008	29,979	32,405	93
May 2008	31,341	34,253	91
June 2008	40,348	43,624	92
July 2008	26,606	29,974	89
August 2008	30,187	33,633	90
September 2008	19,765	21,815	91
October 2008	16,022	18,539	86
November 2008	19,533	21,798	90
December 2008	12,794	15,190	84
January 2009	13,947	14,165	98
February 2009	20,821	22,587	92
March 2009	31,466	33,928	93
April 2009	24,210	25,607	95
May 2009	30,818	33,220	93
June 2009	18,955	19,948	95
Total	432,756	479,631	90

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* staffing and *(b)* other costs have been of each passport interview centre in each month since such centres were established. [285795]

Alan Johnson: Personal passport interviews are conducted through the Interview Office Network (ION) of the Identity and Passport Service. The costs for each passport interview centre in each month since the Interview Office Network was established in July 2007 are as follows. This excludes the cost of depreciation of relevant set-up capital expenditure.

ION offices	*Salaries*	*Other costs*	£ *Grand total*
Bord—Berwick Upon Tweed	59,747	122,546	182,293
Bord—Carlisle	115,001	203,128	318,128
Bord—Dumfries	90,617	105,282	195,899
Bord—Kendal	137,581	187,828	325,409
Bord—Middlesbrough	409,061	321,856	730,917
Bord—Newcastle	587,257	523,989	1,111,246
Bord—Ripon	64,942	198,496	263,438
Bord—Selkirk	72,000	176,856	248,856
EA—Bury St. Edmunds	180,286	248,683	428,968
EA—Ipswich	242,738	188,490	431,229
EA—Kings Lynn	125,759	134,987	260,746
EA—Lincoln	238,066	157,630	395,696
EA—Norwich	230,731	235,137	465,868
EA—Peterborough	299,374	268,450	567,824

ION offices	Salaries	Other costs	£ Grand total
EA—Stratford	103,976	131,872	235,848
ION OCM	18,173	3,305	21,478
ION—London	2,899,409	2,701,859	5,601,268
Mid—Birmingham	978,036	856,481	1,834,517
Mid—Derby	386,105	332,456	718,561
Mid—Leicester	246,616	268,496	515,112
Mid—Northampton	276,071	201,374	477,445
Mid—Shrewsbury	153,135	199,285	352,421
Mid—Stoke on Trent	288,878	240,756	529,634
Mid—Warwick	186,919	278,675	465,594
NE—Kingston on Hull	316,364	247,123	563,487
NE—Leeds	709,077	683,933	1,393,009
NE—Scarborough	126,844	163,524	290,368
NE—Sheffield	490,466	459,699	950,165
NE—York	160,201	236,692	396,894
NI—Armagh	110,837	172,605	283,442
NI—Belfast	345,431	327,623	673,054
NI—Coleraine	164,870	167,705	332,575
NI—Omagh	94,250	181,608	275,858
NW—Blackburn	354,964	302,737	657,701
NW—Liverpool	599,110	464,368	1,063,478
NW—Manchester	778,474	760,049	1,538,523
NW—Wrexham	244,748	282,252	527,000
S&MW—Aberystwyth	58,909	175,295	234,204
S&MW—Bristol	309,855	334,575	644,430
S&MW—Cheltenham	225,900	179,898	405,798
S&MW—Newport	498,625	326,819	825,444
S&MW—Swansea	342,703	290,512	633,215
S&MW—Swindon	138,924	186,558	325,482
Scot—Aberdeen	177,027	197,619	374,646
Scot—Dundee	176,718	186,248	362,966
Scot—Edinburgh	332,671	416,442	749,113
Scot—Glasgow	755,413	617,049	1,372,462
Scot—Inverness	138,573	166,992	305,565
Scot—Kilmarnock	33,836	2,301	36,138
Scot—Oban	20,879	191,043	211,922
Scot—Stirling	165,169	223,285	388,454
Scot—Wick	49,128	101,084	150,212
SE—Brighton	185,115	187,242	372,356
SE—Chelmsford	314,816	441,675	756,491
SE—Crawley	276,306	282,550	558,856
SE—Dover	190,309	222,295	412,604
SE—Luton	405,133	396,002	801,136
SE—Maidstone	275,478	212,565	488,043
Sth—Andover	209,256	172,151	381,407
Sth—Bournemouth	225,140	206,443	431,582
Sth—Newport (IOW)	102,229	170,241	272,470
Sth—Oxford	155,208	241,728	396,936
Sth—Portsmouth	440,517	424,074	864,591
Sth—Reading	359,911	574,926	934,837
SW—Exeter	243,638	177,275	420,913
SW—Plymouth	215,470	280,709	496,179
SW—Redruth	125,996	118,822	244,818
SW—South Molton	114,620	176,986	291,606
SW—St. Austell	169,271	133,070	302,341
SW—Yeovil	170,113	192,120	362,233
Total costs	20,488,970	20,944,430	41,433,399

Police

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of time spent by police officers in each police force *(a)* on front-line duties and *(b)* in completing (i) all administrative, (ii) incident-related administrative and (iii) stop and search forms in the latest period for which figures are available; [280930]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the working day spent by police officers, *(a)* on front-line duties and *(b)* in completing (i) all administrative forms and (ii) stop and search forms in the latest period for which figures are available. [286931]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for all forces for front-line policing and for paperwork at a national level are given in the following tables. Figures for paperwork for individual forces should be sought from those forces, as it is not possible for the Home Office to release them without incurring disproportionate cost. The Home Office does not collect data on time spent on stop and search routinely, but we estimate that hand written completion of stop and search forms on the street takes on average three to seven minutes. The time spent on completing the form depends on the circumstances of the individual stop.

Figures are not available on a force by force basis.

Table A: Paperwork and frontline activity for all officers 2007-08[1]

	Percentage
Time spent on incident-related paperwork	12.4
Time spent on non incident-related paperwork	9.3
Total time spent on paperwork	21.7
Time spent on patrol[3]	13.8
Frontline policing measure[4]	64.9

[1] The information is taken from activity analysis, which is collected by all forces over a two-week period in each year and provides a snapshot of how officers are deployed.
[2] Excluding Staffordshire.
[3] Includes officers on foot/car/boat patrol, CID and traffic officers.
[4] The frontline policing measure includes activities other than those shown in the table such as dealing with crimes and non-crime incidents.

Table B: Frontline activity by force 2007-08

Force	Frontline policing measure (percentage)
Avon and Somerset	58.9
Bedfordshire	67.6
Cambridgeshire	64.3
Cheshire	63.9
City of London	67.8
Cleveland	60.8
Cumbria	62.3
Derbyshire	71.2
Devon and Cornwall	61.3
Dorset	71.4
Durham	57.3
Dyfed-Powys	61.9
Essex	64.3
Gloucestershire	69.2
Greater Manchester	58.8
Gwent	70.9
Hampshire	66.1
Hertfordshire	66.8
Humberside	64.9
Kent	68.1
Lancashire	63.0
Leicestershire	64.5
Lincolnshire	63.4
Merseyside	63.0
Metropolitan Police	63.1
Norfolk	68.2
North Wales	63.8
North Yorkshire	63.2
Northamptonshire	64.7
Northumbria	71.2
Nottinghamshire	72.1
South Wales	62.5
South Yorkshire	70.0
Staffordshire	n/a
Suffolk	67.4
Surrey	64.6
Sussex	60.0
Thames Valley	62.5
Warwickshire	65.5
West Mercia	64.4
West Midlands	65.6
West Yorkshire	68.5
Wiltshire	67.2

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methodology his Department uses to collate figures on the amount of time spent by police officers on administrative tasks; and who in his Department has responsibility for the collection of such figures. [286932]

Mr. Hanson: The frontline policing measure and other measures of time spent on patrol and paperwork have been discontinued as part of the Government's commitment to reduce the burden on police forces imposed by statistical and other data. This will allow police officers to concentrate their efforts on fighting crime and being more visible.

The decision to discontinue the measure is based on the maturing relationship which exists between the police service and the Home Office around performance management. Over time a performance management culture has been embedded, and following the success that forces have had in reducing crime and the move to one centrally set target around public confidence, we believe that this approach is the right one.

Police Community Support Officers: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers are employed in Lancashire. [287837]

Mr. Hanson: There were 400 police community support officers in Lancashire constabulary as at 30 September 2008. This figure is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Annual 30 September figures are provided as interim figures to the more detailed 31 March figures which can also be found at the above link. 31 March 2009 figures are due to be published on 23 July 2009 on the same webpage.

Police: Cybercrime

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the regional police squads established to tackle cyber crime to be operational; and what *(a)* budget and *(b)* personnel will be provided for those squads. [286944]

Mr. Hanson: The work of the Association of Chief Police Officers e-crime Committee includes a project to set up regional cyber crime teams. Chief constables have a budget which they are able to use on the priorities for their forces. Any decision on funding or staffing for regional teams is a matter for the chief constables for that region.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to co-ordinate the work of police forces in reducing levels of cybercrime. [286943]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have provided £3.5 million over three years to support the work of the police central e-crime unit (PCeU). One of the roles that the PCeU has been given is to develop the response to e-crime across the police service. The co-ordination of that work is a matter for the police and for ACPO.

Police: Training

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 602W, on police training, what progress the National Police Improvement Agency has made in refreshing its training modules on domestic abuse to include *(a)* female genital mutilation, *(b)* stalking and harassment and *(c)* honour-based violence. [283731]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Policing Improvement Agency has reviewed the existing training materials for domestic abuse and has begun developing a new learning programme. Part 1 of this training relates to risk identification, assessment and management which will be available from end July 2009.

Further training material is to be launched in Q3 2009 and will include general awareness training for all police officers and staff and specialist training for all experienced specialist domestic abuse officers and all investigators.

All of the new training materials incorporate *(a)* female genital mutilation, *(b)* stalking and harassment and *(c)* honour-based violence.

Prisoners Release: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are unlawfully at large having been removed from prison to an immigration removal centre and subsequently released into the community. [278329]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency and its partners are currently pursuing for the deportation of 64 individuals who breached the conditions of the parole license and have not yet been recalled.

Refugees: Iraq

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 28,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria submitted by the UN for resettlement since 2007 have been accepted by the UK. [279640]

Mr. Woolas: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 17 July 2009.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Serious and Organised Crime Agency has provided information to support prosecutions in each of the last 24 months. [285946]

Alan Johnson: The information is not readily available and could be recovered only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency provided evidence in person or in writing during trials in each of the last 24 months. [285947]

Alan Johnson: The information is not readily available and could be recovered only at disproportionate cost.

Serious Crime Prevention Orders: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* serious crime prevention orders and *(b)* antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in England and Wales since their introduction; [284645]

(2) how many antisocial behaviour orders are in force in England and Wales. [284646]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in England and Wales between 1 April 1999 and 31 December 2007 (latest available) was 14,972.

ASBOs can be of a fixed duration (minimum two years) or made until further order. It is therefore not possible to determine from centrally collected data how many ASBOs are in force at a particular point in time.

Serious crime prevention orders became available on 6 April 2009. Up to 31 May 2009 the Serious Organised Crime Agency had secured 19 such orders and we understand that three further orders had been secured by other law enforcement authorities.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Travel

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on travel and accommodation by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in each of the last three years. [278441]

Alan Johnson: The Serious Organised Crime Agency's expenditure on all its travel and accommodation in the UK and overseas for each of the last three years was:

	£
2006-07	18,189,370.31
2007-08	16,778,991.09
2008-09	18,574,892.35

These costs were incurred necessarily in the delivery of the agency's functions. During the three years 2006-07 to 2008-09, SOCA had approximately 4,000 members of staff of whom approximately 140 were based overseas.

Terrorism: Arrests

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested under the Terrorism Act 2006 have subsequently been deported. [272197]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 May 2009]:* None. There is no power of arrest under the Terrorism Act 2006. Any arrest for terrorism offences would be under either the Terrorism Act 2000 or other legislation.

Details of the number of arrests for terrorism offences between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2008 are contained in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin:

"Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008" at:

http://www. homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

Details of the numbers of people arrested for a terrorism offence who have subsequently been deported are not available.

Travel Restrictions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 321W, on travel restrictions, what the outcome of the discussions on the Government's policy on exclusion with US officials was. [281930]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* Following the bi-lateral meeting between UK and US officials, UK officials agreed in principle to provide further information to their US counterparts about the operation of the Government's policy on exclusion in the event of future inquiries.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 321W, on travel restrictions, whether he received any representations from US officials about the inclusion on the list of foreign nationals barred from entry to the UK of *(a)* Michael Savage and *(b)* any other US citizen. [282340]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* A bi-lateral meeting was held between UK and US officials following the publication of the list on 5 May 2009 to discuss the Government's policy on exclusion on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour. Officials set out the background to the policy and Michael Savage's inclusion on the list.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will require the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to report on when a response will be sent to the hon. Member for Sunderland South's letter of 24 April 2009, regarding his constituent, Mrs Louise Chambers, Home Office reference U1062508; and for what reasons no response to the correspondence has been provided to the hon. Member through the hon. Members' hotline. [282896]

Mr. Woolas: The Deputy Director, Operations, of the London and South East Region wrote on 26 June regarding Mrs. Umber's application. The MPs' Hotline was unavailable for technical reasons which have now been addressed.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are employed by the UK Border Agency. [282994]

Mr. Woolas: All candidates are subject to the same pre-appointment checks regardless of nationality. Our pre-appointment checks ensure that we only select those that pass eligibility in accordance with the Cabinet Office nationality requirements:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/jobs/Nationality-Requirements/Nationality-Requirements.aspx

UK Border Agency: Passports

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average time taken by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors to check a passport at each *(a)* airport and *(b)* port in each of the last 10 years. [285793]

Alan Johnson: The time taken to check a passport at each port is not routinely recorded.

All new passports issued within the EU and in many countries across the world are now chip enabled and current policy is to scan 100 per cent. of passports at border control. The embedded chips from different countries have different reading rates, varying from three to 15 seconds depending on the detail of information stored on the chip.

Thereafter, the further checks made by border force officers will depend on a range of other factors as the passenger presents themselves at the desk, including eligibility for entry to the UK, prior concerns as flagged by e-borders, suspicious behaviour or unusual circumstances and alerts from other law enforcement agencies.

New automated iris recognition gate arrangements, now rolling out to a further eight arrivals halls over the next two months will further reduce queuing and speed the passenger flow.

Alongside our Automated Clearance System trials, UKBA are already facilitating the journey of other legitimate passengers through our Iris Recognition Immigration System (IRIS). IRIS combines speed and maximum security to let positively vetted passengers travel faster. The scheme was launched in January 2006 and is available at 10 airport terminals throughout the UK.

UK Border Agency: Training

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff have been on training courses abroad in each country in each of the last five years. [282946]

Mr. Woolas: Data are not collected centrally on the number of UK Border Agency staff who have attended training courses abroad in the last five years, and could be only provided at disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arabic Language

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to increase the number of Arabic speakers in his Department. [287013]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) places a great deal of importance on improving the language skills for its staff. It currently has over 40 active Arabic speaker slots (jobs with an operational language requirement). The number of these jobs, and level of language proficiency necessary, are regularly reviewed in the light of requirements.

The FCO offers a mix of full-time and part-time language training, in-country training, and on-the-job training to officers selected for these jobs. In addition, it assesses the level of Arabic language proficiency of the jobholders, through exams accredited to the Chartered Institute of Linguists.

Australia: Diplomatic Service

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria in respect of fair and open competition apply to appointments to the post of High Commissioner to Australia; and on how many occasions an appointment to this post has been made through open competition within the Diplomatic Service in the last 10 years. [287400]

Chris Bryant: No one has been appointed as high commissioner to Australia through Diplomatic Service open competition for the last 10 years.

High commissioners can be appointed either through the civil service recruitment process or by Diplomatic Service Order in Council.

Cybercrime

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on cyber security; and what assessment he has made of the merits of taking steps in co-operation with the US administration to prevent cyber attacks. [286948]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no recent discussions between my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and his US counterpart on cyber security.

The Cabinet Office currently provides the lead for policy on cyber security and has, supported by representatives from across Government, continued to engage closely with the US administration during the development of the UK's recently published Cyber Security Strategy which, in addition to other key areas, addresses the importance of cyber attack prevention. As the strategy explains, the security of cyber space is a transnational issue and, as such, working with international partners, including the US, is essential to achieving the UK's strategic cyber security objectives.

Cyprus: Land

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Cypriot Government on the effects on British citizens of title deed trap fraud perpetrated in Cyprus. [286965]

Chris Bryant: Our high commissioner in Nicosia has made a number of representations to the Cypriot authorities to make clear our concerns, most recently on 27 April 2009. We have been assured that the Cyprus Government will introduce legislation to speed up the issuing of title deeds. Our high commission in Cyprus will remain engaged in supporting British citizens on this issue and regularly meets with action groups formed by British nationals such as the Cypriot Property Action Group to listen to their concerns. Arrangements for the issuing of title deeds are a matter of national competence. However, we will continue to make our concerns clear to the authorities.

Deen International

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to Baroness Warsi of 2 June 2009, House of Lords, *Official Report*, column WA70, on Deen International, when he expects the University of Islamabad to publish its independent report; when he expects the evaluation reports commissioned by his Department in *(a)* Islamabad and *(b)* London to be completed; and if he will place in the Library copies of any of these reports which have already been completed. [287728]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "I am Muslim I am British", a project conducted by Deen International with Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funding, concluded as scheduled on 2 May 2009. FCO guidance requires evaluation reports to be completed within three months of the end of project delivery. The university of Islamabad's evaluation, which is based on over 600 detailed interviews, is currently being finalised and is due to be shortly signed off by the head researcher. The further evaluations in London and Islamabad will be informed by the university's detailed report.

The evaluations are internal FCO documents and we have no plans to place them in the Library of the House.

Departmental Contracts

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* institutions supported by the Higher Education Funding Councils

and *(b)* other organisations and bodies have been awarded contracts by his Department's (i) research analysts and (ii) policy planning staff in each financial year since 2003. [282666]

Chris Bryant: The following institutions supported by the Higher Education Funding Councils have been awarded contracts by Research Analysts since 2003:

Institute for the Study of the Americas (University of London)
Oxford University
Dundee University
London School of Economics
African Studies Centre

No contracts were awarded by Strategy Unit (formerly Policy Planners) to institutions supported by the Higher Education Funding Councils in financial year 2008-09 (the only year for which figures are available for Strategy Unit in its current form).

The following organisations or bodies were awarded contracts for services by Research Analysts in the years from 2003 (contracts for the supply of goods such as office equipment are not included):

Chatham House
Communicaid
Economic and Social Research Council
Factiva
Henry L. Stimson centre
Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies
Linguarama
Rainbow
Royal African Society
World Language Consultants

The following organisations or bodies were awarded contracts for services (contracts for the supply of goods such as office equipment are not included) by the Strategy Unit (formerly Policy Planners) in financial year 2008-09 (the only year for which figures are available for Strategy Unit in its current form):

National School for Government
Overseas Development Institute
International Institute for Strategic Studies
European School for Governance
PA Consulting Group
Ashridge Consulting
Wilton Park Executive Agency
Happy Computers
RUSI Trading Ltd.
Libra Advisory Group
Mary-Louise Clark Associates Ltd.
Open Society Institute
Barkers
Centre for Parliamentary Studies

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each *(a)* database and *(b)* ICT system run by his Department in each year since 2006; and if he will make a statement. [286560]

Chris Bryant: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office complies with the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to information and communications technology systems.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 947W, on departmental internet, which web browser his Department has chosen to replace Internet Explorer 6; what proportion of computers in his Department have been updated; and when he expects the update process to be completed. [287023]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is updating its web browsers to Internet Explorer 7 as part of the deployment of its replacement desktop infrastructure. By the end of June 2009, some 57 per cent. of its networked computers had been updated. Completion is scheduled for the end of May 2010.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of his Department's (i) male employees and (ii) female employees was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287122]

Chris Bryant: As at 1 July 2009, 41 per cent. of the current Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) workforce is female and 59 per cent. is male.

The average hourly rate of basic pay for male staff in the FCO is £20.56 and for female staff £20.11.

These figures are for basic salary only and are taken from the last Equal Pay Audit conducted in the autumn of 2007. The executive summary of the audit highlighted:

> "that average basic salaries for each grade when compared on the grounds of gender, ethnicity and disability are within the 5 per cent. tolerance set out by the EOC (Equal Opportunities Commission)"

(now Equality and Human Rights Commission).

Departmental Publications

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what publications his Department has issued in the UK in the last 12 months. [286243]

Chris Bryant: Details of our publications can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications

Diplomatic Service

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many diplomats in each British diplomatic mission overseas have been accused by the authorities of the host country of committing a serious criminal offence in the period 2004 to 2008, broken down by type of offence. [285106]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* Central records show that no diplomats in any of our diplomatic missions overseas have been accused by the authorities of the host country of committing a serious criminal offence in the period 2004 to 2008.

EU Institutions: Manpower

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals *(a)* applied for and *(b)* have been accepted for traineeships in the European Commission since March 1997. [270842]

David Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 44W.

Foreigners: Honours

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on whom *(a)* honorary knighthood and *(b)* honorary citizenship has been conferred in each year since 1997. [287892]

Chris Bryant: Recipients of honorary awards, including honorary knighthoods, have been published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website since 2007:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/what-we-do/honours

The UK awarded 167 honorary knighthoods between 1997 and 2006, of which 89 were awarded during State and Guest of Government visits. Full details have been placed in the Library of the House.

Honorary knighthoods in the Royal Victorian Order have not been included as they are in the personal gift of The Queen and are not, therefore, administered by the FCO.

The UK does not confer honorary citizenships.

Hamas

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on meetings between representatives of the Government and Hamas. [288495]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK position is clear: we do not believe it is productive to talk to Hamas directly. The military wing of Hamas is proscribed in the UK as a terrorist organisation: they fire rockets at innocent civilians and put ordinary Palestinians in harm's way. We believe that to talk to Hamas directly at this time would simply undermine those Palestinians who are committed to peace.

The Arab League has mandated Egypt to communicate with Hamas. We are in regular contact with both the Arab League and Egypt.

Human Rights

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Association of Tour Operators on introducing a traffic light system to classify foreign tourist destinations as having good, fair or bad human rights records. [287012]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Consular officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are in regular contact with travel industry professionals and associations on a range of issues. It is for individuals to decide where to travel. We would encourage people to take such decisions on the basis of our travel advice and other publicly available information on their proposed destination. The FCO's Annual Human Rights Report, published most recently on 26 March 2009, provides a comprehensive assessment of the human rights record of countries of concern around the world.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the human rights situation in relation to Christians in *(a)* North Korea, *(b)* Saudi Arabia, *(c)* Iraq, *(d)* Afghanistan and *(e)* Somalia; and what representations he has made on that situation to the Government of each such country. [287019]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen or whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned.

The Government continue to be extremely concerned about continuing reports of serious, widespread, and systematic human rights abuses in North Korea, including the suppression of religious freedoms. We raise these concerns with the North Korean authorities at every appropriate opportunity, most recently in February 2009, urging them to engage with the international community, particularly the UN Special Rapporteur on North Korea Human Rights. They continue to refuse to engage on this issue. We are also working with non-governmental organisations, including Christian Solidarity Worldwide, as we prepare for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of North Korea's human rights record at the UN Human Rights Council in December 2009.

The human rights situation in Saudi Arabia remains poor. We particularly oppose the lack of freedom of expression and religion. Saudi Arabia is a Muslim country which does not allow the practice of other religions. We continue to urge the Saudis to respect freedom of religion and to honour article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is done at ministerial, ambassadorial and official level.

In February 2009 the UN UPR reviewed human rights in Saudi Arabia. The UK made a number of recommendations. On 26 March 2009 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2008 Annual Human Rights report was launched by the Foreign Secretary. In the report we highlighted that "the public practice of any religion other than Islam remains banned. Renouncing

religious belief in Islam is an offence punishable by death". Our embassy last raised Freedom of Expression with the Saudi Government in Riyadh on 13 July 2009. We will continue to lobby on this and other important issues.

The security situation in Iraq shows continued signs of improvement, but violence does continue to affect many people, including Christians. The UK continues to encourage the Government of Iraq to protect all communities and to take tough action against those responsible for any acts of violence and intimidation regardless of political, ethnic or religious affiliation.

Promoting human rights is integral to building a stable democracy in Afghanistan. But after 30 years of conflict Afghanistan is starting from a low base. Poverty and weak state institutions are big contributors to human rights violations. Conservative cultural values often exacerbate the severe hardships many still face. We condemn all instances where individuals, including Christians, are persecuted because of their faith or belief and take every opportunity to urge Afghanistan to implement laws and practices which foster tolerance and mutual respect. This includes full implementation of those norms laid out in the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. Our embassy in Kabul continues to follow the human rights situation on the ground closely and raise matters of concern with the Afghan Government.

We recognise that the human rights situation in Somalia has been appalling for a very long time. The ongoing civil conflict has impacted adversely on all sections of society, but particularly on vulnerable ethnic and religious minorities including the small community of Christians. We continue to urge the Transitional Federal Government to combat human rights abuses as an important component of the Djibouti Process to restore peace and stability to the country. We support the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights in Somalia and the work of human rights organisations to gather accurate information and evidence about the situation on the ground.

Iran: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the political situation in Iran. [282305]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to Secretary Clinton by telephone since the Iranian elections on 12 June 2009. We continue to stay in close contact with US officials.

The UK and US share concerns about the Iranian authorities' heavy handed response to post-election protests. Both agree that it is for the Iranian people to decide their own government but that it is incumbent on the Iranian authorities to address the allegations of irregularities.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 628W, on Iran: foreign relations, what recent representations he has made to the Iranian Government on executions in Iran. [286615]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government remain deeply concerned by the increasing use of capital punishment in Iran, which has one of the highest per capita execution rates in the world. We regularly make representations to the Government of Iran, in our bilateral contacts and through the EU, to express general concern about the use of the death penalty in Iran and to raise individual execution cases. We have done so on at least 20 separate occasions in 2009.

In an EU presidency statement dated 5 July 2009, we strongly condemned the recent executions in Iran, in particular the execution of 20 persons on 4 July 2009, in the city of Karaj. Alongside our EU partners we will continue to call on the Iranian authorities to abolish the death penalty completely and, in the meantime, to establish a moratorium on executions as urged by UN General Assembly resolutions 62/149 and 63/168.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 628W, on Iran: foreign relations, what his most recent assessment is of the human rights situation in Iran. [286616]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Iran's human rights record has continued to deteriorate throughout 2009. Even before the recent unrest we were particularly concerned by worrying signs of growing pressure on anyone with foreign contacts, including numerous arrests on counts of espionage and threatening national security. We are also witnessing an increasing use of the death penalty, and the continued practice of juvenile executions.

The violence and brutality we witnessed in response to peaceful protests following the elections only served to compound the genuine concerns long held by the international community with regards to Iran's human rights record. In the aftermath of the elections we are concerned that large numbers of political opponents, students, journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders have been arrested and remain in detention. We are concerned about the conditions under which they are being detained, and that they are being denied access to due legal process.

We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Iranian authorities regarding human rights violations and will continue to do so. The Iranian Government must heed strong calls from the international community and its own people to live up to its freely undertaken human rights commitments by respecting basic human rights and democratic freedoms.

Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made any recent assessment of the economic relationship between Israeli commercial and residential settlements. [287151]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No such assessment has been made.

Israel: Imports

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 856W, on Israel: imports, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the

draft voluntary guidance on origin labelling of produce from the occupied Palestinian territories and *(b)* the minutes of the roundtable meeting with representatives from food retailers and trading organisations. [287258]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is working with other Departments, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Revenue and Customs, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Food Standards Agency with the intention of carrying out a public consultation on the labelling of produce from the Occupied Palestinian Territories shortly. The draft voluntary guidance will be available on DEFRA's website. The details of the roundtable meeting with food retailers and traders will not be disclosed, since to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Libya: Terrorism

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. David Lidington) of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 545-6W, on Libya: terrorism, whether the Prime Minister discussed with President Gaddafi the issue of compensation for UK victims of terrorism at their meeting on 9 July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [287558]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I am acutely aware of the pain caused by Libya's past actions and the victims of Irish Republican Army atrocities have the Government's whole hearted sympathy.

The Government continue to monitor the Libyan position on this matter, and raised it in discussions with Libyan Ministers as recently as February 2009. The Libyans maintain their firm view that they consider the matter closed. The Government therefore see no prospect of a bilateral agreement on this matter and I therefore did not raise this matter with the Libyan Leader.

Mauritania: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration the Government has given to opening an embassy in Mauritania. [276200]

Chris Bryant: We have no plans to open an embassy in Mauritania.

However, we do intend to deploy a diplomatic officer into Nouakchott later this year. The officer will be remote working from, and responsible to, our embassy in Rabat.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Minister for Europe will reply to the letters of 16 April and 14 May from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, regarding expatriates, reference FD7868. [287932]

Chris Bryant: The hon. Member's letters of 16 April 2009 and 14 May 2009 are not for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to answer. My hon. Friend the Minister of State at the Department for Work and Pensions (Angela Eagle), replied to the hon. Member's letters on 17 June 2009.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 548W, on Ministerial policy: advisers, what the names of the three members of his Department based in 10 Downing Street are; what their job descriptions are; for how long each has been posted there; and what advice they provide to his Department while on secondment. [286242]

Chris Bryant: Of the three advisers referred to in the previous answer, Simon McDonald has been officially based at the Cabinet Office, rather than at No. 10, as Foreign Policy Adviser to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, since 2007. Two other members of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff are based at No. 10 as foreign policy advisers. Tom Fletcher since September 2007 and Nick Catsaras since July 2008.

FCO officials at No. 10 advising the Prime Minster on foreign policy issues work very closely with officials from the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he received reports on the export of nuclear weapons technology, blueprints and fissionable material by the Kahuta Nuclear Research Institute in Pakistan to *(a)* Iran, *(b)* Libya, *(c)* North Korea and *(d)* Saudi Arabia; and what steps he has taken in response to those reports. [286818]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2003 reports suggested that AQ Khan, who headed the Kahuta Nuclear Research Institute, supplied technology that could be used to make nuclear weapons to some of the countries mentioned. There is no evidence that Khan provided technology to Saudi Arabia. The UK played a leading role in Libya's renunciation of weapons of mass destruction in December 2003 and we support all the UN Security Council Resolutions in place with regards to Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Pakistan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on Pakistan's policies in the Swat Valley; and what steps he has taken to seek to establish peace in that area. [287548]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation in the Swat Valley on his recent visit to Pakistan with a wide range of Government of Pakistan officials, including President Zardari and Prime Minister Gilani.

The Foreign Secretary also discussed with the Government of Pakistan the need for military gains to be followed by reconstruction and development and commitment to a long-term political strategy for improving governance, justice and services and addressing the roots of militancy.

The UK is working bilaterally and with international partners through the Friends of Democratic Pakistan to support the Government of Pakistan to deliver such a strategy. The UK, through the Department for International Development, has given £22 million in immediate humanitarian assistance for internally displaced people. We continue to lobby international partners to increase their contributions.

Pakistan: Crimes of Violence

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his Pakistani counterpart on the attack on Christians in Bahmani Wala on 30 June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [287085]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are concerned about reports that members of the Christian community in Bahmani Wala, Pakistan have been attacked. The UK supports freedom of religion and condemns persecution because of faith or beliefs. Incidents such as the attack in Bahmani Wala are an example of the sectarian violence and violent extremism that feed the discrimination faced by religious minorities.

With our EU partners, we regularly raise our concerns with the Government of Pakistan over the situation of religious minorities in Pakistan and we will continue to do so. The most recent EU demarche in December 2008 called upon the Government of Pakistan to promote tolerance, and take measures to protect freedom of religion or belief. This demarche also called for the reform of discriminatory legislation and urged the Minister for Minority Affairs to raise awareness about abuses against minorities and to increase their political representation at all levels.

Bilaterally, both in London and through our High Commission, officials regularly raise the treatment of minorities with their Pakistani interlocutors and will continue to do so. My hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), the former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, met Shahbaz Bhatti, Pakistan's Minister for Minority Affairs, during her visit to Pakistan in February 2009. She raised concerns about the difficulties faced by religious minorities in Pakistan, and the misuse of blasphemy legislation.

Palestinians

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent reports of Palestinians working in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory being subject to *(a)* restrictions on their involvement, *(b)* detention, *(c)* removal of their work permits, *(d)* the loss of land and *(e)* other forms of coercion by Israeli soldiers. [287156]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We follow closely the situation of Palestinians across the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. But we have not received specific reports relating to Palestinians working in settlements.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports his Department has received of the terms and conditions of employment of *(a)* Palestinian, *(b)* Israeli and *(c)* Thai workers employed on the Israeli settlements of the occupied Palestinian territory. [287159]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not received such reports.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 632W, on Palestinians, what response he has received from his Israeli counterpart to his call for Israel to freeze settlement construction; and following the demolition of houses in East Jerusalem, if he will call for the suspension of the EU/Israel Association Agreement. [287259]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is still the need for more movement from Israel, including a complete freeze in settlement construction, in line with Israel's Roadmap commitments. We will continue to make our position clear both publicly and privately.

On the second point, EU Foreign Ministers emphasised on 15 June 2009 that an upgrade in the relationship must be set against the context of our shared interests and objectives, including progress on the middle east peace process. The EU proposed that the current plan should remain in place for the time being.

Palestinians: Children

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent reports of the use of child labour in the occupied Palestinian territory. [287154]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have received no such reports.

Palestinians: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the working conditions of Palestinians employed in the Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory; and on what evidential basis the assessment was made. [287158]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no such assessment.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of businesses in Israeli settlements which export goods or produce to the UK which have been built on Palestinian private property. [287162]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no such assessment.

Ports: Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has received from French companies operating in Britain on business rates in relation to British ports. [284176]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

We have received one representation from a British registered company which is a subsidiary of a French company.

Russia: Diplomatic Service

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many locally employed British embassy staff in Russia have immunity from jurisdiction under Article 38.1 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961. [287300]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No locally employed members of staff at British diplomatic missions in the Russian Federation have immunity under Article 38 (1) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the merits of conferring diplomatic status on non-Diplomatic Service staff employed by UK posts in the Russian Federation in accordance with the Diplomatic Service Regulations 2006. [287301]

Chris Bryant: Staff are appointed under article 7 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, according to the functions they perform at the mission. In practice, the privileges and immunities staff enjoy stem from the receiving state's recognition that they have been appropriately classified, in line with their functions.

The diplomatic service regulations do not apply to locally engaged staff who are employed on local terms and conditions, governed by local law and practice.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed the application of economic sanctions to Sri Lanka with his counterparts in other governments in the last two years. [287204]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have held wide ranging discussions with partners in the international community on the situation in Sri Lanka, but there have been no formal discussions at the EU or UN on economic sanctions. There are currently no economic embargoes or sanctions in place against Sri Lanka. It is important to ensure any action does not adversely affect the Sri Lankan people themselves.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of recent reports of human rights abuses in refugee camps in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [287381]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are increasingly concerned about the lack of freedom of movement in the camps for internally displaced persons (IDP) and the restrictions put on protection activities, including ensuring the safety of the IDPs, reuniting unaccompanied children with their families and registration of the IDP population as a whole.

We continue to encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to do everything possible to ensure the civilian nature of the camps and allow humanitarian agencies to operate effectively on the ground. I refer to the written ministerial statement by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development (Mr. Thomas) on 14 July 2009 *Official Report*, columns 12-13WS, which contains further information on the latest humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the UN Human Rights Council on a full investigation into alleged human rights abuses during the recent conflict in Sri Lanka. [287382]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During the UN Human Rights Council Special Session on 26-27 May 2009, the UK made clear our concerns about events in Sri Lanka during the recent conflict. We believe it is important there should be an independent investigation into what happened because the extent of civilian casualties during the conflict remains unclear. The UK and the EU did our utmost to reach a consensual outcome at the Special Session and we are disappointed that the adopted resolution did not address many of our concerns.

A copy of the UK's full statement can be found here:

http://ukungeneva.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdfl/hrc-sri-lanka-statement-26052009

In addition, the UK endorses the EU's calls of 18 May 2009 for an independent inquiry into possible violations of international humanitarian law. It is important that any investigation is credible and transparent.

Sri Lanka: International Assistance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Sri Lanka on access of aid agencies to refugee camps in that country. [287380]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In addition to the recent representations outlined by my hon. Friend the Minister of State at the Department for International Development (Mr. Michael Foster) in his reply of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 32W, we continue to raise the issue of access to the camps with the Government of Sri Lanka and have urged them to work in partnership with the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies to address the ongoing needs of internally displaced persons (IDP).

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, also released a statement on 9 July 2009 urging the Government of Sri Lanka to continue its dialogue with the Red Cross in relation to the civilians in IDP camps. A copy of the statement can be found here:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=20551605

Ukraine: Embassies

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the merits of establishing a network of honorary consuls in Ukraine. [286928]

Chris Bryant: We have no honorary consuls in Ukraine, and there are currently no plans to establish such a network.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consular provision there is for UK citizens *(a)* residing in and *(b)* visiting the Crimea region of Ukraine; and if he will make a statement. [286929]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Kiev provides consular assistance to British nationals residing in or visiting Ukraine, including the Crimea region.

Ukraine: Monuments

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the condition of the war memorial and its immediate surroundings at Cathcart Hill, near Sevastopol; and what information his Department holds on *(a)* the terms under which the memorial is maintained and *(b)* the body responsible for its maintenance. [286982]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Kyiv, in conjunction with local Sevastopol authorities, has been actively seeking a successful resolution to the long-standing issue of the Cathcart Hill monument. This private monument was built by a local entrepreneur in 1993 supported by public subscription, but has fallen into disrepair due to weathering, vandalism, theft and lack of maintenance by its owner.

Following the efforts of the embassy, the land on which the monument stands and associated historical artefacts have now been transferred to the ownership of the Sevastopol City Administration, a prerequisite for the expenditure of Ukrainian state funds. Work is now underway for the official British Crimean War memorial near the village of Dergachi to become the focus for official commemoration with the complex at Cathcart Hill being simplified to become a place for quiet contemplation.

Western Sahara

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek to ensure that the rights of the Saharawi population of Western Sahara to enjoy specific natural resources, as stated in Article 1 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, are fulfilled. [288001]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara, providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. In accordance with UN Security Resolution 1871 of 30 April 2009, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary General and his Personal Envoy, Christopher Ross, to facilitate a negotiated solution to the conflict.

The UK maintains its position that Morocco, as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration—including the extraction and exportation of natural resources—do not adversely affect the interests of the people in Western Sahara.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 20 July 2009

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Young People

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many stomach pumps were administered in accident and emergency departments *(a)* to under 16 year-olds, *(b)* to under 25 year olds and *(c)* in total in each of the last five years. [287369]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data on the administration of stomach pumps in accident and emergency departments is not collected centrally.

Allergies: Consultants

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 685W, on allergies, (1) if he will make it his policy to increase the number of *(a)* adult and *(b)* paediatric allergy consultants; [288306]

(2) if he will make it his policy to increase the number of specialist allergy training posts available. [288307]

Ann Keen: In 2007 the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee published a report on allergy. The Government published a response to that report in November 2007. An update on the current situation regarding allergy services has recently been placed in the Library.

As part of implementing the House of Lords recommendations, in June 2007 the Department created five additional allergy and immunology training posts.

Workforce planning in the national health service is managed locally and led by the strategic health authorities (SHAs) taking into account the national policy direction. SHAs assess with local services and clinicians the need for posts for allergists.

The National Occupational Standards developed by Skills for Health, together with the development of care pathways and clinical guidance, will help enhance the knowledge and expertise of primary care staff caring for patients with allergies

Childbirth: Shropshire

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage change in rates of birth to *(a)* UK-born mothers and *(b)* foreign-born mothers has been in the Shropshire County Primary Care Trust area since 2001. [288431]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about what the percentage change in rates of birth to (a) UK born mothers and (b) foreign born mothers has been in the Shropshire County Primary Care Trust area since 2001. (288431)

In order to calculate the requested birth rates, population estimates for UK born and foreign born females by five-year age group for Shropshire County PCT are required. These estimates are only available at the national level.

Estimated birth rates for UK born and foreign born women in England and Wales have been published for 2004-2007 (Table 1). These rates show that fertility among UK born women has risen since 2004 while fertility among foreign born women, although higher, has remained relatively unchanged.

Table 1: Estimated total fertility rates for UK born and foreign born women, England and Wales, 2004-07

	Total fertility rate			
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
UK born women	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8
Foreign born women	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5

Source:
Birth registrations and Annual Population Survey.

The number of live births to UK born and foreign born mothers are available from birth registration. Table 2 below shows the number of live births to UK born and foreign born mothers usually resident in Shropshire County PCT in 2001 and 2007 (latest year available). The final two columns show the percentage change in live births to UK born and foreign born mothers between 2001 and 2007 in Shropshire County PCT and England and Wales. The percentage change in the number of births to UK born and foreign born women will reflect both changes in the size and age structure of the UK born and foreign born populations and any changes in birth rates.

Table 2: Live births to UK and foreign born mothers and percentage change, Shropshire county PCT, 2001-07

	County of birth of mother			
	Shropshire county PCT			*England and Wales*
	Live births 2001	*Live births 2007*	*Percentage change 2001-07*	*Percentage change 2001-07*
UK born	2,510	2,676	7	7
Foreign born	118	188	59	64
All	2,628	2,864	9	16

Source:
Birth registrations

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last 12 months. [287531]

Phil Hope: This information is not centrally collected.

Dental Services: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time for access to NHS dental services was in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; [287978]

(2) how many people were waiting for access to NHS dental services in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [287980]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287333]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's 2008-09 Resource Accounts were laid before the House of Commons on the 14 July (HC456), and copies are available in the Vote Office. The Resource Accounts will be published by The Stationery Office by the end of July.

Departmental Consultants

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on management consultants in each year since 1996-97. [287692]

Phil Hope: Specific information detailing spend on consultancy has been routinely collected by the Department since April 2005. Information on consultancy spend before April 2005 is not held by the Department.

The figures from April 2005 until March 2008 are shown as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	133
2006-07	205
2007-08	132

In July 2008, the Department implemented a new business management system which has given the Department the scope to be more specific about the nature of each of the consultancy commissions.

Work is ongoing to verify and validate the complete breakdown 2008-09 consultancy spend information with this new level of detail. We will endeavour to place the results in the Library shortly.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on non-medical consultants in each year since 2005. [288451]

Phil Hope: The figures from April 2005 until March 2008 are as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	133
2006-07	205
2007-08	132

In July 2008, the Department implemented a new business management system which has given the Department the scope to be more specific about the nature of each of the management consultancy commissions.

Work is ongoing to verify and validate the complete breakdown 2008-09 management consultancy spend information with this new level of detail. We will endeavour to place the results in the Library shortly.

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287801]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The requested information is not collected centrally by the Department.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database become operational; and if he will make a statement; [284905]

(2) what categories of personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each category of information began to be collected; and if he will make a statement; [285981]

(3) what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each database expected to become operational in the next five years and which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286153]

Phil Hope: A list of the databases managed by the Department and its agencies that hold personal information on members of the public has been placed in the Library. All such databases are managed in compliance with the Department's responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998. Since the publication of the cross government data handling review in June 2008, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

The categories of personal information contained in Department of Health databases are set out in the Department's entry in the Register of Data Controllers, the Information Commissioner's record of the annual notifications of processing that all data controllers are obliged to provide. A copy of the Department's current entry has been placed in the Library. The categories listed in the Department's entry are: personal details; family, lifestyle and social circumstances; education and training details; employment details; financial details; good or services provided; racial or ethnic origin; religious or other beliefs; physical or mental health or condition; sexual life. To provide a more detailed analysis linking categories of personal data to each database and stating when information in each category began to be collected would incur disproportionate cost.

A table which lists databases expected to go live in the next five years with brief descriptions of the categories

of information they will contain and estimates of number of individuals whose details they will hold, has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Hospitality

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the declaration of gifts and hospitality by *(a)* its staff, *(b)* staff of non-departmental public bodies which his Department sponsors and *(c)* NHS employees. [286637]

Phil Hope: All staff in the Department are required to comply with the Civil Management Service Code guidance on gifts and hospitality. The Department also expects its non-departmental public bodies to abide by the same principles. National health service staff are required to comply with the guidance Standards of Business Conduct for NHS Staff, issued in 1993. Foundation trusts are free to develop their own guidance for staff.

Departmental Procurement

Lovely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287140]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Following the publication of the Glover report in November 2008 the Office of Government Commerce established its Access4All programme in April 2009. This was developed to co-ordinate the implementation of the Glover Committee recommendations across Government and the public sector. The Department is represented in this initiative and will continue to participate fully as it develops.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many interns work in his Department; what terms of reference apply to their appointment; what remuneration they receive; and how long on average an intern appointment lasts. [286424]

Phil Hope: The Department has committed to five places on the New Graduate Internships Programme announced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills earlier this year.

The detailed arrangements for these graduate internships, including specific terms of reference and remuneration are yet to be agreed. The placements will last a minimum of 12 weeks and aim to offer new graduates project focused work that will build their employability, and help them make informed choices about future career paths.

The Department has also placed nine students on the Cabinet Office's Ethnic Minority Summer Development Programme this summer. This offers training placements in Government Departments to high calibre candidates from black and ethnic minority backgrounds or those with disabilities, with the aim of increasing representation from those groups in the Fast Stream and Senior Civil Service. Placements last eight weeks and those taking part receive £350 per week in London and £300 per week outside London.

The Department also regularly takes on one year placement students and summer students within the analytical community. In 2008-09 there were eight students on one year placements and four summer students. They are paid a maximum of £19,662 per annum on a pro rata basis in London and £16,462 outside London.

Dermatology: Pharmacy

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects work to start on developing a future curriculum for pharmacists so that an improvement in the level of dermatology education can be included; and if he will make a statement. [287877]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the White Paper, "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future" (Cm7341), we set out plans to ensure that the pharmacy undergraduate degree course and pre-registration training provides pharmacists with clinical competencies to deliver the services of the future. Since February 2009, we have been working with the Modernising Pharmacy Careers Programme Board to develop a new model for undergraduate and pre-registration training and proposals for improving pharmacist postgraduate training, including where this supports better patient access to more specialist services. The Board, led by the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, brings together wide-ranging pharmacy expertise and experience from schools of pharmacy, professional regulation, hospital and community pharmacy, research and the United Kingdom pharmaceutical industry.

Dermatology: Training

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he require dermatology to be a mandatory part of medical student and GP training. [287876]

Ann Keen: The content of curriculum and quality and standard of training for medical students and general practitioners is not the responsibility of the Department but the responsibility of the appropriate professional regulatory body.

However, the Department is committed to working with the professional regulatory bodies, Royal colleges and others to promote high standards of education and training to ensure that students and doctors are equipped with the up-to-date knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for professional practice.

Diabetes: Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for a diabetic ulcer in each of the last five years. [287376]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected in the requested format. Preventing the long-term complications of diabetes, including diabetic foot ulcers, is a key part of the Diabetes National Service Framework. This is supplemented by guidance from the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence on the prevention and management of foot problems in people with diabetes. This recommends that people with diabetes should have their feet examined by trained personnel as part of the annual review process. We continue to work with NHS Diabetes to support the national health service in the

provision and delivery of diabetes services. In June 2009, Diabetes UK in partnership with NHS Diabetes published Putting Feet First, which is guidance to support the management and prevention of diabetic foot disease in hospitals. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Diamorphine

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the adequacy of the stock of diamorphine for the treatment of patients with serious or terminal conditions. [287775]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr. Sanders) on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 225W.

Drugs: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of the European Commission's proposals on an amendment to Council Directive 2001/83/EC in relation to the prevention of the counterfeiting of medicinal products. [287812]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government strongly support the overall aims of these proposals to strengthen the medicines supply chain from the growing threat from counterfeit medicines. In drawing up their position for the European Union negotiations, the Government have consulted widely on the European Commission's proposals and continue to discuss the implications of the detailed provisions with the relevant sectors of the pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders.

Epilepsy: Medical Treatments

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts have implemented the clinical guidelines for the treatment of epilepsy set out by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2004. [288309]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of national health service trusts acting on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance for the treatment of epilepsy is not collected.

I will shortly be writing to all the strategic health authority long-term condition leads drawing their attention to the importance of implementing the NICE guidance on epilepsy.

Fujitsu

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1199-1200W, for what reason each breach of contract notice to Fujitsu under the Local Service Provider contract was issued; [286966]

(2) with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1199-1200W, on NHS: information and communication technology, what definition of the term contractor event of default he uses; to which suppliers and on what dates, each contractor event of default was issued; and for what reason each such notice was issued. [286967]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 171-73W.

"Contractor event of default" is defined in Local Service Provider contracts, and covers a wide range of possible circumstances in which the supplier may fail or cease to be compliant with the supplier's obligations or duties as described in the contract. These include failure to achieve key milestones, level or quality of service failures, breach of confidentiality, loss of patient data, or insolvency.

Health Professions: Training

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* nurse return to practice course places and *(b)* health visitor return to practice course places were available in each of the last 10 years; [287890]

(2) how many applications for places on *(a)* nurse return to practice courses and *(b)* health visitor return to practice courses were received in each of the last 10 years. [287891]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Health Services: Buildings

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the use of portable buildings for provision of medical and clinical services in acute hospitals. [287027]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not produce policies on the use of portable buildings.

National health service organisations are locally responsible for the provision of facilities including temporary buildings. All clinical, cleanliness, safety and quality, requirements that apply to permanent buildings will also apply to temporary ones.

Health Services: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Draft Legislative Programme 2009, Cm 7654, page 70, who in Oxfordshire will have responsibility for ensuring *(a)* that patients receive (i) hospital treatment within 18 months and (ii) access to a cancer specialist within two weeks and *(b)* that people between the ages of 40 and 74 years of age receive free NHS health checks. [284937]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Proposals will be brought forward in the autumn.

Health Services: Prisoners

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners received treatment for self-harm in each of the last five years. [287373]

Phil Hope: The number of prisoners who have received treatment for self harm in each of the last five years is not collected centrally by the Department.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners received treatment for *(a)* drug misuse and *(b)* alcohol misuse in each of the last five years. [287374]

Phil Hope: The Department does not centrally collect the information on the number of prisoners who have received treatment for alcohol and drug misuse requested for each of the last five years.

However, mechanisms have been put in place as of 1 April 2009 and prisons are now collecting baseline data on the number of drug users in effective treatment. This will enable the Department to collect comparable data for the treatment of drug misuse from April 2010.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent health visitors were employed per 1,000 of the population in each primary care trust area in England in each year since 2002. [286612]

Ann Keen: Figures are not collected per 1,000 population. However, the following table outlines the number per 10,000.

It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs) to determine how to use its funding to commission services to meet the health needs of their local populations. However, to support the Child Health Strategy and the Lord Laming recommendations on safeguarding, an 'Action on Health Visiting' programme was agreed at a joint Department of Health/Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association (CPHVA) summit on 5 May 2009.

This will be taken forward in partnership with the CPHVA and other stakeholders. Action will be prioritised to increase workforce capacity and capability and to clarify the contribution of health visitors to the Healthy Child Programme, to working with vulnerable children and families and to safeguarding.

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors in England per 10,000 population by strategic health authority (SHA) area and by primary care trust (PCT) area as at 30 September each specified year

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
England		2.01	2.03	1.96	1.86	1.78	1.72
North East strategic health authority area		2.50	2.50	2.43	2.28	2.25	2.03
County Durham PCT	5ND	2.38	2.69	2.37	2.23	2.17	0.18
Darlington PCT	5J9	2.29	2.32	2.03	2.02	2.13	13.94
Gateshead PCT	5KF	2.11	2.06	2.11	2.23	2.07	1.91
Hartlepool PCT	5D9	2.81	3.15	3.44	1.62	1.43	1.28
Middlesbrough PCT	5KM	3.77	4.11	3.63	3.36	1.28	0.00
Newcastle PCT	5D7	2.46	2.47	2.47	2.25	2.56	2.37
North Tees PCT	5E1	2.27	2.22	2.07	2.10	1.96	1.75
North Tyneside PCT	5D8	2.36	2.14	1.87	1.70	2.59	2.29
Northumberland Care Trust	TAC	2.60	2.69	2.56	2.54	2.67	1.22
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	5QR	1.63	1.74	1.94	1.92	1.95	3.27
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	2.49	2.29	2.57	2.42	2.57	2.65
Sunderland Teaching PCT	5KL	2.57	2.19	2.50	2.45	2.41	2.04
North West strategic health authority area		2.33	2.43	2.40	2.36	2.20	2.15
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5HG	2.67	2.46	2.65	2.79	2.69	2.73
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	5CC	3.90	3.71	3.35	3.13	3.11	3.43
Blackpool PCT	5HP	2.88	3.03	3.20	3.14	3.37	3.81
Bolton PCT	5HQ	2.41	2.42	2.38	2.38	2.56	2.44
Bury PCT	5JX	1.98	2.01	2.04	2.34	2.19	2.47
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	5NP	1.91	1.86	1.78	1.70	1.51	1.51
Central Lancashire PCT	5NG	2.44	2.61	2.56	2.55	2.12	1.88
Cumbria PCT	5NE	2.05	2.59	2.35	2.29	1.76	1.75
East Lancashire PCT	5NH	2.75	2.74	2.65	2.47	2.30	2.12
Halton and St. Helens PCT	5NM	1.87	1.96	1.96	1.71	1.66	1.92
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	5NQ	2.71	2.49	2.51	2.50	2.63	3.09
Knowsley PCT	5J4	3.26	3.23	3.65	3.78	3.87	3.04
Liverpool PCT	5NL	2.36	2.28	2.31	1.96	2.14	2.02
Manchester PCT	5NT	2.23	2.16	2.40	2.55	2.56	2.23
North Lancashire PCT	5NF	1.51	1.53	1.41	1.47	1.50	2.19
Oldham PCT	5J5	1.51	2.74	2.62	2.36	2.27	1.87
Salford PCT	5F5	2.75	2.60	2.63	2.45	2.12	1.49
Sefton PCT	5NJ	1.82	1.92	2.04	1.94	1.91	1.66
Stockport PCT	5F7	3.35	3.96	3.72	4.04	2.17	1.95
Tameside and Glossop PCT	5LH	2.45	2.35	2.08	2.49	2.35	2.13
Trafford PCT	5NR	2.37	2.61	2.27	2.20	2.08	1.86
Warrington PCT	5J2	2.06	1.80	1.87	1.84	1.75	1.96

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors in England per 10,000 population by strategic health authority (SHA) area and by primary care trust (PCT) area as at 30 September each specified year

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
West Cheshire PCT	5NN	1.87	1.98	1.90	1.74	2.00	2.09
Wirral PCT	5NK	1.80	2.10	2.21	2.05	2.15	2.11
Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority areas	5JE	2.26	2.25	2.19	2.10	1.99	1.90
Barnsley PCT	5NY	2.43	2.44	2.36	2.19	1.97	2.17
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT		2.71	2.55	2.43	2.61	2.48	2.39
Calderdale PCT	5J6	2.36	2.41	2.63	2.73	2.43	2.41
Doncaster PCT	5N5	2.42	2.54	2.65	2.44	2.54	2.58
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	5NW	1.84	1.82	1.75	1.73	1.68	1.57
Hull Teaching PCT	5NX	2.53	2.75	2.71	2.63	2.55	2.34
Kirklees PCT	5N2	2.33	2.10	1.98	1.93	1.61	1.63
Leeds PCT	5N1	1.95	2.09	2.07	1.82	1.74	1.67
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust	TAN	2.37	2.34	2.13	2.23	2.23	2.21
North Lincolnshire PCT	5EF	1.96	2.26	2.04	2.32	2.36	1.91
North Yorkshire and York PCT	5NV	2.16	2.06	1.99	1.71	1.57	1.32
Rotherham PCT	5H8	2.40	2.24	2.34	2.16	2.14	1.98
Sheffield PCT	5N4	2.13	2.01	1.95	1.87	1.75	1.70
Wakefield District PCT	5N3	2.39	2.30	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.24
East Midlands strategic health authority area		1.78	1.80	1.75	1.75	1.65	1.58
Bassetlaw PCT	5ET	1.38	1.20	1.04	1.17	1.46	1.38
Derby City PCT	5N7	2.54	2.31	1.95	1.84	1.92	1.97
Derbyshire County PCT	5N6	1.87	1.93	1.98	1.89	1.93	1.86
Leicester City Teaching PCT	5PC	1.89	2.28	2.64	2.34	2.38	1.94
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	5PA	1.21	1.30	1.21	1.20	1.13	1.09
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N9	1.71	1.69	1.60	1.57	1.55	1.62
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	5PD	1.75	1.69	1.69	1.65	1.61	1.41
Nottingham City PCT	5EM	2.62	2.53	2.36	2.34	2.19	2.38
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	5N8	1.69	1.73	1.57	1.91	1.38	1.25

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors in England per 10,000 population by strategic health authority (SHA) area and by primary care trust (PCT) area as at 30 September each specified year

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
West Midlands strategic health authority area		2.05	2.05	1.83	1.73	1.85	1.82
Birmingham East and North PCT	5PG	1.95	1.73	1.58	1.48	1.92	1.70
Coventry Teaching PCT	5MD	1.72	1.57	1.51	1.41	1.22	1.15
Dudley PCT	5PE	1.68	1.76	1.76	1.54	1.64	1.91
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5MX	1.46	1.28	1.26	1.34	2.66	2.46
Herefordshire PCT	5CN	1.94	1.91	1.23	1.27	1.42	1.09
North Staffordshire PCT	5PH	2.25	2.26	1.88	1.95	1.84	1.78
Sandwell PCT	5PF	2.13	2.47	2.46	2.15	2.24	2.22
Shropshire County PCT	5M2	2.06	2.10	2.02	1.79	1.61	1.47
Solihull Care Trust	TAM	2.10	2.44	2.21	2.32	2.43	2.12
South Birmingham PCT	5M1	1.73	1.63	1.60	1.80	1.58	1.75
South Staffordshire PCT	5PK	1.98	2.11	1.99	1.96	1.76	1.73
Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT	5PJ	3.77	3.06	2.65	2.40	2.31	2.69
Telford and Wrekin PCT	5MK	2.70	2.63	2.43	2.26	1.94	2.09
Walsall Teaching PCT	5M3	1.74	1.90	1.83	1.66	1.85	1.88
Warwickshire PCT	5PM	1.63	1.64	1.56	1.51	1.50	1.44
Wolverhampton City PCT	5MV	2.10	2.34	0.60	0.30	2.03	2.04
Worcestershire PCT	5PL	2.12	2.07	2.13	2.04	1.96	1.87
East of England strategic health authority area		1.64	1.75	1.73	1.64	1.51	1.47
Bedfordshire PCT	5P2	1.78	1.87	1.85	1.74	1.63	1.67
Cambridgeshire PCT	5PP	1.12	1.41	1.28	1.14	1.03	0.75
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	5P3	1.55	1.60	1.78	1.63	1.42	1.52
Great Yarmouth and Waveny Teaching PCT	5PR	1.79	2.18	1.98	2.14	1.83	1.65
Luton PCT	5GC	2.67	2.75	2.56	2.28	1.54	1.89
Mid Essex PCT5PX	5PX	1.29	1.41	1.43	1.36	1.26	1.18
Norfolk PCT	5PQ	1.39	1.52	1.76	1.53	1.44	1.41
North East Essex PCT	5PW	1.32	1.27	1.36	1.41	1.22	1.14

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors in England per 10,000 population by strategic health authority (SHA) area and by primary care trust (PCT) area as at 30 September each specified year

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Peterborough PCT	5PN	2.26	2.69	2.17	2.49	2.50	2.17
South East Essex PCT	5PI	1.85	1.89	1.97	1.97	1.91	1.65
South West Essex Teaching PCT	5PY	1.77	1.86	1.75	1.87	1.88	1.92
Suffolk PCT	5PT	1.62	1.69	1.49	1.48	1.21	1.44
West Essex PCT	5PV	1.51	1.59	1.65	1.60	1.38	1.44
West Hertfordshire PCT	5PN	1.84	1.84	1.79	1.47	1.67	1.50
London strategic health authority area		2.01	1.99	1.93	1.88	1.78	1.73
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	2.20	2.17	2.04	1.99	1.82	1.26
Barnet PCT	5A9	1.66	1.47	1.43	0.96	0.69	0.75
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	1.93	1.85	1.84	1.87	1.78	1.96
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	0.07	2.14	2.30	1.94	1.60	1.36
Bromley PCT	5A7	2.03	2.21	2.14	2.09	1.97	1.91
Camden PCT	5K7	1.16	1.48	1.17	1.22	0.97	1.19
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	1.87	1.62	1.56	1.90	1.86	2.17
Croydon PCT	5K9	1.71	1.72	1.76	1.74	1.69	1.63
Ealing PCT	5HX	2.11	1.90	1.99	1.94	1.86	1.82
Enfield PCT	5C1	1.67	1.57	1.56	1.48	1.45	1.36
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	2.70	2.40	2.15	2.79	2.22	2.03
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	2.94	3.04	3.13	3.09	2.82	3.21
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	2.25	1.88	1.88	1.46	1.70	0.21
Harrow PCT	5K6	1.73	1.69	1.68	1.14	1.47	1.43
Havering PCT	5A4	3.20	1.54	1.65	1.54	1.45	1.31
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	1.59	1.74	1.98	1.70	1.59	1.59
Hounslow PCT	5HY	1.69	1.63	1.28	1.24	1.25	1.45
Islington PCT	5K8	2.13	1.59	1.37	1.67	1.73	1.48
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	1.50	1.59	1.18	1.45	1.56	1.47
Kingston PCT	5A5	1.69	1.87	1.70	1.62	1.48	1.26
Lambeth PCT	5LD	2.35	2.27	2.07	1.90	1.43	1.43
Lewisham PCT	5LF	3.77	3.78	2.78	3.06	2.65	2.64
Newham PCT	5C5	1.88	1.46	1.61	1.63	1.68	1.36
Redbridge PCT	5NA	1.29	1.04	0.92	1.23	1.28	1.48
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	1.90	1.97	1.92	1.85	1.93	1.64
Southwark PCT	5LE	3.07	2.94	2.76	2.96	2.71	3.20
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	2.00	2.22	2.13	2.09	2.12	1.92

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors in England per 10,000 population by strategic health authority (SHA) area and by primary care trust (PCT) area as at 30 September each specified year

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	1.61	1.48	1.83	1.89	2.30	2.19
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	1.83	2.05	1.97	1.87	1.65	1.89
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	2.41	2.32	2.59	2.11	1.87	1.68
Westminster PCT	5LC	2.03	2.60	2.52	2.47	2.48	1.97
South East Coast strategic health authority area		1.78	1.82	1.68	1.39	1.38	1.35
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5P7	2.02	1.71	1.86	0.95	1.59	1.52
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	5QA	1.61	1.55	1.61	1.61	1.55	1.62
Hastings and Rother PCT	5P8	1.76	1.76	1.82	1.79	1.85	1.85
Medway PCT	5L3	2.08	2.43	2.29	2.15	2.10	1.84
Surrey PCT	5P5	1.57	1.59	1.48	1.31	1.22	1.11
West Kent PCT	5P9	1.81	1.76	1.56	0.54	0.59	1.06
West Sussex Teaching PCT	5P6	1.50	1.89	1.47	1.58	1.37	1.08
South Central strategic health authority area		2.05	1.86	1.82	1.67	1.57	1.40
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	5QG	1.92	1.76	1.77	1.73	1.72	1.44
Berkshire West PCT	5QF	1.83	1.84	1.84	1.79	1.70	1.48
Buckinghamshire PCT	5QD	2.60	2.36	2.07	1.54	1.64	1.59
Hampshire PCT	5QC	1.86	1.56	1.49	1.32	1.25	1.03
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	5QT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.93	1.12
Milton Keynes PCT	5CQ	2.63	2.07	2.34	2.43	2.32	2.14
Oxfordshire PCT	5QE	2.21	2.15	2.13	1.94	1.79	1.79
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	5FE	1.79	1.91	1.76	1.88	1.81	1.57
Southampton City PCT	5L1	2.08	2.61	2.27	2.36	1.47	1.10
South West strategic health authority area		1.81	1.89	1.84	1.69	1.64	1.61
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5FL	2.00	2.15	1.97	1.89	1.87	1.71
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	5QN	1.27	1.77	2.05	2.00	1.77	1.90
Bristol Teaching PCT	5QJ	1.76	2.81	2.53	2.45	2.16	2.22

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors in England per 10,000 population by strategic health authority (SHA) area and by primary care trust (PCT) area as at 30 September each specified year

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	5QP	1.78	1.72	1.77	1.76	1.66	1.67
Devon PCT	5QQ	1.51	1.45	1.42	1.49	1.30	1.19
Dorset PCT	5QM	2.47	1.75	1.91	1.68	1.59	1.57
Gloucestershire PCT	5QH	2.07	2.12	1.93	1.09	1.70	1.73
North Somerset PCT	5M8	1.34	1.48	1.62	1.49	1.40	1.51
Plymouth Teaching PCT	5F1	2.65	2.45	2.31	2.08	1.91	1.85
Somerset PCT	5QL	0.87	1.55	1.84	1.81	1.60	1.41
South Gloucestershire PCT	5A3	2.46	2.32	1.42	1.29	1.48	1.49
Swindon PCT	5K3	2.17	1.95	1.66	1.90	1.87	1.48
Torbay Care Trust	TAL	1.80	0.00	1.76	1.69	1.50	1.60
Wiltshire PCT	5QK	1.78	1.62	1.63	1.48	1.44	1.45

Notes:
1. Figures are based on full-time equivalent health visitor figures.
2. PCT figures have been mapped to the current organisational structure.
3. 2008 population figures are not yet available. Figures have been calculated using workforce figures and population estimates from the previous year, so 2008 figures are calculated using 2008 census figures and 2007 population estimates.
4. A small number of health visitors are employed by NHS trusts for which population figures are not available. These staff are included in SHA area and England totals.
5. Figures are at one decimal place per 1,000 and two decimal places per 10,000.

Sources:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census. PCO Mid-Year Final Population Estimates, 2001 Population Census Based. ONS Population Estimates.

Health: Children

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations he has received on the usefulness of his Department's guidance on the maximum recommended amount of time infants aged up to six months should spend in *(a)* pushchairs and *(b)* car seats of categories 0 and 0+; [281704]

(2) what guidance *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the NHS issue on the maximum safe length of time for an infant aged up to six months to spend in a car seat. [285820]

Ann Keen: No guidance has been issued by this Department on the length of time an infant aged up to six months should spend in either a pushchair or car seat.

Our publication the "Pregnancy Book" provides general advice on the use of pushchairs and car seats. We advise that pushchairs are only suitable for babies if they have fully reclining seats which allow the baby to lie flat. In a car, a safety restraint must be used. It is dangerous and illegal for a baby to be carried in their parents' arms in a car. Similar advice is given in "Birth to Five"; guidance on parenthood and the first five years of life.

Copies of the relevant chapters have been placed in the Library.

Heart Diseases

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people each primary care trust had registered as having *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, *(b)* asthma, *(c)* tuberculosis and *(d)* lung cancer on the latest date for which figures are available. [286913]

Ann Keen: Figures for the number of people, in England, registered with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or asthma can be found in the 2007-08 Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), a copy has already been placed in the Library.

The table in question, PCT level QOF tables 2007-08—prevalence.xls, can be viewed on the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2007/08/data-tables

A copy of the table has been placed in the Library.

We do not hold figures for the number of people registered with tuberculosis or lung cancer.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 511WA, on hospital wards, what local improvements and changes *(a)* were planned to be implemented and *(b)* were implemented by the end of June 2009; and how much was spent on each improvement and change which has been implemented. [288570]

Ann Keen: Strategic health authority (SHA) plans for the £100 million Privacy and Dignity Fund have already been placed in the Library, detailing the planned improvements and changes.

The latest information from the SHAs confirms almost 50 per cent. of the schemes were completed by the end of June. Examples of the work undertaken include new and refurbished bathrooms and toilets, curtains and partitions to improve the privacy of patients and a number of communication initiatives to raise awareness with staff, the patients and the public. Regular monitoring of progress against SHA plans continues.

Information is not available to confirm the funding for each individual project.

Hospitals: Admissions

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners were admitted to hospital due to *(a)* drug misuse, *(b)* alcohol misuse and *(c)* self-harm in each of the last five years. [287372]

Phil Hope: The Department does not centrally collect data on the number of prisoners admitted to hospital due to alcohol or drug misuse.

The number of prisoners (both male and female) admitted to hospital due to self harm in each of the last five years is as follows.

Self harm incidents—England and Wales (male and female) admitted as in-patient to hospital

	Number
2004	134
2005	153
2006	159
2007	122
2008	135

Incontinence

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made for *(a)* pre- and *(b)* post-registration education and training for nurses on the provision of continence services. [288028]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Work force planning, including training, in the national health service is managed and led at a local level by the strategic health authorities taking into account the national policy direction.

Local NHS organisations are best placed determine the levels of service and resource required to meet the health needs of the local population.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government intends continence care to be part of its Carers Dignity and Respect agenda. [285586]

Phil Hope: Incontinence is a challenge to dignity and through the Dignity in Care campaign we are equipping local people with the information, advice and support necessary to drive up standards of care with respect to dignity for the individual.

Insect Bites

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital admissions and *(b)* bed days with a primary or secondary cause of insect bites were recorded in each of the last five years. [286983]

Gillian Merron: The data requested are not available in precisely the form requested.

From 2003-04 to 2007-08 the activity in English national health service hospitals, and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector, for the number of admissions and bed days in hospital due to the patient being bitten or stung by a non-venomous insect or other non-venomous arthropod (e.g. spider or tick), recorded in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) as cause code W57, is shown in the following table:

	Finished admission episodes	*Total bed days during the year*
2003-04	1,719	3,790
2004-05	1,988	3,929
2005-06	2,161	4,179
2006-07	2,738	4,655
2007-08	2,614	4,548

Notes:

1. Finished admission episodes—A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Total bed days during the year—Bed days of finished episodes only include days of bed occupancy from episode start date or 1 April (whichever is later) to episode end date or 31 March (whichever is earlier). These do not include unfinished episodes which end in the subsequent year.
3. Cause code W57—Bitten or stung by non-venomous insect and other non-venomous arthropods. The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. The field within HES counts only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode.
4. Ungrossed data—Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Kidneys: Health Education

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 868W, on kidneys: health education, (1) what plans he has to consult *(a)* patients and *(b)* clinicians prior to the publication of his Department's information leaflet on identifying unhealthy kidneys; and what plans he has to ensure the wide availability and distribution of the leaflet; [288462]

(2) when he plans to publish the patient information leaflet on identifying unhealthy kidneys; and what plans he has to publicise its launch. [288463]

Ann Keen: The patient information leaflet on proteinuria is being developed in partnership with clinicians and patients. This is to be part of a pack of information on proteinuria testing already published on the Department's website for general practitioners and laboratories.

This can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Secondarycare/Pathology/DH_096049

We are in the process of determining how best to promote the leaflet widely before publication by early autumn.

Medic Alert: Organs

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to promote MedicAlert as a sole central register for those with organ donation wishes and advanced decision wishes; and if he will make a statement; [287412]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that, on commencement of their roles, all emergency services personnel receive training in the life-saving services provided by the MedicAlert Foundation. [287429]

Ann Keen: It is important that people wishing to be organ donors have flexibility in making that wish known, for example they can carry a donor card, register on the national organ donor register, make their wishes known to another organisation or simply tell family and friends. The important thing is that the information is readily available at the appropriate time.

The Government do not see a single national database or central register for advance decisions as the best way forward. The intention has always been to allow as much flexibility as possible for those making advance decisions.

Ambulance trusts are responsible for providing appropriate training for staff, and information on whether this includes training on MedicAlert is not available centrally.

Mental Health Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to provide treatment for *(a)* psychotic and *(b)* bipolar depressive conditions. [287499]

Phil Hope: We have made very substantial resources available to the national health service from which to provide mental health care treatments and services. However, the responsibility for providing all NHS services, including provision of treatments for bi-polar depressive conditions and psychosis, now rests with primary care trusts.

Since 2001-02, real terms investment in adult mental health services increased by 44 per cent. (or £1.7 billion) putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. The NHS spent £5.53 billion on these services in 2007-08 (£3.844 billion in 2001-02).

There are 67 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists, 79 per cent. more clinical psychologists and at least 23 per cent. more mental health nurses than we had in 1997, providing better care and support for people with mental health problems.

More than 740 new community mental health teams offer home treatment, early intervention, or intensive support for people who might otherwise have been admitted to hospital.

Mental Health Services: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve mental health provision for young people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. [287838]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to plan, develop and improve local health services according to the needs of the local population. My hon. Friend may wish to approach the North Lancashire primary care trust and the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust for information relevant to the Morecambe and Lunesdale area.

Mentally Incapacitated: Children

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what locations in Bournemouth severely mentally impaired children may be treated; and what choice parents have about the location at which treatment is provided. [287885]

Phil Hope: The South West strategic health authority has advised that there is a range of outreach support and choice to young people who have a mental illness, learning disabilities and challenging behaviour, and their families, in a variety of local settings including the individuals' own home, schools and general practitioner surgeries. These services are backed up by specialist intensive outreach and in-patient provision, and provide support for young people across Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset.

The service is aimed at being sensitive to the rights and needs of parents and carers, and involves them in the intervention process where appropriate. It also adheres to the Heath Advisory Service requirements, the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and the National Service Frameworks for mental health and children and young people, and offers confidentiality in the context of safeguarding children.

Midwives: Recruitment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase the numbers of midwives employed by the NHS. [288013]

Ann Keen: The Secretary of State announced a package of measures in February 2008 to recruit an extra 1,000 midwives by 2009, rising to around 4,000 by 2012, dependent on the birth rate continuing to rise.

Mid-Yorkshire NHS Trust: Doctors

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors were employed by the Mid-Yorkshire NHS Trust *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [289118]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The information as is available is shown in the following table.

Number of doctors employed by the Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, 2002-08

	Number (headcount)	*Full-time equivalent*
2002	580	544
2003	572	543
2004	626	597
2005	665	641
2006	678	654
2007	705	686
2008	705	686

Notes:

1. The structure of national health service trusts in the Wakefield area has changed over the period the data is requested for. In April 2002, the Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust was formed from the partial-merger of the Pinderfields and Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust and the Dewsbury Health Care NHS Trust. Data is shown for the Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, from 2002 onwards.
2. Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

National Joint Registry Steering Committee

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the annual salary was of each member of the board of the National Joint Registry Steering Committee in each of the last five years; [288839]

(2) how much the National Joint Registry Steering Committee spent on staffing in each of the last five years; [288840]

(3) how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* part-time staff are employed by the National Joint Registry Steering Committee; [288841]

(4) how much was spent on external consultancy by the National Joint Registry Steering Committee in each of the last five years; [288842]

(5) what the cost of the office premises occupied by the National Joint Registry Steering Committee was in each of the last five years; [288965]

(6) what the budget for the National Joint Registry Steering Committee was in each of the last five years; [288966]

(7) on what dates Ministers in his Department last met staff of the National Joint Registry Steering Committee. [288967]

Ann Keen: The National Joint Registry Steering Group is an advisory non-departmental public body. Members are unpaid but reimbursed for their travel and subsistence. The steering group does not employ staff and does not occupy any office premises. It does not have an annual budget, as it receives its funding through a levy on hip and knee joint replacements supplied to the national health service and independent health care providers, and it has not spent any money on external consultancy.

Neurology

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the progress by local NHS trusts in implementing the National Service Framework for long-term neurological conditions since the end of the framework planning period in 2008. [288308]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the progress being made by primary care trusts in implementing the long-term conditions National Service Framework (NSF) since the end of the framework planning period.

I will shortly be writing to all strategic health authority long-term conditions leads outlining the importance of the recommendations made in the NSF for long-term conditions.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the National Service Framework for long-term neurological conditions *(a)* before and *(b)* after the devolution of responsibility for the framework to the regional Long Term Conditions Delivery Support Team. [288365]

Ann Keen: We have made no recent assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the National Service Framework (NSF) for long-term neurological conditions.

I will shortly be writing to all strategic health authority long-term conditions leads outlining the importance of the recommendations made in the NSF for long-term conditions.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the merits of appointing a full-time national lead officer for neurological conditions. [288455]

Ann Keen: We have made no recent assessment of the merits of appointing a national lead officer for neurological conditions.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 346-48W, on NHS: finance, when each loan was made; for what purpose each loan was made; what the reasons are for differences in the interest rates charged; and which of the trusts listed in the Answer are in the financially challenged trusts regime. [286926]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is provided in the table. The interest rate paid on loans is the National Loan Fund (NLF) Equal Instalment of Principle rate. The interest rate is updated daily and the actual rate charged relates to the term of loan. The rate is published daily by the Debt Management Office. Current and historic rates are available at:

www.dmo.gov.uk/index.aspx?page=PWLB/PWLB_Interest_Rates

Of the organisations who have outstanding loans, Whipps Cross University Hospitals NHS trust is the only organisation currently designated as a financially challenged trust.

NHS trust name	*Original loan value £000*	*Date loan made*	*Loan purpose*
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	3,000	12 November 2007	Capital investment
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	3,480	12 November 2007	Capital investment
Rob Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	500	12 November 2007	Capital investment
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	700	17 December 2007	Capital investment
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	7,500	17 March 2008	Capital investment
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	6,141	17 March 2008	Capital investment
West Hertfordshire NHS Trust	13,500	15 July 2008	Capital investment
West Hertfordshire NHS Trust	13,500	15 September 2008	Capital investment
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	7,000	15 September 2008	Capital investment
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	3,454	15 September 2008	Capital investment
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	8,000	15 September 2008	Capital investment

NHS trust name	Original loan value £000	Date loan made	Loan purpose
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	2,460	17 December 2008	Capital investment
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	1,500	17 December 2008	Capital investment
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	3,551	17 December 2008	Capital investment
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	12,300	16 March 2009	Capital investment
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	800	16 March 2009	Capital investment
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	7,900	16 March 2009	Capital investment
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	7,000	16 March 2009	Capital investment
North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS Trust	400	15 September 2007	Working capital
Scarborough And North East Yorks NHS Trust	765	15 September 2007	Working capital
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	250	15 September 2007	Working capital
West Sussex NHS Trust	1,063	17 March 2008	Working capital
North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS Trust	400	17 March 2008	Working capital
Scarborough And North East Yorks NHS Trust	764	17 March 2008	Working capital
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	4,550	17 March 2008	Working capital
Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust	1,782	17 March 2008	Working capital
West Sussex NHS Trust	1,063	17 March 2008	Working capital
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	4,888	17 March 2008	Working capital
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	2,597	16 March 2009	Working capital
Western Area NHS Trust	800	16 March 2009	Working capital
East Cheshire NHS Trust	7,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	1,700	22 March 2007	Working capital
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	12,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
University Hospitals Of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	6,500	22 March 2007	Working capital
Scarborough And North East Yorks NHS Trust	7,646	22 March 2007	Working capital
Hull And East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	10,896	22 March 2007	Working capital
South Warwickshire Gen Hospitals NHS Trust	18,500	22 March 2007	Working capital
Rob Jones And A Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	3,400	22 March 2007	Working capital
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	3,279	22 March 2007	Working capital
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	6,800	22 March 2007	Working capital
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	25,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
Shrewsbury And Telford Hospital NHS Trust	12,299	22 March 2007	Working capital
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	6,300	22 March 2007	Working capital
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	23,400	22 March 2007	Working capital
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	1,950	22 March 2007	Working capital
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	23,400	22 March 2007	Working capital
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	13,650	22 March 2007	Working capital
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	11,200	22 March 2007	Working capital
East And North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	7,800	22 March 2007	Working capital
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	15,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	26,294	22 March 2007	Working capital
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	11,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	34,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	23,830	22 March 2007	Working capital
Barnet And Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	17,500	22 March 2007	Working capital
Epsom And St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	14,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
West Sussex NHS Trust	17,005	22 March 2007	Working capital
West Sussex NHS Trust	23,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
Ashford And St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	14,700	22 March 2007	Working capital
Surrey And Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	56,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	4,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
Brighton And Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	29,322	22 March 2007	Working capital
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	25,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
Winchester And Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	5,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	19,986	22 March 2007	Working capital
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	38,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
North Bristol NHS Trust	52,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
Avon And Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	5,000	22 March 2007	Working capital
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	3,000	17 March 2008	Working capital
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	31,400	15 July 2008	Working capital
University Hospitals Of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	16,000	15 July 2008	Working capital

NHS trust name	Original loan value £000	Date loan made	Loan purpose
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	5,500	15 July 2008	Working capital
Weston Area Health Authority	14,300	15 July 2008	Working capital
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	46,125	15 July 2008	Working capital
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	17,000	15 July 2008	Working capital
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	5,000	15 September 2008	Working capital
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	2,000	16 March 2009	Working capital
East Cheshire NHS Trust	2,533	16 March 2009	Working capital

NHS: Management Consultants

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on management consultants in each year since 1996-97. [287693]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect the specific information requested centrally.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public health workers have been employed in the NHS in the East of England region in each year since 1997. [286273]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table, however, shows the number of medical and dental staff within the public health medicine (PHM) and community health services (CHS) group of specialists in the East of England strategic health authority (SHA) area since 1997.

It is worth noting, that there are increasing numbers of non-medical public health workers, following the introduction of an MSc in public health for non-medical staff, which would not be picked up in the medical and dental workforce census. There have also been a number of reorganisations within the national health service since 1997, which may account for fluctuation in figures.

NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): Medical and dental staff within the PHM and CHS group of specialties in East of England SHA, England, at 30 September each year

	Headcount
1997	394
1998	326
1999	331
2000	296
2001	271
2002	293
2003	275
2004	291
2005	294
2006	280
2007	310
2008	276

Notes:
The data in the table shows only medical and dental staff specifically working within the PHM and CHS specialty group. The public health medicine area is a large, somewhat complex area and it is not possible to separately identify staff in this area using the available census data breakdowns. Data has therefore been provided for those staff we can identify as working in this area. Figures exclude all non-medical staff, such as nursing and allied health professionals.

Data quality:
Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 348-49W, on NHS: manpower, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the National Framework Agreements; what pay rates are used under each agreement; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of such pay that *(a)* agencies and *(b)* employees receive under each such contract. [286311]

Ann Keen: The national framework agreements for these contracts and the rates of pay included in them are confidential and commercially sensitive. The framework agreement has only recently been awarded and to release its full provisions would not be in the commercial interests of the companies concerned nor of the national health service as a whole.

Although there is an interest in releasing this data to ensure that the public sector's procurement practices are as transparent as possible, we must set this against the risk that the release of the information would prejudice fair competition between the current suppliers of temporary staff and their competitors both in this framework agreement and in future tenders.

It would be extremely difficult to estimate the proportion of pay that agencies and employees receive and present it in a meaningful form. This is because every supplier tenders a unique pay and charge rate for each type of temporary worker supplied. For doctors alone there are 140 different grades and specialties each with an individual pay and charge rate. On top of that there are 19 different discount options and both a long and a short-term booking version from each of the 53 agencies giving nearly 300,000 prices on this contract alone.

NHS: Meat

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to the NHS on the procurement of halal meat; and whether that guidance differentiates between stunned and pre-stunned meat. [287720]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not provide advice to national health service trusts on the purchase of halal meat.

NHS: Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what host has been appointed to each local involvement network; and how much funding his Department provided to each such network in 2008-09. [287997]

Ann Keen: Local authorities with social services responsibilities are under a statutory duty to make arrangements for local involvement network (LINk) activities to be carried on in their area. They do this by contracting with what is known as a host organisation. Neither local authorities nor hosts are required to inform the Department of which host has been contracted for which LINk.

However, the National Centre for Involvement maintains a contact list of host organisations on an informal basis which is available as a .pdf document. The latest version has been placed in the Library.

The Department provides funds to local authorities to support LINk activities as part of the annual area-based grant. The grant is not ring-fenced. The allocations to each local authority for 2008-09 to 2010-11 are given in the following table.

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*£ million 2010-11*
Principal metropolitan cities			
Birmingham	0.558	0.556	0.554
Leeds	0.308	0.307	0.306
Liverpool	0.291	0.288	0.286
Manchester	0.288	0.287	0.287
Newcastle upon Tyne	0.171	0.17	0.168
Sheffield	0.263	0.263	0.262
Sub-total	1.879	1.871	1.863
Other metropolitan districts			
Barnsley	0.152	0.152	0.152
Bolton	0.166	0.166	0.165
Bradford	0.259	0.259	0.26
Bury	0.122	0.122	0.122
Calderdale	0.13	0.13	0.13
Coventry	0.178	0.177	0.177
Doncaster	0.172	0.172	0.172
Dudley	0.173	0.173	0.172
Gateshead	0.14	0.139	0.138
Kirklees	0.202	0.202	0.202
Knowsley	0.14	0.139	0.139
North Tyneside	0.134	0.134	0.134
Oldham	0.151	0.151	0.151
Rochdale	0.147	0.146	0.146
Rotherham	0.16	0.16	0.16
Salford	0.159	0.158	0.157
Sandwell	0.202	0.202	0.201
Sefton	0.172	0.171	0.17
Solihull	0.119	0.119	0.119

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*£ million 2010-11*
South Tyneside	0.127	0.126	0.126
St. Helens	0.132	0.132	0.132
Stockport	0.149	0.149	0.148
Sunderland	0.176	0.175	0.174
Tameside	0.146	0.146	0.146
Trafford	0.13	0.13	0.129
Wakefield	0.182	0.182	0.182
Walsall	0.17	0.169	0.169
Wigan	0.175	0.175	0.175
Wirral	0.2	0.199	0.199
Wolverhampton	0.169	0.168	0.167
Sub-total	4.833	4.824	4.814
Inner London			
City of London	0.063	0.063	0.064
Camden	0.176	0.177	0.179
Greenwich	0.188	0.188	0.188
Hackney	0.207	0.207	0.206
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.143	0.143	0.143
Islington	0.17	0.17	0.169
Kensington and Chelsea	0.14	0.142	0.143
Lambeth	0.207	0.206	0.205
Lewisham	0.197	0.195	0.194
Southwark	0.211	0.21	0.209
Tower Hamlets	0.208	0.208	0.208
Wandsworth	0.169	0.169	0.168
Westminster	0.174	0.176	0.178
Sub-total	2.254	2.254	2.253
Outer London			
Barking and Dagenham	0.147	0.146	0.146
Barnet	0.182	0.182	0.182
Bexley	0.131	0.131	0.131
Brent	0.185	0.185	0.184
Bromley	0.151	0.151	0.15
Croydon	0.188	0.188	0.187
Ealing	0.183	0.182	0.182
Enfield	0.179	0.179	0.178
Haringey	0.172	0.171	0.171
Harrow	0.138	0.138	0.138
Havering	0.133	0.132	0.132
Hillingdon	0.147	0.147	0.146
Hounslow	0.142	0.141	0.141
Kingston upon Thames	0.102	0.102	0.102
Merton	0.123	0.123	0.123
Newham	0.214	0.213	0.212
Redbridge	0.156	0.156	0.156
Richmond upon Thames	0.107	0.107	0.107
Sutton	0.118	0.117	0.117
Waltham Forest	0.164	0.163	0.162
Sub-total	3.062	3.054	3.047
Shire counties			
Bedfordshire	0.171	0.172	0.172
Buckinghamshire	0.182	0.182	0.182
Cambridgeshire	0.219	0.22	0.222

Local authority	2008-09	2009-10	£ million 2010-11
Cheshire	0.257	0.257	0.258
Cornwall	0.252	0.253	0.255
Cumbria	0.232	0.232	0.232
Derbyshire	0.314	0.315	0.316
Devon	0.298	0.299	0.301
Dorset	0.183	0.184	0.184
Durham	0.256	0.255	0.255
East Sussex	0.236	0.237	0.237
Essex	0.48	0.482	0.484
Gloucestershire	0.231	0.231	0.231
Hampshire	0.378	0.379	0.381
Hertfordshire	0.361	0.361	0.361
Kent	0.492	0.493	0.495
Lancashire	0.454	0.455	0.456
Leicestershire	0.219	0.22	0.221
Lincolnshire	0.285	0.287	0.29
Norfolk	0.342	0.344	0.345
North Yorkshire	0.222	0.222	0.223
Northamptonshire	0.253	0.254	0.256
Northumberland	0.165	0.165	0.165
Nottinghamshire	0.304	0.305	0.306
Oxfordshire	0.222	0.223	0.223
Shropshire	0.15	0.15	0.151
Somerset	0.226	0.227	0.228
Staffordshire	0.301	0.302	0.303
Suffolk	0.28	0.281	0.283
Surrey	0.333	0.333	0.333
Warwickshire	0.212	0.213	0.214
West Sussex	0.281	0.281	0.282
Wiltshire	0.181	0.182	0.183
Worcestershire	0.222	0.223	0.223
Sub-total	9.194	9.224	9.252
Shire unitary authorities			
Bath and North East Somerset	0.109	0.109	0.109
Blackburn with Darwen	0.123	0.123	0.123
Blackpool	0.126	0.126	0.126
Bournemouth	0.119	0.118	0.118
Bracknell Forest	0.086	0.086	0.086
Brighton and Hove	0.148	0.147	0.147
Bristol	0.21	0.209	0.208
Darlington	0.096	0.096	0.096
Derby	0.15	0.149	0.149
East Riding of Yorkshire	0.158	0.159	0.159
Halton	0.111	0.11	0.11
Hartlepool	0.099	0.099	0.099
Herefordshire	0.119	0.119	0.119
Isle of Wight Council	0.115	0.115	0.116
Isles of Scilly	0.061	0.061	0.061
Kingston upon Hull	0.173	0.172	0.171
Leicester	0.186	0.185	0.184
Luton	0.131	0.131	0.131
Medway	0.136	0.136	0.136
Middlesbrough	0.122	0.121	0.121
Milton Keynes	0.129	0.13	0.131
North East Lincolnshire	0.12	0.12	0.12
North Lincolnshire	0.114	0.114	0.114
North Somerset	0.121	0.122	0.123
Nottingham	0.184	0.183	0.182
Peterborough	0.122	0.122	0.123
Plymouth	0.151	0.151	0.151
Poole	0.103	0.102	0.102
Portsmouth	0.125	0.125	0.125
Reading	0.104	0.104	0.103
Redcar and Cleveland	0.116	0.116	0.116
Rutland	0.069	0.069	0.069
Slough	0.104	0.103	0.103
South Gloucestershire	0.124	0.124	0.125
Southampton	0.141	0.141	0.141
Southend-on-Sea	0.123	0.123	0.123
Stockton-on-Tees	0.126	0.126	0.126
Stoke-on-Trent	0.163	0.162	0.161
Swindon	0.112	0.112	0.112
Telford and The Wrekin	0.119	0.12	0.12
Thurrock	0.111	0.112	0.112
Torbay	0.119	0.12	0.12
Warrington	0.117	0.117	0.117
West Berkshire	0.095	0.095	0.095
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.093	0.093	0.093
Wokingham	0.087	0.088	0.088
York	0.108	0.108	0.108
Sub-total	5.778	5.774	5.771

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* local involvement networks and *(b)* the hosts contracted to set up and run those networks. [288019]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs. Ellman) on 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 964W.

Local authorities hold the contracts with host organisations and are responsible for the management of those contracts.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all host organisations contracted to set up and run local involvement networks have taken out indemnity cover for members of those networks; and if he will make a statement. [288020]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Nurses: Training

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether continence education and training is included in the national curriculum for pre- and post-registration training for nurses. [286925]

Ann Keen: The responsibility for setting standards required for professional registration sits with the professional regulators, and the training curricula is designed to meet these standards by the higher education institutes in partnership with national health service providers and the regulators. The Department, along with local NHS bodies that commission professional training, continues to work with the regulators and higher education institutes to ensure that their standards and curricula reflect the changing needs of patients and service delivery.

Organs: Research

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of including in its National Organ Recovery scheme provisions for making organs which are not suitable for transplant available for research purposes. [288302]

Ann Keen: The Human Tissue Act 2004 allows organs donated for transplant but not used for transplant to be used for research where appropriate consent is in place. It is routine practice when seeking consent to donation for transplantation for donor transplant coordinators to also seek consent for research should the organs not be suitable for transplant.

Pain: Health Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS specialist pain management services there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in the latest period for which figures are available. [287497]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Palliative Care

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the preparation of the interim reports on the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Supportive and Palliative Care Guidance. [288210]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published guidance on supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer in March 2004. The National Cancer Action Team is working closely with cancer networks to monitor and support the implementation of this guidance by the end of December 2009. Plans for the implementation of this guidance are now in place in every cancer network, and it is expected to be fully implemented by the December 2009 deadline.

Patients: Travel

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each primary care trust area have accessed funding through the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme in each of the last five years. [287852]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect information on the number of patients who have accessed funding through the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme. Our policy is to empower the local national health service to manage services in a way which best meets the needs of their local population. The Department's role is to set national strategic direction, as it has done by providing guidance on eligibility and administration of the scheme.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to monitor the effectiveness of the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme. [287854]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not routinely monitor the operation of the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme. An evaluation will begin in autumn 2009, to assess the impact of revisions made in April 2008 which extended the scope of the scheme to include patients travelling to treatment following direct referral by a doctor or dentist, as well as those people under the care of a hospital consultant.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1121-22W, on prescriptions: fees and charges, which organisations responded to the written consultation; which stakeholders contributed to the oral evidence sessions; which GPs attended the workshops; and at what locations the workshops were held. [286912]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A list of respondents to oral and written evidence is provided in the following list. For confidentiality reasons the names of individuals submitting evidence is withheld and we have included instead the organisations that they work for. For written submissions, in most cases but not all, the responses were on behalf of the listed organisation rather than the individual. We are unable to provide details of the general practitioners who participated in the workshops, because they did so on an anonymised basis. Workshops were held in London, Newton Abbot, Northampton, Manchester, Newcastle and Croydon.

The following organisations or individuals provided written evidence:

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
Addison's Disease Self Help Group
All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia
The Association of Cancer Physicians
Asthma UK
British Heart Foundation
British Medical Association
British Society for Rheumatology
British Thoracic Society
Coeliac UK
Cystic Fibrosis Trust
Diabetes UK
East Birmingham and Solihull GP Vocational training scheme—West Midlands Deanery
Epilepsy Action
Gorlin Syndrome Group
HEART UK
Highcliffe Medical Centre Patient Participation Group
Jubilee Medical Centre

MRC Environmental Epidemiology Unit, Southampton General Hospital
MIND
Motor Neurone Disease
Parkinson's Disease Society
Prescriptions Coalition
Royal College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Ophthalmologists
Royal College of Physicians, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Joint Specialty Committee
Royal College of Physicians, Ethical Issues in Medicine Committee
Royal College of Physicians GP Network
Royal College of Physicians, Palliative Medicine Joint Specialty Committee
Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability
Sickle Cell Society
Socialist Health Association
Society for Endocrinology
South Bank University
Spinal Injuries Association
Submissions from individuals (three)
UK Thalassaemia Society.

Oral evidence was given by the following organisations:

Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances
British Medical Association
Citizen's Advice Bureau
Dispensing Doctors' Association
Kings Fund
MIND
National Pharmacy Association
National Association of Primary Care
National Voices
Patients' Association
Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee
Prescriptions Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority
Prescriptions Coalition of charities (including Asthma UK; Diabetes UK; Behcet's Syndrome Society; Parkinson's Disease Society)
Royal College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Nursing
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
A Strategic Health Authority prescribing adviser
University of Manchester.

Pressure Sores: Compensation

Mr. Barstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases were dealt with by the NHS Litigation Authority in 2008-09 in which pressure ulcers were the ground for the claim; how many of them were settled in the claimant's favour; what the administrative cost was of dealing with such cases; and how much was paid in settlements and compensation in such cases. [287684]

Ann Keen: The data requested was provided by the NHS Litigation Authority in the following table.

Number of clinical negligence claims closed 2008-09 where pressure sore was one of the injury codes

	Closed—nil damages	*Settled—damages paid*	*Total*
Number of claims	15	49	64
Damages paid (£)	0	1,197,324	1,197,324
Defence costs paid (£)	10,918	296,134	307,052
Claimant costs paid (£)	0	896,561	896,561
Total paid (£)	10,918	2,390,020	2,400,938

Damages also cover other injuries that formed part of the claim.

Number of clinical negligence claims closed in 2008-09 where damages were paid

	Number/£ million
Number of claims closed with damages	3,113
Damages paid (£ million)	312.4
Defence costs paid (£ million)	103.6
Claimant costs paid (£ million)	39.6
Total paid (£ million)	455.6

Preventive Technology Grant

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend the provisions of the Preventative Technology Grant to apply in respect of the 2008-09 financial year. [288029]

Phil Hope: The Preventative Technology Grant funding ended in March 2008, although any remaining monies were allowed to be carried over into 2008-09 to sustain the momentum. It is now the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that they are able to provide mainstreamed telecare services.

Primary Care Trusts: Dorset

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes to the funding allocations to primary care trusts in Dorset there have been in financial year 2009-10; and what such changes he anticipates in financial year 2010-11. [287553]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department announced the primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 on 8 December 2008. The allocations represent an investment of £164 billion in the national health service: £80 billion in 2009-10 and £84 billion in 2010-11.

The revenue allocations made to the two PCTs serving communities in the Dorset area are provided in the following table:

	2009-10 allocation	*2009-10 increase*	*2010-11 allocation*		*2010-11 increase*	
	£000	*£000*	*Percentage*	*£000*	*£000*	*Percentage*
Dorset PCT	580,964	30,287	5.5	613,261	32,296	5.6
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	509,400	25,100	5.3	535,600	26,200	5.1

Source: Department of Health Resource Allocation, Efficiency and Income Generation.

Primary Care Trusts: Greater Manchester

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts in the Greater Manchester area have a financial deficit against their budget for 2009-10; and how much the deficit is in each such case. [287730]

Ann Keen: There are no primary care trusts within the Greater Manchester area that are forecasting a deficit in the 2009-10 financial year.

Primary Care Trusts: Wakefield

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what revenue allocations were made to each primary care trust in Wakefield in each year since 2003-04. [288665]

Ann Keen: The revenue allocations made to primary care trusts (PCTs) in Wakefield for the period 2003-04 to 2010-11 are shown in the following tables.

Table 1: 2003-04 to 2005-06 primary care trust revenue allocations

	Allocation (£000)			Three-year increase	
Primary care trust	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£000	Percentage
Eastern Wakefield PCT	171,930	189,117	208,492	51,104	32.5
Wakefield West PCT	131,156	143,375	156,303	35,519	29.4

Table 2: 2006-07 to 2007-08 primary care trust revenue allocations

	Allocation (£000)		Two-year increase	
Primary care trust	2006-07	2007-08	£000	Percentage
Eastern Wakefield PCT	255,393	283,337	53,962	23.5
Wakefield West PCT	189,155	205,849	32,182	18.5

Table 3: 2008-09 primary care trust revenue allocations

	Allocation	Cash increase	
Primary care trust	£000	£000	Percentage
Wakefield District PCT	515,905	26,719	5.5

Table 4: 2009-10 to 2010-11 primary care trust revenue allocations

	Allocation (£000)		Two-year increase	
Primary care trust	2009-10	2010-11	£000	Percentage
Wakefield District PCT	564,093	595,118	66,463	12.6

Notes:
1. On 1 October 2006, the number of PCTs reduced from 303 to 152. The Eastern Wakefield PCT and the Wakefield West PCT merged to become the Wakefield District PCT. Allocations were made to the Wakefield District PCT from 2008-09.
2. Comparisons between allocations should be made with caution because of changes to PCT baseline funding between rounds.

Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations his Department has received on the future of Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. [282753]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In relation to the future of Queen Mary's hospital Sidcup between 1 September 2008 and 29 June 2009, the Department's correspondence and parliamentary questions database shows approximately 400 letters, of which, approximately 150 are about the future of services. There were 22 parliamentary questions found but there were no ministerial meetings or debates.

Sexual Offences: Health Professionals

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has allocated for specialist support and remedial treatment services for patients who have been sexually abused by health workers for the period 2007-2012. [286730]

Ann Keen: No specific allocation is made for this purpose.

Smoking

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of (1) deaths which were attributable to smoking in each of the last 10 years; [284737]

(2) adults who were smokers in each of the last five years. [284748]

Gillian Merron: The prevalence of smoking and the numbers of deaths from smoking have both significantly reduced over the past 10 years (from the latest data available). In England there are around 2.5 million fewer smokers since 1998 and the number of deaths from smoking has been reduced to around 82,000 per year.

The information requested is available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_compendia/GHS07/GHSSmokingandDrinkingAmongAdults2007.pdf

Social Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have received care packages following an assessment by social services in each local authority in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286988]

Phil Hope: The NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre has provided data on all adults aged 18 and over who received social care services as a result of a community care assessment by councils with adult social services responsibilities in each of the last five years. The information has been placed in the Library.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of *(a)* continuing care assessments and *(b)* core assessments by social services in each local authority was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286990]

Phil Hope: The costs of continuing care assessments are not collected centrally.

The following table shows the total gross current expenditure by each local authority in England on assessment and care management for adults aged 18 and over.

This is information is derived from data collected annually on social services expenditure from councils with social services responsibilities.

Data on local authority expenditure on state funded adult social care are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Gross current expenditure on assessment and care management by local authority, 2003-04 to 2007-08, England

£000

		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]
	England total	1,433,031	1,633,962	1,746,677	1,806,207	1,791,712
	Metropolitan districts					
204	Barnsley	6,033	6,449	7,553	9,088	7,653
406	Birmingham	17,654	31,740	31,644	38,924	34,977
304	Bolton	5,597	6,095	7,535	8,217	8,903
209	Bradford	11,486	13,085	13,499	12,879	13,365
305	Bury	6,338	6,702	6,886	6,852	6,367
210	Calderdale	4,053	4,379	4,670	4,955	4,943
407	Coventry	7,729	8,554	10,571	10,005	8,382
205	Doncaster	7,612	10,878	8,278	10,191	8,764
408	Dudley	10,349	10,690	11,808	12,340	12,707
106	Gateshead	5,101	5,482	5,624	5,098	2,115
211	Kirklees	13,949	15,431	15,936	17,403	18,854
315	Knowsley	4,155	4,182	4,290	3,691	3,747
212	Leeds	15,456	15,321	16,416	19,978	20,659
316	Liverpool	8,167	9,615	8,874	9,700	10,468
306	Manchester	34,423	37,925	40,701	27,989	28,900
107	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,123	6,597	8,453	8,341	8,666
108	North Tyneside	6,405	4,461	8,263	9,278	8,319
307	Oldham	5,185	5,480	6,547	6,285	8,458
308	Rochdale	5,607	5,799	6,920	8,226	6,956
206	Rotherham	7,748	9,237	9,991	10,493	9,336
309	Salford	5,449	6,640	5,748	6,247	6,482
409	Sandwell	10,698	10,194	12,715	13,636	13,816
317	Sefton	6,241	6,934	7,625	7,679	7,656
207	Sheffield	12,151	12,926	14,800	15,872	15,660
410	Solihull	3,442	3,997	4,511	4,102	4,357
109	South Tyneside	2,489	7,308	6,965	6,223	5,962
318	St. Helens	3,752	3,590	4,904	4,762	4,772
310	Stockport	8,290	9,117	9,564	14,129	13,885
110	Sunderland	9,500	12,063	11,128	8,202	10,003
311	Tameside	7,748	9,072	9,991	11,271	11,449
312	Trafford	4,487	4,979	7,117	6,569	7,168
213	Wakefield	7,592	11,773	11,174	10,544	10,683
411	Walsall	6,565	11,641	13,745	11,805	12,010
313	Wigan	7,446	6,596	6,851	8,384	7,997
319	Wirral	8,638	8,962	9,791	7,485	5,658
412	Wolverhampton	8,157	9,819	10,076	9,974	10,776
	Shire counties					
610	Bedfordshire	10,513	9,124	9,484	15,321	14,946
612	Buckinghamshire	15,123	14,922	15,816	16,365	14,401
623	Cambridgeshire	8,565	20,516	24,427	20,737	22,266
320	Cheshire	13,403	15,264	16,823	20,504	21,375
902	Cornwall	15,667	21,229	16,871	21,887	15,133
102	Cumbria	9,959	13,014	23,494	24,814	23,250
506	Derbyshire	5,531	11,291	11,979	12,392	13,541
912	Devon	15,885	20,115	19,831	20,207	22,927
809	Dorset	9,683	10,416	11,123	12,911	12,320
116	Durham	11,716	14,075	14,374	14,510	19,434
815	East Sussex	15,771	16,957	17,613	19,493	20,377
620	Essex	33,541	38,201	35,503	32,898	29,670

Gross current expenditure on assessment and care management by local authority, 2003-04 to 2007-08, England

						£000
		2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]
904	Gloucestershire	13,798	14,679	13,624	15,054	16,385
812	Hampshire	20,893	28,906	30,136	30,744	33,477
606	Hertfordshire	24,412	25,472	25,845	27,275	23,717
906	Isles of Scilly	86	25	30	48	92
820	Kent	34,135	30,217	34,661	37,001	43,816
323	Lancashire	25,062	28,558	31,626	31,630	31,653
508	Leicestershire	9,978	10,522	12,339	12,701	13,659
503	Lincolnshire	15,104	15,945	11,559	15,386	13,608
607	Norfolk	14,706	15,308	28,800	1,913 -	833
218	North Yorkshire	10,276	11,573	13,167	15,314	15,962
504	Northamptonshire	9,917	9,655	9,200	8,986	9,185
104	Northumberland	10,660	11,794	13,805	14,086	13,092
511	Nottinghamshire	26,875	28,569	30,578	32,847	30,605
608	Oxfordshire	19,414	21,850	23,250	29,656	29,165
417	Shropshire	9,032	8,967	7,732	9,874	11,955
905	Somerset	18,130	18,592	21,709	18,755	21,448
413	Staffordshire	17,797	25,109	37,063	29,079	29,694
609	Suffolk	12,957	14,908	16,282	17,079	21,059
805	Surrey	33,954	35,957	38,478	45,269	45,674
404	Warwickshire	14,109	14,020	12,628	14,017	13,662
807	West Sussex	27,162	28,780	27,772	29,777	26,104
817	Wiltshire	17,632	17,206	16,988	18,298	20,097
416	Worcestershire	10,579	11,076	12,609	13,760	13,787
	Unitary authorities					
908	Bath and North East Somerset	4,696	6,188	5,138	8,055	8,636
324	Blackburn with Darwen	3,582	3,339	4,108	5,117	4,275
325	Blackpool	3,509	3,908	4,318	4,561	4,391
810	Bournemouth	8,319	9,708	10,358	10,376	10,505
614	Bracknell Forest	2,503	3,113	2,868	3,428	4,388
816	Brighton and Hove	12,751	13,654	10,214	12,180	11,327
909	Bristol	10,246	11,089	11,170	12,900	11,100
117	Darlington	3,997	5,263	6,439	5,281	5,958
507	Derby	7,060	7,832	8,749	9,246	9,066
214	East Riding of Yorkshire	4,393	4,828	4,412	4,360	5,513
321	Halton	3,539	3,571	4,803	6,580	7,051
111	Hartlepool	3,384	3,908	4,354	4,649	5,277
415	Herefordshire	3,009	4,088	4,525	4,529	4,780
803	Isle of Wight	3,483	5,391	5,554	5,470	6,005
215	Kingston upon Hull	5,743	5,903	6,070	5,467	4,229
509	Leicester	8,405	10,768	9,838	9,790	10,805
611	Luton	6,388	7,321	8,023	8,496	7,933
821	Medway Towns	5,285	5,756	4,947	9,482	6,032
112	Middlesbrough	4,147	4,038	4,592	5,200	5,457
613	Milton Keynes	9,029	13,947	10,074	14,006	12,362
216	North East Lincolnshire	2,963	3,167	4,161	4,709	5,279
217	North Lincolnshire	3,564	3,712	4,012	4,670	4,346
910	North Somerset	3,134	3,746	4,120	4,335	4,378
512	Nottingham	10,408	10,104	9,922	9,750	11,406
624	Peterborough	6,994	7,646	6,940	7,422	7,403
913	Plymouth	7,463	7,886	8,497	9,718	10,663
811	Poole	3,115	3,757	4,267	4,372	4,363
813	Portsmouth	6,409	8,059	8,421	8,466	10,327
616	Reading	4,476	5,430	5,758	5,997	5,807
113	Redcar and Cleveland	2,076	2,998	2,420	2,883	2,943
510	Rutland	724	824	1,366	1,904	2,339
617	Slough	9,424	7,238	7,821	9,078	8,590
911	South Gloucestershire	4,315	5,437	6,742	6,214	6,443
814	Southampton	6,885	7,387	7,888	8,776	9,911
621	Southend-on-Sea	4,413	4,663	4,989	4,191	4,821

Gross current expenditure on assessment and care management by local authority, 2003-04 to 2007-08, England

		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£000 2007-08[1]
114	Stockton-on-Tees	3,698	3,916	4,550	4,770	5,101
414	Stoke-on-Trent	5,172	4,872	5,399	5,137	5,902
819	Swindon	4,668	4,917	6,042	6,582	5,526
418	Telford and the Wrekin	4,101	5,220	6,096	6,713	6,649
622	Thurrock	4,896	5,261	283	5,115	4,397
914	Torbay	4,612	6,696	7,804	6,951	7,599
322	Warrington	5,876	6,227	7,543	9,419	9,209
615	West Berkshire	5,089	5,700	5,653	6,073	6,120
618	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,612	3,537	4,275	4,656	5,606
619	Wokingham	3,411	3,759	4,509	6,015	5,507
219	York	2,920	3,497	4,246	4,604	5,324
	Inner London					
702	Camden	14,289	16,610	18,780	19,989	18,877
714	City of London	1,129	1,399	1,448	1,659	1,072
703	Greenwich	8,845	9,390	11,350	10,087	10,750
704	Hackney	14,782	10,306	10,834	11,772	11,058
705	Hammersmith and Fulham	7,271	7,953	10,590	10,311	8,329
706	Islington	9,619	11,540	15,241	14,373	13,426
707	Kensington and Chelsea	11,447	11,590	12,152	11,126	9,818
708	Lambeth	16,273	18,235	23,606	13,743	15,011
709	Lewisham	9,081	11,988	10,355	12,524	13,047
710	Southwark	8,927	12,401	15,565	16,908	15,173
711	Tower Hamlets	13,821	15,503	19,702	19,765	18,545
712	Wandsworth	12,691	14,193	14,889	16,463	9,967
713	Westminster	15,238	17,840	17,391	14,383	14,966
	Outer London					
716	Barking and Dagenham	8,389	9,426	9,419	8,586	8,203
717	Barnet	9,821	14,090	13,656	11,818	10,525
718	Bexley	7,885	6,653	6,998	6,990	6,529
719	Brent	14,580	15,965	14,817	16,243	17,605
720	Bromley	9,975	11,256	11,270	12,889	10,181
721	Croydon	15,547	15,092	15,849	23,962	21,755
722	Ealing	13,105	13,432	11,508	8,102	17,484
723	Enfield	8,086	9,213	10,286	8,530	9,346
724	Haringey	12,324	11,477	10,841	16,324	12,199
725	Harrow	6,652	9,861	12,001	10,503	9,780
726	Havering	5,115	9,359	7,777	9,214	10,306
727	Hillingdon	11,411	14,380	15,778	15,217	11,673
728	Hounslow	8,012	9,955	10,449	12,349	10,623
729	Kingston upon Thames	6,591	8,547	8,969	9,220	8,585
730	Merton	7,794	7,996	7,916	8,564	10,403
731	Newham	10,843	16,481	16,204	19,806	18,972
732	Redbridge	6,870	8,193	8,621	8,895	8,734
733	Richmond upon Thames	9,115	10,161	10,834	11,126	9,070
734	Sutton	4,818	5,598	5,977	6,682	7,284
735	Waltham Forest	10,958	12,088	12,841	13,218	13,792

[1] 2003-04 to 2006-07 figures include assessment and care management for all asylum seekers including children and families. In 2007-08 this information was collected separately and only adults' expenditure has been included.

Stepping Hill Hospital: Parking

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* revenue income and *(b)* estimated overhead cost of the parking charges scheme at Stepping Hill Hospital has been in each year since the introduction of such charges. [288454]

Ann Keen: Hospital car parking charges are decided locally by individual trusts to help cover the cost of running and maintaining a car park. All trusts should have exemption and concessionary schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. They should also have sustainable public transport plans in place for staff and visitors.

Data on the gross income that national health service trusts receive from car parking charges paid by staff and visitors have been collected since 2000. These data are provided by the NHS on a voluntary basis and have

not been amended following their collection, nor have they been actively checked by the Department and therefore cannot be confirmed to be accurate or complete.

According to data collected through the Estates Related Information Collection (ERIC) system, Stepping Hill hospital[1], Stockport NHS foundation trust, have received the following income:

[1] The site data also list a hospital with the same name at the Pennine Care NHS trust, but this does not have any car parking income and is therefore not the one under consideration.

£

	Income from staff	Income from visitors	Total income
2001-02	98,693	197,261	295,954
2002-03	88,939	192,509	281,448
2003-04	80,929	164,338	245,267
2004-05	144,983	301,849	446,832
2005-06	218,899	489,518	708,417
2006-07	223,533	467,105	690,638
2007-08	238,408	499,185	737,593

Note:
Prior to 2001-02, car parking data were collected at trust level only and therefore Stepping Hill hospital's specific income could not be identified.
Source:
Estates Related Information Collection System, Department of Health.

Surgery: Greater Manchester

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were performed at the Greater Manchester Surgical Centre in *(a)* the 12 month period from 18 May 2005 and *(b)* each subsequent 12 month period starting 18 May. [287731]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold information about the number of operations performed at the Greater Manchester Surgical Centre but does hold data for finished consultant episodes.

The following table shows finished consultant episodes performed at the Greater Manchester Surgical Centre where there was a procedure or intervention. There is no clear definition of the term 'operation' used in hospital episode statistics (HES). HES have provided data for financial years (1 April to 31 March) 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (the most recent year for which data is available).

Finished consultant episodes

	Number
2007-08	4,770
2006-07	5,574
2005-06	3,649

Swine Flu

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will direct each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* hospital trust to publish its contingency plan to deal with swine flu. [284944]

Gillian Merron: Primary care trusts (PCTs) and national health service trusts flu pandemic plans are already in action and are working well. It would not be the best use of NHS resources at this time to direct PCTs and NHS trusts to publish these plans. In addition, these plans are being continuously reviewed and, where necessary, updated informed by the latest expert scientific and medical advice of the current swine flu pandemic. Publication of contingency plans by PCTs and hospital trusts will, therefore, not be requested.

Local NHS communications efforts are now directed to providing local staff and communities with the latest information about the current pandemic, how it is developing and what they can do to prepare and manage it. The Department has written to all NHS chief executives to make clear that this is core responsibility of all organisations.

Teenage Pregnancy: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pregnancies in girls under 16 years old were recorded in *(a)* Test Valley Borough and *(b)* Southampton in each of the last five years. [287768]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many pregnancies of girls under 16 years old were recorded in (a) Test Valley Borough and (b) Southampton in each of the last five years. (287768)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table below provides the number of conceptions among girls under 16, for (a) Test Valley local authority district and (b) Southampton unitary authority for 2003 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available).

Table 1: Number of conceptions among girls aged under 16[1], for (a) Test Valley local authority district and (b) Southampton unitary authority 2003 to 2007

Numbers

Conceptions	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[2]
Test Valley LAD	7	11	19	10	17
Southampton UA	39	36	35	43	37

[1] Under 16 years at estimated date of conception.
[2] Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* policy advisers, *(b)* special advisers, *(c)* other individuals and *(d)* other groups have provided advice to his Department on the subject of tranquillisers in the last two years; and what expertise each has to advise on that subject. [264896]

Gillian Merron: The Department is not aware of any advice given by policy advisers, special advisers, other individuals or advisory groups specifically in relation to tranquilisers. The Commission on Human Medicines, the UK Health Ministers' independent safety experts and advisers, provides scientific advice on all medicines for human use before a product is given a marketing authorisation or if any post marketing safety issue arise.

Over the coming months the Department will be reviewing its policy on addiction to prescriptions and over the counter (OTC) drugs, including tranquilisers.

This review will identify where and how policy should be advanced, so that those addicted to prescription or OTC drugs receive high quality, effective services.

Wakefield NHS Trust: Expenditure

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capital expenditure of Wakefield NHS Trust was in each year since 1996-97. [288658]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table shows data for 2001-02 for the Pinderfields and Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust and for 2002-03 to 2007-08 for the Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, which are the only years for which information is available for these organisations.

Charge against the capital resource limit (CRL)

	£000
2007-08	10,647
2006-07	20,876
2005-06	12,936
2004-05	15,222
2003-04	12,300
2002-03	10,031
2001-02	10,687

Notes:
1. The data provided in 2001-02 is for the Pinderfields and Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust which merged with the Dewsbury Health Care NHS Trust in 2002-03 to form the Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.
2. The term 'capital expenditure' has been interpreted to mean the charge against the CRL for the year. This charge is calculated as follows:
a. Gross capital expenditure in accruals terms for the period
b. Less the net book value of assets disposed of
c. Plus any loss on disposal of donated assets
d. Less capital grants received
e. Less donations

Source:
NHS audited summarisation schedules.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Business

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance his Department provides to small and medium-sized businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. [288073]

Joan Ruddock: KBCC provides funding for the provision of support, advice and information on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to small and medium-sized businesses, in particular through the Carbon Trust. Advice and information is provided through a dedicated phone line and website. Financial support is provided through interest-free loans to small and medium-sized businesses for energy saving investments. Up to £83.9 million of additional funding for this scheme is being provided for firms in England over the next two years.

The Carbon Trust also administers the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme for energy-saving technologies, which provides businesses that invest in designated energy efficient equipment with enhanced tax relief. DECC has also established voluntary agreements with the major energy suppliers to promote energy efficiency and energy services to small and medium-sized businesses.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grants have been made through the Low Carbon Buildings programme to *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each year since the inception of the programme. [278397]

Mr. Kidney: The following number of grants have been made through the Low Carbon Buildings programme to *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each year since the inception of the programme.

Low carbon buildings programme Phase 1—grants awarded

	England	Essex	West Chelmsford
Communities stream			
2006-07			
Schools	14	0	0
Other public buildings	6	1	0
2007-08			
Schools	1	0	0
Other public buildings	5	0	0
Stream 2A (below £100,00)			
2006-07			
Schools	4	0	0
Hospitals	0	0	0
Other public buildings	1	0	0
2007-08			
Schools	10	1	0
Hospitals	0	0	0
Other public buildings	14	1	0
Stream 2B (above £100,000)			
2006-07			
Schools	1	0	0
Hospitals	0	0	0
Other public buildings	0	0	0
2007-08			
Schools	1	0	0
Hospitals	0	0	0
Other public buildings	5	0	0

Low carbon buildings programme Phase 2—grants awarded

Type of organisation	*Financial year*	*England*	*Essex*	*West Chelmsford*
Schools	2006-07	1	0	0
	2007-08	162	2	0
	2008-09	333	4	0
	2009-10	85	1	0
Hospitals	2006-07	0	0	0
	2007-08	0	0	0
	2008-09	2	0	0
	2009-10	1	0	0
Other public buildings	2006-07	0	1	0
	2007-08	95	2	1
	2008-09	144	2	0
	2009-10	57	1	0
Total (Phase 2)	—	879	13	1

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's advertising budget is for 2009-10. [284847]

Joan Ruddock: Between April 2009 and July 2009, DECC is expected to spend approximately £370,000 on Act on CO_2 campaign advertising media and production. We are considering our advertising plans for the rest of 2009-10.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [286547]

Joan Ruddock: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

DECC complies with the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database become operational; and if he will make a statement. [284907]

Joan Ruddock: The Department and its agencies hold a large number of databases ranging in size. These range from corporate databases to small local databases with just a few users held by units within the Department and its agencies, in addition to a large number of spreadsheets containing data, of which, the larger and more sophisticated could be described as fulfilling a database function. Some of these databases and systems can be expected to hold information on members of the public gathered in support of a wide range of departmental initiatives and activities. It is not possible due to disproportionate costs to identify which of the many databases contain personal data on members of the public and the date each one became operational.

All databases containing personal data maintained by DECC are managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act and following the publication of the cross government data handling review in June 2008, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285017]

Joan Ruddock: The Department is currently reviewing its options for the technology refresh of software such as Internet Explorer 6, as part of a PFI Agreement for the provision of IT Services.

Energy Saving Trust: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the Energy Saving Trust's budget is for *(a)* advertising, *(b)* consultancy fees and *(c)* administration in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11, (iii) 2011-12 and (iv) 2012-13; [286859]

(2) what expenditure the Energy Saving Trust incurred on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* consultancy fees and *(c)* administration in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [286860]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust is a not-for-profit private company limited by guarantee. As part of the terms and conditions of the grant funding DECC provides to the Energy Saving Trust, the trust is required to provide DECC with audited annual accounts within five months of the end of the financial year.

The Energy Saving Trust statutory accounts for the financial years ending 2008 and 2009 are deposited with Companies House and are in the public domain.

Environmental Transformation Fund: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much in public funding for the Environmental Transformation Fund *(a)* was provided in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09 and *(b)* is planned to be provided in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11, (iii) 2011-12 and (iv) 2012-13; [285079]

(2) what proportion of expenditure under the Environmental Transformation Fund was spent on UK-based projects in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; [285084]

(3) what proportion of expenditure under the Environmental Transformation Fund he expects to be spent on UK-based projects in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13. [285085]

Joan Ruddock: The Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) began operation in April 2008—therefore there was no ETF expenditure in the financial year 2007-08. The ETF budgets are for the current CSR period, so no budgets have yet been agreed for financial year 2011-12 or beyond.

The ETF has international and national components, which are managed separately. The International ETF is jointly controlled by my Department and by the Department for International Development; its total budget for the CSR period was £800 million with £100 million available in financial year 2008-09, £200 million in financial year 2009-10 and £500 million in financial year 2010-11. None of the international component is spent in the UK, whereas the national component is spent exclusively in the UK.

The National ETF total budget for the CSR period was £400 million with up to £133 million available in financial year 2008-09, up to £118 million in financial year 2009-10 and up to £149 million in financial year 2010-11. In its first year of operation National ETF spent £91m[1] on UK-based projects.

[1] Figure is provisional and subject to finalisation of accounts for the year. It also includes up to £7 million which has been, or will be, handed back by recipients of Offshore Wind Grants who would prefer to claim Renewables Obligation Certificates instead, now that the regime has changed. In addition, the figure includes £24,000 which has been received back from a hydrogen and fuel cell company that went into receivership.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to which 100 firms of solicitors his Department and its predecessors has paid the most in costs in respect of the coal health compensation scheme. [286399]

Mr. Kidney: The top 100 claimants' representatives who the Department has paid the most in fees broken down by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), vibration white finger (VWF) and miscellaneous claims is shown in the following table.

£

Claimants' representatives	*COPD costs*	*VWF costs*	*Misc. claims costs*[1]	*Total costs*
Thompsons Solicitors	121,758,445	31,518,213	3,084,589	156,361,247
Beresfords Solicitors	133,359,135	7,924,924	3,054,869	144,338,929
Hugh James	102,057,162	12,326,792	964,859	115,348,813
Raleys Solicitors	80,412,876	14,907,685	1,607,660	96,928,221
Browell Smith and Co.	56,340,495	14,385,298	1,980,467	72,706,260
Mark Gilbert Morse	58,622,804	45,800	0	58,668,604
Avalon Solicitors	40,794,782	117,574	419,161	41,331,518
Graysons Solicitors	25,536,505	12,455,640	2,794,482	40,786,626
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	23,241,215	10,611,889	6,373,980	40,227,084
Watson Burton LLP	26,656,881	8,652,776	1,436,195	36,745,853
Barber and Co.	24,176,610	0	0	24,176,610
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	18,374,906	1,408,675	109,690	19,893,271
Moss Solicitors	12,669,621	5,656,411	1,457,882	19,783,914
Towells Solicitors	12,721,460	6,043,282	689,742	19,454,485
TLW Solicitors	16,049,983	1,010,621	293,075	17,353,679
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	13,496,315	2,938,629	621,810	17,056,753
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	11,968,470	3,668,584	878,263	16,515,317
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	10,200,466	3,793,094	520,617	14,514,177
Ingrams Solicitors	13,944,643	206,197	60,567	14,211,408
Corries Solicitors	11,067,799	2,401,321	434,963	13,904,083
Delta Legal	13,161,798	0	2,250	13,164,048
Atteys	7,853,621	4,705,066	102,189	12,660,876
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	9,229,890	1,364,849	85,498	10,680,238
BRM Solicitors	9,670,748	28,101	406,055	10,104,904
O. H. Parsons and Partners Solicitors	6,720,948	2,442,110	735,079	9,898,138
Birchall Blackburn	9,337,769	0	31,850	9,369,619
Wake Smith and Tofields Solicitors	8,619,831	328,134	413,793	9,361,757
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	5,342,004	3,689,957	85,831	9,117,793
Corries York	8,193,817	726,550	108,690	9,029,056
Latham and Co. Solicitors	3,032,594	2,732,151	333,047	6,097,791
Thompson and Co. Solicitors	3,668,998	2,261,047	98,718	6,028,763
Hopkins	2,991,668	1,537,681	1,339,464	5,868,813
Hilary Meredith Solicitors	5,684,279	0	4,500	5,688,779
Mortons Solicitors	3,741,391	1,332,065	253,916	5,327,372

£

Claimants' representatives	COPD costs	VWF costs	Misc. claims costs[1]	Total costs
Furley Page	4,468,987	764,177	5,500	5,238,664
Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers	5,080,886	1,471	0	5,082,357
Morisons Solicitors	3,424,732	1,304,639	265,941	4,995,313
T. S. Edwards and Son Solicitors	3,477,301	1,359,833	49,241	4,886,375
Marrons Solicitors	3,683,066	897,278	165,504	4,745,848
Saffmans Solicitors	2,126,217	2,362,908	131,201	4,620,326
Kingslegal	2,787,644	1,747,752	81,556	4,616,952
Simpson Millar Solicitors	4,249,960	178,857	75,514	4,504,332
Oxley and Coward Solicitors	2,157,868	2,058,286	159,232	4,375,386
Meloy Whittle Robinson	3,089,796	692,109	241,309	4,023,214
Hickmotts Solicitors	2,521,283	968,109	359,335	3,848,727
Onyems and Partners	3,514,197	0	47,550	3,561,747
1 Legal Solicitors	3,399,776	0	0	3,399,776
Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	2,158,034	935,501	121,125	3,214,659
Proddow and Mackay Solicitors	3,024,181	0	24,450	3,048,631
Bailey Bravo Jobling	2,833,561	0	0	2,833,561
BHP Law	2,099,365	519,348	18,513	2,637,225
McLeish Carswell	1,202,557	1,322,450	37,954	2,562,961
McConville O'Neill Solicitors	2,276,802	200,294	61,773	2,538,869
Cordner Lewis Solicitors	2,420,770	870	0	2,421,640
Gorvin Smith Fort Solicitors	1,918,814	353,339	122,178	2,394,330
Recompense Limited	2,305,351	0	8,050	2,313,401
Gabb and Co.	1,409,116	739,254	84,378	2,232,748
Pannone and Partners Solicitors	1,880,922	194,200	80,097	2,155,220
Hindle Campbell Solicitors	2,083,824	0	0	2,083,824
Morgan Cole	1,838,925	0	169,880	2,008,805
Heptonstalls Solicitors LLP	0	0	1,920,153	1,920,153
J. M. Skinner Solicitors	1,708,177	43,995	0	1,752,172
Pinto Potts Solicitors	613,819	46,782	1,040,575	1,701,176
Keeble Hawson	885,661	680,137	68,827	1,634,625
DMH Stallard	1,125,517	108,796	299,172	1,533,485
Wheelers Solicitors	1,477,049	0	0	1,477,049
Farleys Solicitors	1,149,479	276,673.	2,643	1,428,794
Emsleys Solicitors	1,306,846	49,932	69,153	1,425,931
Canter Levin and Berg Solicitors	1,151,162	227,178	0	1,378,341
J. Keith Park and Co. Solicitors	1,162,414	196,862	18,414	1,377,690
MLM Solicitors	1,223,487	17,828	4,000	1,245,315
Endlars Solicitors	447,524	602,611	152,222	1,202,357
Colemans Solicitors	903,171	139,433	150,043	1,192,646
Campbell Smith W.S.	917,934	181,637	37,637	1,137,208
Mincoffs Solicitors	550,842	474,583	49,535	1,074,960
Ben Hoare Bell and Co. Solicitors	791,353	196,986	40,967	1,029,305
Lopian Wagner Solicitors	865,973	76,478	27,188	969,638
Elliot Mather Solicitors	800,607	10,701	157,324	968,631
SIS Law	923,635	0	0	923,635
Branton Bridge	480,827	319,241	66,698	866,765
Holmes and Hills Solicitors	469,093	160,905	225,827	855,825
Morrish and Co. Solicitors	531,487	162,256	101,942	795,685
Browns	13,603	928	724,566	739,098
Russell Jones and Walker Solicitors	529,492	138,382	41,688	709,562
Stripes Solicitors	632,696	49,160	12,800	694,656
Foys Solicitors	542,389	120,205	5,995	668,588
Treanors Solicitors	250,370	398,860	5,763	654,993
BBH Solicitors	389,115	233,510	4,011	626,636
Robinson King Solicitors—ceased trading	301,962	293,028	26,261	621,250
Mills Donkin and Co.	535,417	30,280	10,481	576,177
Housemans Solicitors	458,578	73,997	18,769	551,344
Stuart Bell and Associates	392,553	139,043	18,333	549,930
Peace Revitt Solicitors	331,468	187,850	10,552	529,870
Robinson and Murphy Solicitors	237,069	229,729	56,640	523,437

£

Claimants' representatives	COPD costs	VWF costs	Misc. claims costs[1]	Total costs
MK Legal LLP Solicitors	508,244	0	0	508,244
Oakley and Davies	506,434	0	0	506,434
Richard J. Knaggs and Co.	275,658	181,445	21,168	478,271
Adam F. Greenhalgh and Co. Solicitors	61,268	44,616	356,000	461,884
Lloyd Green Solicitors	391,165	10,044	4,000	405,210
St. Davids Solicitors	382,117	0	0	382,117

[1] Includes costs for Noise Induced Hearing Loss and other Miscellaneous Diseases.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which 100 firms of solicitors have submitted the most claims under the coal health compensation scheme; and how many claims each such firm has submitted. [286400]

Mr. Kidney: The top 100 claimants' representatives who have submitted the most claims under the coal health compensation schemes is broken down by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), vibration white finger (VWF) and other miscellaneous claims shown in the following table.

£

Claimants' representatives	COPD costs	VWF costs	Misc. claims[1] costs	Total costs
Thompsons Solicitors	121,758,445	31,518,213	3,084,589	156,361,247
Beresfords Solicitors	133,359,135	7,924,924	3,054,869	144,338,929
Hugh James	102,057,162	12,326,792	964,859	116,348,813
Raleys Solicitors	80,412,876	14,907,685	1,607,660	96,928,221
Browell Smith and Co	56,340,495	14,385,298	1,980,467	72,706,260
Mark Gilbert Morse	58,622,804	45,800	0	58,668,604
Avalon Solicitors	40,794,782	117,574	419,161	41,331,518
Graysons Solicitors	25,536,505	12,455,640	2,794,482	40,786,626
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	23,241,215	10,611,889	6,373,980	40,227,084
Watson Burton LLP	26,656,881	8,652,776	1,436,195	36,745,853
Barber and Co	24,176,610	0	0	24,176,610
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	18,374,906	1,408,675	109,690	19,893,271
Moss Solicitors	12,669,621	5,656,411	1,457,882	19,783,914
Towells Solicitors	12,721,460	6,043,282	689,742	19,454,485
TLW Solicitors	16,049,983	1,010,621	293,075	17,353,679
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	13,496,315	2,938,629	621,810	17,056,753
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	11,968,470	3,668,584	878,263	16,515,317
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	10,200,466	3,793,094	520,617	14,514,177
Ingrams Solicitors	13,944,643	206,197	60,567	14,211,408
Corries Solicitors	11,067,799	2,401,321	434,963	13,904,083
Delta Legal	13,161,798	0	2,250	13,164,048
Atteys	7,853,621	4,705,066	102,189	12,660,876
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	9,229,890	1,364,849	85,498	10,680,238
BRM Solicitors	9,670,748	28,101	406,055	10,104,904
0 H Parsons and Partners Solicitors	6,720,948	2,442,110	735,079	9,898,138
Birchall Blackburn	9,337,769	0	31,850	9,369,619
Wake Smith and Toßelds Solicitors	8,619,831	328,134	413,793	9,361,757
Shaw and Co Solicitors	5,342,004	3,689,957	85,831	9,117,793
Corries York	8,193,817	726,550	208,690	9,029,056
Latham and Co Solicitors	3,032,594	2,732,151	333,047	6,097,791
Thompson and Co Solicitors	3,668,998	2,261,047	98,718	6,028,763
Hopkins	2,991,668	1,537,681	1,339,464	5,868,813
Hilary Meredith Solicitors	5,684,279	0	4,500	5,688,779
Mortons Solicitors	3,741,391	1,332,065	253,916	5,327,372
Furley Page	4,468,987	764,177	5,500	5,238,664
Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers	5,080,886	1,471	0	5,082,357
Morisons Solicitors	3,424,732	1,304,639	265,941	4,995,313
T S Edwards and Son Solicitors	3,477,301	1,359,833	49,241	4,886,375
Marrons Solicitors	3,683,066	897,278	165,504	4,745,848
Saffmans Solicitors	2,126,217	2,362,908	131,201	4,620,326
Kingslegal	2,787,644	1,747,752	81,556	4,616,952
Simpson Millar Solicitors	4,249,960	178,857	75,514	4,504,332

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Onyems and Partners	3,514,197	0	47,550	3,561,747
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Hindle Campbell Solicitors	2,083,824	0	0	2,083,824
Morgan Cole	1,838,925	0	169,880	2,008,805
Heptonstalls Solicitors LLP	0	0	1,920,153	1,920,153
J M Skinner Solicitors	1,708,177	43,995	0	1,752,172
Pinto Potts Solicitors	613,819	46,782	1,040,575	1,701,176
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Campbell Smith W.S.	917,934	181,637	37,637	1,137,208
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Robinson and Murphy Solicitors	237,069	229,729	56,640	523,437
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Oakley and Davies	506,434	0	0	506,434
Richard J. Knaggs and Co	275,658	181,445	21,168	478,271
Adam F Greenhaigh and Co Solicitors	61,268	44,616	356,000	461,884
Lloyd Green Solicitors	391,165	10,044	4,000	405,210
St. Davids Solicitors	382,117	0	0	382,117

[1] Includes costs for noise induced hearing loss and other miscellaneous diseases.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many persons with active claims under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme his Department has informed of the findings of solicitors' disciplinary tribunals in respect of the solicitors *(a)* Beresfords, *(b)* Avalon and *(c)* Raleys. [287017]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has not taken any such steps. The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) findings on Beresfords have been published but Beresfords have lodged an appeal against the SDT's findings and it would be inappropriate to comment before the appeal process has been completed. The formal SDT findings on Raleys and Avalon have not yet been published.

The Department has written to the Claimants Group (CG) who represent claimants' solicitors asking them what steps they are taking to make their clients aware of the SDT findings. To date, the CG have confirmed that they have not received any request from Beresfords clients on this matter.

Lighting: Government Departments

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the number of light bulbs used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Government departments which are energy efficient. [285386]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* As at Friday 17 July 2009, there are 2,643 energy efficient light bulbs in use in DECC's estate. The Department does not hold records on light bulbs used in other Government Departments.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the estimated total capacity is of microgeneration units of each type of technology installed under the household stream of the Low Carbon Building Programme in each year since it began operating; and if he will make a statement. [286483]

Mr. Kidney: The estimated total capacity of microgeneration units of each type of technology installed under the household stream of the Low Carbon Building Programme in each year since the commencement of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is as shown in the table.

LCBP Householder Stream—Installed Capacity

Statistics reflect paid grants as these are the only ones that The Energy Saving Trust has data for and have confirmation that technologies have been installed.

LCBP Householder Stream: Installed Capacity

Technology	*Number of paid grants*	*Power output kW or kWp*	*Thermal output kW*	*Collector area M2*
2006-07				
Biomass Room Heater/ Stove (Automated Wood Pellet Feed)	5	—	33.2	—
Ground Source Heat Pump	200	—	2,392.5	—
Small Scale Hydro	3	22.0	—	—
Solar Photovoltaic	488	1,267.6	—	—
Solar Thermal Hot Water	1,855	—	—	6,826.3
Wind Turbine	431	1,484.9	—	—
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	88	—	2,278.0	—
Total	3,070	2,774.5	4,703.7	6,826.3
2007-08				
Biomass Room Heater/ Stove (Automated Wood Pellet Feed)	4	—	36.0	—
Ground Source Heat Pump	152	—	1,928.7	—
Small Scale Hydro	1	3.0	—	—
Solar Photovoltaic	314	644.2	—	—
Solar Thermal Hot Water	1,119	—	—	8,890.7
Wind Turbine	100	455.9	—	—
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	118	—	3,213.4	—
Total	1,808	1,103.1	5,178.1	8,890.7
2008-09				
Air Source Heat Pump	42	—	474.9	—
Biomass Room Heater/ Stove (Automated Wood Pellet Feed)	2	—	16.0	—
Ground Source Heat Pump	142	—	1,677.3	—
Small Scale Hydro	1	8.5	—	—
Solar Photovoltaic	701	1,346.8	—	—
Solar Thermal Hot Water	1,986	—	—	14,261.9
Wind Turbine	110	588.8	—	—
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	170	—	5,631.8	—
Total	3,154	1,944.1	7,800.0	14,261.9
2009-10[1]				
Air Source Heat Pump	6	—	57.5	—
Solar Photovoltaic	52	100.0	—	—
Solar Thermal Hot Water	99	—	—	341.3
Wind Turbine	5	30.0	—	—
Total	162	130.0	57.5	341.3

[1] There are currently no installed/paid Biomass technologies.

Low Carbon Technologies

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the recent report of the Carbon Trust on commercialising low carbon technologies. [286771]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Trust report 'Focus for success—A new approach to commercialising low carbon technologies' is an important contribution to the debate on how to ensure the UK maximises the economic benefit of the move to a low carbon economy. DECC worked closely with the Carbon Trust as it developed the report. We welcome its publication and broadly support its conclusions. The report is part of the evidence base and wider considerations that have informed the

prioritisation decisions being made on the allocation of the low carbon investment funding announced in Budget 2009, as set out in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan and UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy published on 15 July.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Minister of State plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 1 May 2009, on Vesta's Isle of Wight plant. [279387]

Mr. Kidney: My noble colleague, Lord Hunt, responded to the hon. Member on 30 June 2009.

Nuclear Power Stations: Accidents

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* coolant leaks and *(b)* fires have been recorded at each UK nuclear installation in each of the last 10 years. [280802]

Mr. Kidney: ND screens incident reports made by licensees to identify those which have had the potential to challenge a nuclear safety system. A search of the raw input data for such screening from January 2001 to June 2009 has been undertaken for details of leaks and fires at nuclear installations. This identifies the relevant information in the tables. Such data are not available for the period before January 2001.

Notes:

1. A 'coolant leak' has been interpreted as being a loss of coolant, including clean coolant, from an item of plant into the working environment of the licensed site. Coolant itself has been interpreted as being water, carbon dioxide or hydrogen on a power station, and water elsewhere.

2. A fire has been interpreted as being a situation where ignition of material has taken place on the licensed site or instances of smouldering there where such ignition could not reasonably be ruled out given the information in the record.

Coolant leaks to environment

	Site	Incident
2001		
14 March	Dungeness A	Carbon dioxide leak from high pressure pump on carbon dioxide plant
26 October	Hinkley Point B	Cooling water leak from turbine alternator 7 exciter
3 November	Heysham 1	Cooling water leak to turbine generator
3 December	Rosyth	Loss of coolant from primary circuit clean-up resin column
2002		
6 February	Oldbury	Reactor 2 cooling water pipe failure
27 February	Hinkley point B	Leak of tritiated water from reactor bypass gas plant
31 March	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak from refuelling machine
14 May	Sizewell B	Indication of historic leak of primary coolant from control rod drive mechanism housing
26 June	Hunterston B	Leak of carbon dioxide from gas bypass plant
26 November	Hunterston B	Condenser leak on turbo generator 7
18 December	Hinkley point B	Leak of tritiated water from break tank
23 December	Dungeness B	Steam leak on reactor
2003		
31 January	Heysham 2	Steam leak on boiler half unit valve
19 February	Heysham 1	Release of cooling water from buffer store tube vent valve
1 March	Dungeness B	Carbon dioxide leak from flange on clean side of reactor gas pressurising unit
16 March	Hunterston B	Steam leak in the supply pipe work to Unit 7 main boiler feed pump
3 April	Hunterston B	Clean carbon dioxide leak from failed bursting disc on gas bypass plant on Reactor 8
13 May	Dungeness A	Leak from LP feed water pipe to R1 boilers
15 July	Heysham 1	Carbon dioxide leak from pressure transducer on refuelling machine
27 July	Dungeness B	Leak of water from base of flask E97
14 August	Wylfa	Leak from a Boiler 1 feed water line flange
29 September	Dungeness A	Clean carbon dioxide leak from pipe work in R1 pends area
7 December	Heysham 1	Leak of water from two failed joints in fuel route emergency cooling water 'A' main
2004		
2 February	Oldbury	Leak from LF feed main stub pipe
30 March	Sizewell A	Carbon dioxide release through failed vacuum pump oil separator
31 March	Hunterston B	Leak from auxiliary cooling water pipe flange
7 April	Hunterston B	Carbon dioxide release from the gas bypass plant autoclave room vacuum pump
14 April	Hartlepool	Leak through crack in heat exchanger flange
19 April	Heysham 1	Carbon dioxide leak from west storage plant
5 May	Hunterston B	Cooling water leak from generator yellow phase enclosure
11 May	Hinkley Point B	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
16 May	Hinkley Point B	Leak from Reactor 4 condensate system
9 June	Hartlepool	Leak of tritiated water from radioactive effluent treatment plant

Coolant leaks to environment

	Site	*Incident*
13 June	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
14 July	Sellafield	Leaking water from flask supply in B205
14 July	Hunterston B	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank bursting disc
21 July	Hinkley Point B	Carbon Dioxide leak from blowdown route
25 July	Heysham 1	Carbon Dioxide found in pressure vessel tendon box
3 August	Heysham 2	Carbon Dioxide leak from ring main
9 September	Hartlepool	Leak in low pressure back up cooling system pipe work
18 November	Heysham 1	Alternator hydrogen coolant leak
26 November	Heysham 2	Oil leak from transformer
2005		
1 January	Heysham 2	Steam leak on Turbine Generator 7
5 February	Hinkley Point B	Carbon dioxide leak from tank
19 February	Hinkley Point B	Carbon dioxide leak from tank
25 February	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak through in-service inspection penetration
15 March	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak from ring main
25 June	Dungeness A	Carbon dioxide leak from main CO_2 plant
4 July	Sellafield	Damp patch discovered adjacent to B30 pond wall
25 July	Oldbury	Steam leak through thermocouple pocket of Boiler 4 on Reactor 1
4 August	Hinkley Point B	Carbon dioxide leak from vaporiser valve
30 October	Dungeness A	Carbon dioxide leak through failed isolation valve to pressure gauge
2006		
30 January	Sellafield	Leak of dosed cooling water from B832 cooling tower
18 February	Sellafield	Leak of pond water through expansion joint above the stainless steel seal in B30 AGR storage pond
24 March	Hunterston B	Carbon dioxide leak in pipe trench
11 September	Hinkley point B	Carbon dioxide leak from supply pump
23 September	Hartlepool	Alternator hydrogen coolant leak
26 September	Hartlepool	Fracture of emergency cooling water main
2 October	Dungeness B	Auxiliary cooling water pipe work leak
15 October	Sizewell A	Steam leak from Turbine Alternator 1
18 November	Heysham 2	Steam leak from Reactor 7

Coolant leaks to environment

	Site	*Incident*
2007		
7 January	Sizewell A	Fracture of pond recirculating water system pipe work
18 January	Sellafield	Waste Vitrification Plant electrical inductor cooling water leak
1 March	Hinkley Point B	Carbon dioxide leak outside plant room
26 March	Dungeness B	Carbon dioxide leak in reactor basement
1 June	Hunterston B	Leak from condensate booster pump
2 June	Heysham 2	Leak in low pressure feed heater pipe work
18 July	Dungeness B	Leak of tritiated water Identified
19 September	Hartlepool	Leak of pressure vessel cooling water identified on boiler closure unit
28 September	Hunterston B	Steam leaks in high pressure gland pipe work
26 September	Dungeness B	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
27 October	Oldbury	Carbon dioxide leak from fuelling machine
2008		
19 February	Oldbury	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
20 February	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak from gas bypass plant
26 June	Heysham 2	Steam leak in gland steam drain line
26 July	Heysham 1	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
7 October	Wylfa	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
23 December	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak from valve in the fuel machine standby CO_2 coolant supplys
2009		
24 April	Hartlepool	Hydrogen leak from Unit 2 alternator frame
26 May	Heysham 1	Turbine cooling water leak
28 May	Hinkley Point B	Pressure vessel cooling water leak from Reactor 4 sump

Fire

	Site	*Incident*
2001		
18 January	Hunterston B	Control transformer fire in gas circulator workshop
14 February	Hunterston A	Fire in pit in charge machine maintenance building
18 February	Dungeness A	Fire near No. 1 bearing
14 March	Sellafield	Fire during sawing of camera frame

Fire

	Site	*Incident*
19 May	Dungeness A	Fire in region of slip ring and alternator on turbo-alternator 2
14 June	Hunterston B	Fire in lagging below pump main bearing
16 June	Harwell	Fire in fan assembly in electrical trunking on Helios 1 linear accelerator facility
20 June	Dounreay	Sodium/potassium fire in Dounreay Fast Reactor sphere
4 July	Sellafield	Fire in portable beta-in-air activity monitor
11 July	Amersham	Fire in administration building
18 July	Dounreay	Fire in sodium/potassium heating loop on Dounreay Fast Reactor
27 July	Berkeley Centre	Sodium and natural uranium fire in fume cupboard
30 August	Harwell	Fire in building 424
27 September	Hunterston B	Air circulation fan motor fire in electrical switch room
23 October	Dungeness B	Fire in canteen deep fat fryer
24 October	Heysham 2	Fire in incinerator fire box
30 October	Dounreay	Uranium residue fire in a D1202 glovebox
14 November	Wylfa	Fire in services switchboard transformer
1 December	Heysham 1	Fire on scaffolding in turbine hall basement
3 December	Hunterston B	Light fitting fire in outage planning building
2002		
9 March	Hinkley Point B	Lagging fire on Turbine 8 steam drain lines
11 April	Dungeness B	Smouldering lagging on turbine (1)
11 April	Dungeness B	Smouldering lagging on turbine (2)
29 May	Dounreay	Fire in D1207 roof void
12 July	Oldbury	Circulator lagging fire
13 August	Berkeley Centre	Fire in multiplexor unit
27 November	Hunterston B	Fire in light fitting
21 December	Heysham 1	Fire in turbine electrical terminal box
2003		
10 January	Hunterston B	Bearing fire in Main Control Building air conditioning compressor
27 January	Heysham 1	Ignition of expansion joint on pile cap
15 February	Dounreay	Waste drum fire in DN026 waste store
25 April	Heysham 2	Bearing fire in Turbine 8
8 June	Hunterston B	Fire in 415 V electrical supply board
8 July	Heysham 2	Lagging fire on main boiler feed pump

Fire

	Site	*Incident*
11 July	Dungeness B	Boiler feed pump primary oil pump fire
15 July	Harwell	Fire in B220 Laboratory GB38 fume cupboard
17 July	Wylfa	Light fitting fire above TA1
30 July	Rolls Royce Manufacturing	Swarf fire during machining in Clean Shop
28 August	Barrow	Smouldering plastic during burning-off operation
2 October	Hinkley Point B	Debris fire in R3 Circulator Hall
4 October	Heysham 2	Lagging fire between bearings 4 and 5 of turbine 8
24 October	Devonport	Welding fire in sonar transducer space
16 December	BNFL Capenhurst	Fire in pit beneath smelter
2004		
13 January	Sellafield	Two Magnox fuel decanning fires in Fuel Handling Plant
22 January	Hunterston B	Fire in reactor building lift motor room
5 February	Bradwell	Fire in portable water pump to showers in turbine hall
7 March	Hunterston A	Vacuum cleaner motor fire
27 May	Hunterston B	Electric motor fire in low level waste building annex
13 June	Heysham 2	Power supply cubicle fire
17 June	Hinkley Point B	Smouldering wash water pump drive belt
20 July	Berkeley	Fire in building C24
4 October	Hunterston B	Main boiler feed pump lagging fire
13 October	Sizewell A	Inboard pump bearing fire
28 October	Drigg	Combustion of loose waste material
17 November	Bradwell	Fire in reactor building electrical socket
2005		
4 February	Heysham 1	Smouldering lagging on turbine
8 March	Heysham 2	Fire on reactor basement sump pump
22 April	Harwell	Capacitor fire in building 459
22 June	Torness	Variable frequency output transformer fire
30 June	Barrow	Portacabin fire
14 July	Heysham 2	Fire in bearing of fuel handling plant extract fan
16 September	Torness	Fire in purge air compressor No. 2

Fire

	Site	*Incident*
31 October	Dungeness A	Fire in bulk group 4 LF power supply
2006		
23 January	Sellafield	Smoking bitumen seal around pipe on Combined Heat and Power Plant turbine
24 March	Dounreay	Hydrogen ignition during waste cutting operation in Prototype Fast Reactor
21 April	Springfields	Uranium shredder fire in building 338
23 October	Heysham 2	Smouldering leak management tray beside hot turbine reheat pipework
23 December	Burghfield	Smouldering cable in plant room
2007		
1 February	Hinkley Point B	Fire in bund of gas circulator lube system
2 June	Hunterston B	Bearing fire on turbogenerator 7
12 August	Heysham 2	Bearing fire in cooling water pump
2008		
7 January	Dounreay	Fire in office suite of D1208
13 March	GE Healthcare	Fire in inactive recycling plant
15 June	Rolls Royce Manufacturing	Fire in glove box
2 December	Hartlepool	Aerosol can fire
3 December	Trawsfynydd	Convector heater fire in ponds office
2009		
12 March	Heysham 1	Lagging smoke/fire
15 March	GE Healthcare	Fire in services spine duct
31 March	Barrow	Fire on the casing of Astute Boat 2 during welding/grinding operations
18 April	Barrow	Fire on the bridge fin of Astute Boat 1
29 April	Oldbury	Smoking air circuit breaker
18 May	Wylfa	Fire in Turbine alternator

Renewable Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings have been held between officials of his Department and the hon. Member for Nottingham, South (Alan Simpson) in his capacity as adviser on the implementation of the feed-in tariff programme. [287541]

Mr. Kidney: No meetings have been held between DECC officials and my hon. Friend the Member for Nottingham, South (Alan Simpson) on feed-in tariffs.

UDM-Vendside

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions *(a)* officials and *(b)* lawyers from his Department have visited UDM-Vendside headquarters in Mansfield since 1997. [286708]

Mr. Kidney: Officials and Department's legal advisers have had formal business meetings with UDM/Vendside on a number of occasions but we don't have comprehensive records of these, and an accurate number is not, therefore, available. I should also add that similar business meetings have also taken place with the Claimants' Solicitors Group.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings *(a)* his Department and *(b)* solicitors acting on his Department's behalf have had with UDM-Vendside in each year since 2005. [286867]

Mr. Kidney: Officials have had formal business meetings with UDM-Vendside but we do not have comprehensive records of these, and an accurate number is not, therefore, available. I should also add that similar business meetings have also taken place with the Claimants' Solicitors Group.

Warm Front Scheme

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints were *(a)* received and *(b)* upheld about the 10 Warm Front contractors who received the most work under the scheme (i) in the UK and (ii) in Wandsworth in (A) 2006, (B) 2007, (C) 2008 and (D) 2009. [285191]

Mr. Kidney: The following table details the number of complaints *(a)* received and *(b)* upheld about 10 Warm Front contractors who received the most work under the scheme (i) in England and (ii) in Wandsworth in years 2006-07 to 2008-09 and from 1 March to 19 May in 2009-10 (the latest period for which figures are available).

	England		*Wandsworth*	
	Complaints received	*Upheld complaints*	*Complaints received*	*Upheld complaints*
2006-07	532	276	7	3
2007-08	813	261	3	1
2008-09	435	190	4	2
2009-10[1]	198	87	3	2
Total	1,978	814	17	8

[1] Up to 19 May 2009

Wind Power

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria are used in the selection of sites for the construction of wind turbines; what assessment is made of the potential environmental effects on the local area of the siting of such turbines; and if he will make a statement. [287702]

Mr. Kidney: It is for the market to bring forward proposals for sites for onshore or offshore wind farms and these are then considered through the planning

system by the relevant planning authority as to whether it is appropriate to grant development consent. Environmental licences may also be required, for example, under the Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA).

Offshore, following a Strategic Environmental Assessment by DECC or the relevant Devolved Administration in Scotland and Northern Ireland, The Crown Estate is responsible for awarding site leases for offshore wind development to the market through a competitive process. Any subsequent proposals are considered through the planning process.

The Government have made clear that wind farms should be located in appropriate places and that local concerns should be listened to in this process. Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22 on renewable energy[1] makes clear the need to ensure that all renewable energy developments take place within the formal planning procedure, which allows all relevant stakeholders, including members of the public, to put forward their views on the likely impact of any proposal on the environment and the local community. Similar policies are in place in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

We set out in the Renewable Energy Strategy published this week[2] steps to improve the planning process for renewable and low carbon energy while protecting legitimate environmental and local concerns.

Planning applications should be accompanied by an environmental statement based on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This includes details of the likely impact of the project in question on the environment and wildlife, among other things. In considering an application, the planning authority will consult with a range of stakeholders, including the statutory advisers on nature conservation as well as others with an interest in the project. This ensures that decisions on whether to grant consent for a wind farm are considered in the light of the best available information about its likely environmental impacts. Any development of renewable energy must also be seen within the wider context of reducing carbon emissions and improving security of the energy supply.

Where relevant, an Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken to meet the requirements of the Birds[3] and Habitats Directives[4].

[1] http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps22

[2] http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx

[3] Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

[4] Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to answer questions *(a)* 285519 and *(b)* 285520, tabled on 6 July 2009 on the proposed national deep-level geographical repository for radioactive waste. [287730]

Mr. Kidney: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 420-21W.

CABINET OFFICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths in which alcohol was an underlying cause were recorded in each health trust area within the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [287764]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths in which alcohol was an underlying cause were recorded in each health trust within the Ceremonial County of Hampshire in each of the last five years. (287764)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in Hampshire, Portsmouth City Teaching and Southampton City primary care organisations, from 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available). These primary care organisations are located within the area covered by Hampshire county, Portsmouth unitary authority and Southampton unitary authority, which together comprised the County of Hampshire prior to local government reorganisation.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause[1] in primary care organisations in Hampshire county, Portsmouth unitary authority and Southampton unitary authority[2], 2004-08[3, 4]

Primary care organisation	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Hampshire	118	128	142	100	120
Portsmouth City Teaching	23	31	26	27	32
Southampton City	25	35	32	32	27

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in box 1.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for 2008 are provisional.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Census: Fines

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were fined for not supplying information in their 2001 Census return. [288260]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people were fined for not supplying information in their 2001 Census return. (288260)

Of the 38 people that were successfully prosecuted for non-completion of 2001 Census returns, fines were imposed in 32 cases. Prosecutions were carried out in a Magistrate's Court and the imposition and amount of the fine was at the discretion of the Magistrate within the limits of the standard scale under the Criminal Justice Act.

Census: Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps are planned to collect information from Travellers in the 2011 Census. [288261]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what steps are planned to collect information from Travellers in the 2011 Census. (288261)

We are making special preparations to enumerate the Gypsy and Traveller community and these will be trialled in the Census Rehearsal which takes place on 11 October 2009 in areas within Newham, Lancaster and Isle of Anglesey. In developing the plans we are working closely with local authorities' Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers, and are liaising with Gypsy and Traveller community groups.

Advance information about traveller sites will be gathered including any requirements for help with literacy or sight or hearing impairment issues. Authorised sites will be visited as pre-arranged with the site manager to hand deliver questionnaires. Transit sites and any temporary roving caravans, travelling fairs and circuses will also be visited on Rehearsal day to complete both delivery and collection of questionnaires.

Following face-to-face meetings with a number of Roma and Romani community leaders and support organisations, plus direct meetings with representations of Travellers and Gypsy communities, we are planning to recruit directly from those communities to help overcome issues of literacy, language and concerns about confidentiality. The community leaders themselves have also offered to support our Census awareness campaign.

Following the Rehearsal the procedures will be evaluated and adapted as necessary prior to the 2011 Census. We are continuing to improve contact with Gypsy and Traveller groups through the community liaison programme.

The proposed 2011 Census ethnic group question includes for the first time a specific category for 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller'. A write-in option is also available for those Travellers who may wish to identify themselves in any other way.

Civil Servants: Manpower

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to box 2.6 of the White Paper, Your region your choice, Cm 5511, how many civil servants were employed in each region in each year from 2003. [287729]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, with reference to box 2.6 of the White Paper, Your region your choice, Cm 5511, how many civil servants were employed in each region in each year from 2003. (287729)

The requested statistics are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Regional distribution of Civil Service employment 2003–2008[1]—Permanent employees

Full-time equivalents

	2003[2]	*2004[2]*	*2005[2]*	*2006[3,4]*	*2007[3]*	*2008[5]*
London and South East						
London	90,730	86,840	89,550	64,340	81,840	80,410
South East	58,300	57,360	57,630	47,200	48,990	49,840
South West	48,810	52,630	52,360	48,230	50,760	49,990
West Midlands	33,620	34,800	34,550	29,130	31,540	31,580
North West	60,530	61,580	59,720	52,400	58,600	58,560
North East	33,250	35,710	34,460	30,870	32,640	31,670
Yorkshire and the Humber	35,570	39,140	38,670	34,500	36,330	36,370
East Midlands	22,110	23,180	22,870	20,100	23,310	23,080
East of England	31,490	31,100	30,600	23,790	27,900	27,820
Wales	31,520	33,540	32,680	29,250	31,290	32,140
Scotland	46,580	48,670	48,130	39,600	45,620	45,090
Northern Ireland	5,940	6,210	6,250	4,910	5,140	4,720
Not reported and elsewhere	13,960	12,810	10,960	9,880	14,980	11,630
All permanent employees	512,400	523,580	518,430	434,210	488,930	482,920

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten, and numbers less than five are represented by '•'.
[2] Survey reference date 1 April.
[3] Survey reference date 30 September.
[4] Data available from Mandate collection only, providing around 85% coverage of Government departments. A comparable total for 2006, compiled by using a combination of the Mandate Collection and Departmental Returns is 508,570. Further details can be found at http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/quality/qual-info-economic-social-and-bus-stats/quality-reports-for-business-statistics/annual-civil-service-employment-survey.pdf
[5] Survey reference date 31 March.
Source:
Mandate Collection (Cabinet Office 2003-2005; ONS 2006) and Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ONS 2007-2008)

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information the Office for National Statistics holds on the *(a)* non-ministerial departments, *(b)* non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* public corporations which pay a salary of more than (i) £100,000, (ii) £150,000 and (iii) £200,000 to one or more individual civil servants. [287242]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, concerning what information the Office for National Statistics holds on the (a) non-ministerial departments, (b) non-departmental public bodies and (c) public corporations which pay a salary of more than (i) £100,000, (ii) £150,000 and (iii) £200,000 to one or more individual civil servants. (287242)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects a range of information, including the annual salaries of civil servants, as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES). The ACSES provides regional analyses, diversity and earnings statistics for the Civil Service population. The survey's content is outlined in the table at Annex A. The ACSES is a complete census of the Civil Service and includes all non-ministerial departments and a number of non-departmental public bodies and public corporations that are staffed by civil servants.

Further detail on the content of the ACSES is available from the ONS website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/quality/qual-info-economic-social-and-bus-stats/quality-reports-for-business-statistics/annual-civil-service-employment-survey.pdf

Annex A

Required Fields for the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey 2009

Variable Name

Date of birth
Gender
Part-time hours
Full-time equivalent (FTE)
Civil service—date of entry
Civil service—grade on entry
Department
Current grade
Current grade—date of entry
Location
National identity
Ethnic background
Date of leaving
Cause of leaving
Record key
Profession of post
Disability indicator
Appointment status
Gross salary
Department—date of entry
Post code

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants in *(a)* departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies receive an annual salary of over £150,000. [287257]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, concerning how many civil servants in (a) departments, (b) executive agencies and (c) non-departmental public bodies receive an annual salary of over £150,000. (287257)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects the annual salaries of civil servants, as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES).

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Number of individual civil servants paid more than £150,000 in departments, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPB)[1] permanent employees

	Headcount
31 March 2008	*Greater than £150,000*
Departments[2]	80
Executive agencies	10
Non-departmental public bodies	—

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten and numbers less than five are represented by "—".
[2] Includes ministerial and non-ministerial Departments.

Source:
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES).

Civil Service

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether employees in public corporations are reckoned to be Civil Service employees for headcount purposes. [287347]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning whether the number of employees in public corporations are reckoned to be Civil Service employees for headcount purposes. (287347)

If the employees of public corporations have civil service status they will be included in the civil service headcount statistics. At Quarter 1 2009, there were 525,000 Civil Service employees and 568,000 employees of public corporations. Of those employed by public corporations, 31,493 were included in Civil Service headcount estimates (all not seasonally adjusted).

Civil Service: Languages

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information the Cabinet Office collates on the competences of domestic civil servants in modern foreign languages; and what steps she is taking to improve such competence levels. [278929]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the competencies of domestic civil servants in modern foreign languages is not held centrally. Departments may hold this information where it is relevant to the post.

The UK Inter-Departmental Standing Committee on Languages (UKIDSCOL), a cross-governmental languages group has identified a lack of higher education provision in certain languages operationally important (notably Pashtu, Farsi, Dari, Kurdish and Somali). In response, UKIDSCOL recently began working with

Government Skills (the skills council for central government) to encourage the higher education sector to provide teaching in these languages. Progress on this work is expected by the end of the year.

Civil Service: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost was of administering the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme in each of the last five years. [289128]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1048W.

Death: Cannabis

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cannabis-related deaths there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [288112]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many cannabis-related deaths there were in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point in each of the last five years. (288112)

There were no deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning[1] and cannabis was mentioned alone or with other substances on the death certificate, in (a) Essex county,[2] including Castle Point local authority,[3] from 2003 to 2007[4] (the latest year available).

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the box below), and where cannabis was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] In addition, there were no deaths from this cause in Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unitary authorities, which were part of the former County of Essex, in any of these years.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Death: Heart Diseases

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people under the age of 18 years have died of cardiovascular failure in each of the last 10 years. [288388]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people under the age of 18 years have died of cardiovascular failure in each of the last 10 years. (288388)

The table attached provides the number of deaths of persons aged under 18 years, where cardiovascular disease was the underlying cause of death in England and Wales, from 1999 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths where cardiovascular disease was the underlying cause of death[1], persons aged under 18 years, England and Wales[2], 1999 to 2008[3, 4]

	Number
1999	173
2000	172
2001	159
2002	139
2003	163
2004	143
2005	145
2006	177
2007	171
2008	155

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 390-459 for the years 1999 and 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes 100-199 from 2001 onwards.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Death: Seas and Oceans

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people died in marine accidents in British territorial waters in each year from 2002 to 2008; and how many of those deaths in each such year were suicides. [286617]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

The number of people that have died in maritime related accidents or committed suicide in the maritime environment in each year from 2002 to 2008 in the United Kingdom Search and Rescue Region is given in the following table:

	Maritime related accidents	*Suicides in the maritime environment*
2002	110	71
2003	105	55
2004	100	115
2005	101	113
2006	124	105
2007	127	71
2008	93	92

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she expects to publish her Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287323]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 were published on 16 July and are available in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what categories of personal information on members of the public are contained on each database which contains such data managed by her Department and its agencies; when each category of information was first collected; and if she will make a statement; [284893]

(2) what databases managed by her Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if she will make a statement; [285982]

(3) which of the planned databases that will be managed by her Department or its agency and which will hold personal information on members of the public are expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement; [286142]

(4) what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each of her Department's and its agency's databases expected to become operational in the next five years; what estimate she has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if she will make a statement. [286493]

Angela E. Smith: Of the databases owned by the Cabinet Office, there are six that contain information about members of the public. The personal information held is name and contact details, unless otherwise stated.

(1) The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) stakeholder database has been operational since 2006, when OTS was established in the Cabinet Office. There are some members of the public on this database.

(2) The Queen's Award nominations database has been operational since 2002. Most of the nominees are members of the public. Additional category of information held is the reason for the award nomination.

(3) The Departmental Correspondence database has been operational since 1997. It includes members of the public who have corresponded with the department.

(4) The Prime Minister's Office stakeholder database has existed in electronic form since 1999. There are some members of the public on this database.

(5) The Emergency Planning College database has been operational since 2006. It includes information on members of the public who attend the college. Additional categories of information held are: vehicle registration and dietary preference for students; and research interests of visiting lecturers and researchers.

(6) The Fast Stream Recruitment database has been operational since 2004. It includes information on members of the public who have applied to the Fast Stream graduate recruitment scheme. Additional categories of information held are: employment and education history; equality and diversity information; disclosure certificates and references.

There are no current plans to store any new data or categories of personal information on members of the public within the Cabinet Office as a whole.

All databases which we hold which contain personal data adhere to the provisions of the Data Protection Act. In addition, following the publication of the cross government data handling review, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data will be obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

All of our databases containing personal information are stored on secure networks and have limited access. Cabinet Office policy does not permit uncontrolled transfer of these data to unsecured media.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the planned real terms change in *(a)* cash and *(b)* percentage terms in her Department's expenditure is in each of the next three years. [287249]

Angela E. Smith: Details of the Cabinet Office's planned expenditure to the end of the current comprehensive spending review period are available in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 which were published on 16 July and are available in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

Departmental Personnel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 335W, on departmental personnel, how many staff in the Cabinet Office have no post; how many such staff without posts were classified as being without post upon return from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified as such for at least *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months. [249947]

Angela E. Smith: As at 30 June 2009 there were 32 Cabinet Office employees without a permanent role. All staff are allocated short-term critical projects to allow flexibility and effective use of Cabinet Office resources. None of these staff are returnees from maternity leave.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Tatton of 22 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 525W, on departmental publications, what the title is of the Cabinet Office's current staff newsletter; how much it costs to produce; and with what frequency is it published; [241640]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of each edition of the Cabinet Office's staff magazine from the last three months redacting *(a)* personally identifiable names and photographs of junior civil servants and *(b)* information necessary to safeguard national security. [287262]

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of each edition of her Department's internal staff journal, with sensitive personal information redacted. [250299]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office no longer has a weekly staff publication. Instead, it runs an online news service for its staff on its departmental intranet, which is updated daily. Costs for maintaining the news service are covered by the Department's existing staff budget.

Employment: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in employment in the Hemsworth constituency in May in each year since 1997. [288662]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women were in employment in the Hemsworth constituency in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each year since 1997. (288662)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Estimates for local areas are only available on an annual basis.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people in employment aged 16 and over by gender, resident in the Hemsworth constituency. Estimates are provided for the 12 months ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending in December from 2004 to 2008, from the APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: Men and women in employment[1] in Hemsworth parliamentary constituency

12 months ending	*Men*	*Thousand Women*
February 1998	18	15
February 1999	20	15
February 2000	18	15
February 2001	20	18
February 2002	21	16
February 2003	26	16
February 2004	25	18
December 2004	22	18
December 2005	20	18
December 2006	25	20
December 2007	22	20
December 2008[2]	***22	***17

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Robustness	*Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)*	*Statistical*
*	0 ≤ CV<5	Estimates are considered precise
**	5 ≤CV <10	Estimates are considered reasonably precise
***	10 ≤CV <20	Estimates are considered acceptable
****	CV ≥20	Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey.

Employment: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people were self-employed in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997; [287860]

(2) how many people have claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [287857]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how may people were self-employed in (a) Hemel Hempstead, (b) Dacorum and (c) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997; and how many people have claimed jobseeker's allowance in (a) Hemel Hempstead, (b) Dacorum and (c) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. (287860, 287857)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance is compiled from Jobcentre Plus administrative data.

Table 1 shows the number of self-employed people resident in Hertfordshire in each year. Estimates for self-employed people for Hemel Hempstead and Dacorum are not available.

Table 2 shows the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the requested areas for June of each year since 1997.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment, are available from the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of self-employed[1] people resident in Hertfordshire in each year since 1997

12 months ending:	*Thousand Hertfordshire*
February 1998	69
February 1999	75
February 2000	68
February 2001	68
February 2002	69
February 2003	72
February 2004	80
December 2004	79
December 2005	76
December 2006	78
December 2007	86
December 2008[2]	**91

[1] People in employment who are self employed aged 16 and over.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 ≤ CV <5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Hemel Hempstead, Dacorum and Hertfordshire

Thousand

As at June each year	*Hemel Hempstead*	*Dacorum*	*Hertfordshire*
1997	1	2	14
1998	1	1	10
1999	1	1	9
2000	1	1	8
2001	1	1	7
2002	1	1	8
2003	1	1	9
2004	1	1	8
2005	1	1	9
2006	1	2	10
2007	1	1	9
2008	1	1	8
2009	2	3	19

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Islamic Bank of Britain

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Charity Commission has had recent discussions with representatives of Lloyds Banking Group on the Group's decision to order the Islamic Bank of Britain to cease processing payments for Interpal. [288312]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, July 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on whether the Charity Commission has had any recent discussions with representatives of Lloyds Banking Group on the Group's decision to order the Islamic Bank of Britain to cease processing payments for Interpal.

In response to your question, the Commission has not had any recent discussions relating to this decision. The decision made by Lloyds Banking Group is not one in which the Commission can become directly involved or seek to influence, as it is a business decision for any bank as a supplier of financial services as to whom they offer those services. However, the Commission as regulator is clear that in order to operate effectively and transparently when delivering aid or other charitable work, every charity must have access to banking services. We would have serious concern if a charity were not able to operate for lack of a bank account, because of the harm that could result to its charitable work and its ability to operate transparently.

The Commission does on occasion engage with the banking industry generally in the course of its business, and has held discussions with the banking industry in relation to a number of issues affecting charities including the impact of overseas countries designation lists.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of young people aged between 18 and 24 years old resident in the Chelmsford local authority area claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2009 to date. [287045]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of young people aged between 18 and 24 years old resident in the Chelmsford local authority area claimed jobseeker's allowance in (a) each of the last five years and (b) 2009 to date. (287045)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number and percentage of persons aged 18-24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in each month since January 2004.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: number of persons aged 18-24 resident in Chelmsford claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

Date	*Chelmsford*	
	Number[1]	*Percentage*[2]
January 2004	295	2.2
February 2004	315	2.4
March 2004	325	2.5
April 2004	290	2.2
May 2004	245	1.8
June 2004	220	1.7
July 2004	235	1.8
August 2004	280	2.1
September 2004	275	2.1
October 2004	265	2.0
November 2004	240	1.8
December 2004	255	1.9
January 2005	305	2.3
February 2005	320	2.4
March 2005	300	2.2
April 2005	315	2.4
May 2005	315	2.3
June 2005	310	2.3
July 2005	325	2.4
August 2005	365	2.7
September 2005	355	2.7
October 2005	345	2.6
November 2005	340	2.5
December 2005	355	2.7

Table 1: number of persons aged 18-24 resident in Chelmsford claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

Date	Chelmsford Number[1]	Percentage[2]
January 2006	400	3.0
February 2006	430	3.2
March 2006	410	3.0
April 2006	435	3.2
May 2006	380	2.8
June 2006	340	2.5
July 2006	400	3.0
August 2006	400	3.0
September 2006	405	3.0
October 2006	375	2.8
November 2006	385	2.8
December 2006	365	2.7
January 2007	395	2.9
February 2007	425	3.1
March 2007	425	3.1
April 2007	430	3.1
May 2007	400	2.9
June 2007	375	2.7
July 2007	380	2.8
August 2007	380	2.8
September 2007	370	2.7
October 2007	350	2.6
November 2007	335	2.4
December 2007	325	2.4
January 2008	345	2.5
February 2008	350	2.6
March 2008	325	2.4
April 2008	300	2.2
May 2008	305	2.2
June 2008	295	2.2
July 2008	340	2.5
August 2008	385	2.8
September 2008	415	3.0
October 2008	430	3.2
November 2008	515	3.8
December 2008	530	3.9
January 2009	625	4.6
February 2009	770	5.6
March 2009	785	5.7
April 2009	825	6.0
May 2009	835	6.1
June 2009	785	5.7

[1] Data rounded to nearest 5
[2] Percentage of 18-24 years olds claiming jobseeker's allowance
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Jobseeker's Allowance: Ethnic Groups

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants were from each ethnic minority in each of the last 24 months. [287340]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants were from each ethnic minority in each of the last 24 months.(287340)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The ethnicity of claimants is not available for the United Kingdom and has been provided for Great Britain. Ethnicity is also not available for non-computerised claims.

Tables 1a-c show the number of computerised claims of Jobseeker's Allowance for each recorded ethnic group for each of the last 24 months. Tables 2a-c show the proportion of all computerised claims by each ethnic group for the same time periods.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1a: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by ethnicity

Great Britain

		Total	White - British	White - Irish	White - Other	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	Mixed - White and Black African
2007	May	861,240	610,545	6,355	16,705	6,215	1,975
	June	828,550	584,555	6,110	15,720	6,015	1,875
	July	826,415	582,550	5,945	15,390	6,030	1,885
	August	828,875	583,900	5,865	15,135	6,080	1,860
	September	801,970	561,740	5,745	14,980	6,045	1,825
	October	775,735	544,890	5,540	14,835	5,775	1,730
	November	760,560	537,015	5,370	14,615	5,590	1,655
	December	764,890	545,335	5,490	14,775	5,735	1,650
2008	January	803,845	578,760	5,625	14,910	5,890	1,725
	February	821,360	592,190	5,705	15,770	6,155	1,785
	March	815,345	586,930	5,620	15,980	6,240	1,810
	April	807,850	582,525	5,475	15,800	6,230	1,820
	May	804,350	579,525	5,445	15,940	6,230	1,845

Table 1a: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by ethnicity

Great Britain

		Total	White - British	White - Irish	White - Other	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	Mixed - White and Black African
	June	805,680	581,085	5,485	15,905	6,390	1,830
	July	840,595	610,000	5,615	16,325	6,590	1,880
	August	891,830	653,375	5,925	16,840	6,955	1,995
	September	911,965	669,270	6,035	17,545	7,090	2,000
	October	936,940	694,800	6,240	18,620	7,160	2,040
	November	1,019,540	765,160	6,865	20,890	7,500	2,080
	December	1,114,135	846,670	7,575	23,035	8,085	2,230
2009	January	1,239,610	951,995	8,175	25,075	8,515	2,320
	February	1,412,355	1,087,495	9,235	32,270	9,570	2,600
	March	1,473,655	1,133,345	9,590	35,390	10,130	2,735
	April	1,506,420	1,157,055	9,865	35,830	10,495	2,810
	May	1,512,440	1,158,350	10,025	35,425	10,745	2,855

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 1b: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by ethnicity

Great Britain

		Mixed - White and Asian	Mixed - Other Mixed	Asian or Asian British - Indian	Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	Asian or Asian British - Other Asian
2007	May	1,540	3,730	15,675	20,060	9,560	6,370
	June	1,530	3,590	15,250	19,910	9,440	6,205
	July	1,505	3,510	15,225	20,025	9,350	6,115
	August	1,550	3,455	15,695	20,115	9,320	6,085
	September	1,540	3,490	14,955	19,880	9,465	6,045
	October	1,455	3,320	14,115	19,035	9,200	5,810
	November	1,385	3,255	13,430	18,330	9,030	5,735
	December	1,415	3,235	13,005	17,950	8,525	5,530
2008	January	1,435	3,285	13,345	18,255	8,540	5,605
	February	1,455	3,360	13,160	18,440	8,650	5,750
	March	1,490	3,420	13,315	18,320	8,620	5,710
	April	1,493	3,435	13,380	18,200	8,480	5,630
	May	1,525	3,450	13,755	18,740	8,510	5,725
	June	1,530	3,410	14,000	19,150	8,610	5,800
	July	1,615	3,600	14,945	19,675	8,725	5,930
	August	1,700	3,730	15,710	20,425	9,025	6,265
	September	1,750	3,810	15,985	21,035	9,280	6,370
	October	1,720	3,880	15,825	20,615	9,290	6,365
	November	1,780	4,140	16,200	21,015	9,395	6,530
	December	1,870	4,425	17,385	21,625	9,255	6,800
2009	January	2,025	4,735	19,350	23,100	9,640	7,265
	February	2,265	5,420	21,800	24,985	10,290	8,110
	March	2,475	5,785	23,115	25,720	10,780	8,610
	April	2,560	6,045	24,335	26,365	10,910	8,865
	May	2,540	6,180	25,460	27,230	11,395	9,125

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 1c: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by ethnicity

Great Britain

		Black or Black British - Caribbean	Black or Black British - African	Black or Black British - Other Black	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group - Chinese	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group - Other Ethnic Group	Prefer Not To Say	Unknown
2007	May	26,550	23,790	6,250	2,070	19,610	71,410	12,835
	June	25,785	23,300	6,060	1,975	18,840	70,005	12,385
	July	25,555	23,195	6,060	2,015	18,315	71,520	12,230
	August	25,620	23,240	6,045	2,045	17,950	73,045	11,870
	September	25,255	22,960	5,950	2,025	17,750	70,685	11,630
	October	24,340	22,015	5,765	1,915	17,235	67,630	11,125
	November	23,710	21,280	5,555	1,860	16,750	65,410	10,590
	December	23,600	20,845	5,500	1,755	16,515	63,290	10,740
2008	January	23,750	20,950	5,530	1,735	16,610	66,600	11,295
	February	23,990	21,485	5,715	1,695	16,800	67,520	11,730
	March	24,145	21,650	5,755	1,680	16,710	66,000	11,950
	April	23,940	21,415	5,735	1,655	16,525	64,025	12,085
	May	24,125	21,840	5,780	1,685	16,435	62,075	11,705
	June	24,475	22,255	5,845	1,680	16,215	59,970	12,050
	July	25,080	22,770	5,970	1,745	16,230	61,495	12,395
	August	26,005	23,475	6,185	1,835	16,335	61,310	12,745
	September	26,450	23,965	6,320	1,895	16,770	63,505	12,900
	October	26,385	23,660	6,240	1,920	16,935	63,205	12,245
	November	27,205	24,015	6,415	1,915	17,525	66,845	14,065
	December	28,570	24,695	6,775	2,025	18,320	70,460	14,345
2009	January	29,570	25,675	7,040	2,170	19,200	78,535	15,225
	February	32,260	27,845	7,730	2,295	21,055	88,960	18,165
	March	33,840	29,525	8,285	2,500	21,965	91,175	18,685
	April	34,995	30,570	8,630	2,645	22,285	92,575	19,580
	May	35,880	31,755	8,880	2,775	22,460	91,575	19,775

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 2a: Percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants by ethnicity

Great Britain

		White - British	White - Irish	White - Other	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	Mixed - White and Black African
2007	May	70.9	0.7	1.9	0.7	0.2
	June	70.6	0.7	1.9	0.7	0.2
	July	70.5	0.7	1.9	0.7	0.2
	August	70.4	0.7	1.8	0.7	0.2
	September	70.0	0.7	1.9	0.8	0.2
	October	70.2	0.7	1.9	0.7	0.2
	November	70.6	0.7	1.9	0.7	0.2
	December	71.3	0.7	1.9	0.7	0.2
2008	January	72.0	0.7	1.9	0.7	0.2
	February	72.1	0.7	1.9	0.7	0.2
	March	72.0	0.7	2.0	0.8	0.2
	April	72.1	0.7	2.0	0.8	0.2
	May	72.0	0.7	2.0	0.8	0.2
	June	72.1	0.7	2.0	0.8	0.2

Table 2a: Percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants by ethnicity

Great Britain

		White - British	White - Irish	White - Other	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	Mixed - White and Black African
	July	72.6	0.7	1.9	0.8	0.2
	August	73.3	0.7	1.9	0.8	0.2
	September	73.4	0.7	1.9	0.8	0.2
	October	74.1	0.7	2.0	0.8	0.2
	November	75.0	0.7	2.0	0.7	0.2
	December	76.0	0.7	2.1	0.7	0.2
2009	January	76.8	0.7	2.0	0.7	0.2
	February	77.0	0.7	2.3	0.7	0.2
	March	76.9	0.7	2.4	0.7	0.2
	April	76.8	0.7	2.4	0.7	0.2
	May	76.6	0.7	2.3	0.7	0.2

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 2b: Percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants by ethnicity

Great Britain

		Mixed - White and Asian	Mixed - Other Mixed	Asian or Asian British - Indian	Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	Asian or Asian British - Other Asian
2007	May	0.2	0.4	1.8	2.3	1.1	0.7
	June	0.2	0.4	1.8	2.4	1.1	0.7
	July	0.2	0.4	1.8	2.4	1.1	0.7
	August	0.2	0.4	1.9	2.4	1.1	0.7
	September	0.2	0.4	1.9	2.5	1.2	0.8
	October	0.2	0.4	1.8	2.5	1.2	0.7
	November	0.2	0.4	1.8	2.4	1.2	0.8
	December	0.2	0.4	1.7	2.3	1.1	0.7
2008	January	0.2	0.4	1.7	2.3	1.1	0.7
	February	0.2	0.4	1.6	2.2	1.1	0.7
	March	0.2	0.4	1.6	2.2	1.1	0.7
	April	0.2	0.4	1.7	2.3	1.0	0.7
	May	0.2	0.4	1.7	2.3	1.1	0.7
	June	0.2	0.4	1.7	2.4	1.1	0.7
	July	0.2	0.4	1.8	2.3	1.0	0.7
	August	0.2	0.4	1.8	2.3	1.0	0.7
	September	0.2	0.4	1.8	2.3	1.0	0.7
	October	0.2	0.4	1.7	2.2	1.0	0.7
	November	0.2	0.4	1.6	2.1	0.9	0.6
	December	0.2	0.4	1.6	1.9	0.8	0.6
2009	January	0.2	0.4	1.6	1.9	0.8	0.6
	February	0.2	0.4	1.5	1.8	0.7	0.6
	March	0.2	0.4	1.6	1.7	0.7	0.6
	April	0.2	0.4	1.6	1.8	0.7	0.6
	May	0.2	0.4	1.7	1.8	0.8	0.6

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 2c: Percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants by ethnicity

Great Britain

		Black or Black British - Caribbean	*Black or Black British - African*	*Black or Black British - Other Black*	*Chinese or Other Ethnic Group - Chinese*	*Chinese or Other Ethnic Group - Other Ethnic Group*	*Prefer Not To Say*	*Unknown*
2007	May	3.1	2.8	0.7	0.2	2.3	8.3	1.5
	June	3.1	2.8	0.7	0.2	2.3	8.4	1.5
	July	3.1	2.8	0.7	0.2	2.2	8.7	1.5
	August	3.1	2.8	0.7	0.2	2.2	8.8	1.4
	September	3.1	2.9	0.7	0.3	2.2	8.8	1.5
	October	3.1	2.8	0.7	0.2	2.2	8.7	1.4
	November	3.1	2.8	0.7	0.2	2.2	8.6	1.4
	December	3.1	2.7	0.7	0.2	2.2	8.3	1.4
2008	January	3.0	2.6	0.7	0.2	2.1	8.3	1.4
	February	2.9	2.6	0,7	0.2	2.0	8.2	1.4
	March	3.0	2.7	0.7	0.2	2.0	8.1	1.5
	April	3.0	2.7	0.7	0.2	2.0	7.9	1.5
	May	3.0	2.7	0.7	0.2	2.0	7.7	1.5
	June	3.0	2.8	0.7	0.2	2.0	7.4	1.5
	July	3.0	2.7	0.7	0.2	1.9	7.3	1.5
	August	2.9	2.6	0.7	0.2	1.8	7.1	1.4
	September	2.9	2.6	0.7	0.2	1.8	7.0	1.4
	October	2.8	2.5	0.7	0.2	1.8	6.7	1.3
	November	2.7	2.4	0.6	0.2	1.7	6.6	1.4
	December	2.6	2.2	0.6	0.2	1.6	6.3	1.3
2009	January	2.4	2.1	0.6	0.2	1.5	6.3	1.2
	February	2.3	2.0	0.5	0.2	1.5	6.3	1.3
	March	2.3	2.0	0.6	0.2	1.5	6.2	1.3
	April	2.3	2.0	0.6	0.2	1.5	6.1	1.3
	May	2.4	2.1	0.6	0.2	1.5	6.1	1.3

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have been claiming jobseeker's allowance in Morecambe and Lunesdale for over two years. [288360]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have been claiming jobseekers allowance in Morecambe and Lunesdale for over two years. (288360)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. There were 10 people in Morecambe and Lunesdale claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for two years or more in June 2009.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and the claimant count, are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Lobbying: Charities

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many investigations by the Charity Commission for breaches of rules relating to political lobbying by registered charities *(a)* were initiated, *(b)* were completed and *(c)* resulted in the application of sanctions in each of the last three years. [286675]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated July 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many investigations by the Charity Commission for breaches

of rules relating to political lobbying by registered charities (a) were initiated, (b) were completed and (c) resulted in the application of sanctions in each of the last three years.

It may be useful if I start by explaining the framework which the Charity Commission applies to charities and campaigning and political activity. Charity law on campaigning and political activity is set out in our published guidance "Speaking Out—Guidance on Campaigning and Political Activity by Charities (CC9)" which is available on our website at www.charitycommission.gov.uk. All charities must be established for exclusively charitable purposes and, as a general principle, charities may undertake campaigning and political activity, subject to the law and the terms of their governing document, in as much as it is a positive way of furthering or supporting their purposes. However, in doing so, charities must be mindful of their independence and must not engage in any form of party political activity.

Your question is in three parts and I will deal with each part separately.

Turning to part (a) of your question, the Charity Commission's Assessment Unit considers those complaints where it is evident that they cannot be dealt with by advice and support and which appear serious enough for us to look at more closely. The Assessment Unit determines the appropriate way to deal with complaints based on issues of risk and proportionality, and whether the issue raised falls within our regulatory remit. The following table shows how many of the cases we assessed in each of the last three financial years included issues that we categorised as "political activities" (issues of "political lobbying" would be categorised in this way):

	Political activity cases identified at compliance assessment stage
2006-07	22
2007-08	30
2008-09	8

Turning to part (b) of your question regarding completed investigations the Commission undertakes two types of investigations into concerns of non-compliance including breaches of rules around charities and campaigning and political activity. Firstly we undertake non-statutory "regulatory compliance cases". These are cases where risk to the charity is limited and where it is likely that issues can be resolved through providing supervision, regulatory advice and guidance to trustees, and without the need to intervene by using our statutory powers. Secondly, in the few cases of significant risk and more serious regulatory concern, we may open a statutory inquiry under section 8 of the Charities Act 1993.

The following table sets out the number of regulatory compliance cases and statutory inquiries that the Commission completed during that year which involved concerns about "political activities".

	Investigations—Regulatory Compliance Cases completed which included concerns about "political activity"	*Investigations—Statutory Inquiries completed which included concerns about "political activity"*
2006-07	10	0
2007-08	5	0
2008-09	11	1

Finally, turning to part (c) of your question regarding sanctions, it is important to explain that our objective in such cases is to protect charitable assets and our actions are designed to protect these assets rather than as punitive measures.

When we close a statutory inquiry we publish a "statement of results of inquiry" (SORI) on our website. We also publish reports for those regulatory compliance case investigations which meet certain criteria relating to the public interest—the criteria are published on our website at:

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/investigations/inquiryreports/ingreps.asp

The publication of these reports can, in itself, be a form of sanction as the findings of the investigations are put into the public domain. Nonetheless the main aim of publication is to enable other charities to better understand the work we do and to learn general lessons from the way we have dealt with particular cases. Copies of both these types of reports, if they are less than six months old, are available on the Commission's website. Older reports are available by request. If you would like a copy of any of the reports which contain issues relating to political activity we are happy to provide these to you.

In terms of more formal sanctions, in most cases issues have been resolved through providing supervision, regulatory advice and guidance to trustees without the need to intervene by using our statutory powers. However, there has been one occasion in the last three years when we have used our statutory powers to ensure compliance in this area. We used section 19A of the Charities Act 1993 (introduced by section 20 of the Charities Act 2006) to direct the charity to carry out a governance review.

In general, it would be unusual in this type of case for the Commission to need to use the interventionist and remedial measures which are available only in statutory inquiries, such as the freezing of bank accounts, the suspension and removal of trustees, or the appointment of interim managers.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Pay: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the average annual earnings of people of working age was in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997; [287858]

(2) what the rate of average earnings growth was in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [287859]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking what the average earnings of people of working age was in (a) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (b) Dacorum and (c) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997 (287858) and what the rate of average earnings growth was in (a) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (b) Dacorum and (c) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. (287859)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

ONS's primary indicator of average earnings growth is the Average Earnings Index. As this does not produce regional estimates, the ASHE has been used. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PA YE) schemes.

The sample sizes for more detailed geographies can be small and this affects the quality of the resulting estimates, which are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Estimates for people of working age would only be available at disproportionate cost, but we have provided median gross weekly earnings estimates and annual percentage changes for the specified geographies for full-time and part-time employees.

Median gross weekly pay (£) for full-time employee jobs[a]

	Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency		Dacorum local authority		Hertfordshire	
	Median	Annual percentage change	Median	Annual percentage change	Median	Annual percentage change
1997	*364.0	n/a	*358.1	n/a	352.7	n/a
1998	*385.5	5.9	*377.6	5.4	374.3	6.1
1999	*384.3	-0.3	*377.8	0.0	385.8	3.0
2000	*438.7	14.2	*399.3	5.7	395.5	2.5
2001	*457.2	4.2	*448.1	12.2	429.1	8.5
2002	*475.6	4.0	*471.7	5.3	445.5	3.8
2003	*492.1	3.5	*479.9	1.7	457.9	2.8
2004[b]	*499.5	1.5	*479.4	-0.1	478.2	8.3
2004[c]	*487.4	n/a	*475.2	n/a	469.1	n/a
2005	*478.4	-1.8	*479.0	0.8	483.3	3.0
2006[d]	*516.3	7.9	*502.5	4.9	490.6	1.5
2006[e]	*512.0	n/a	*499.3	n/a	486.6	n/a
2007	*543.9	6.2	*535.6	7.3	488.7	0.4
2008	*553.9	1.8	*524.1	-2.1	514.7	5.3

Median gross weekly pay (£) for part-time employee jobs[a]

	Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency		Dacorum local authority		Hertfordshire	
	Median	Annual percentage change	Median	Annual percentage change	Median	Annual percentage change
1997	**101.3	n/a	**92.9	n/a	*96.9	n/a
1998	**117.8	16.3	**114.9	23.7	*107.8	11.2
1999	**125.0	6.1	**114.0	-0.9	*115.4	7.1
2000	**126.1	0.9	*126.2	10.7	117.2	1.6
2001	**123.4	-2.2	**128.8	2.1	*116.6	-0.6
2002	**135.0	9.4	*137.7	6.9	128.4	10.2
2003	**139.5	3.3	**146.0	6.1	124.3	-3.2
2004[b]	**148.8	6.7	**148.1	1.4	134.7	11.2
2004[c]	**151.7	n/a	*149.6	n/a	*133.5	n/a
2005	**129.3	-14.8	**130.8	-12.6	130.3	-2.4
2006[d]	**146.9	13.7	**154.3	18.0	148.3	13.8
2006[e]	**147.7	n/a	**154.6	n/a	148.5	n/a
2007	**160.0	8.3	155.8	0.8	145.5	-2.0
2008	**144.8	-9.5	**143.9	-7.7	143.7	-1.2

Notes:
[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[b] 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003
[c] 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve coverage of the survey (for more information see National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk).
[d] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2005
[e] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2007
Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.
Key
CV <= 5%
* CV >5% and <=10%
** CV > 10% and <=20%
a CV > 20%
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics 1997 - 2008

Personal Income: Wakefield

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average wage for *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) male and (ii) female employees is; and what the average household income of working age households was in the Wakefield local authority area in (A) 1997 and (B) 2008. [288664]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average wage for *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) male and (ii) female employees is; and what the average household income of working age households was in the Wakefield local authority area in (A) cash and (B) real terms in (1) 1997 and (2) 2008. (288664)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. I attach a table showing the median gross weekly earnings for full-time, male full-time, female full-time, part-time, male part-time and female part-time employees for the Wakefield local authority area in years 1997 and 2008.

Information regarding the average household income of working age households is not available for the Wakefield local authority area.

Median gross weekly pay—for employee jobs[a]: Wakefield local authority, 1997 and 2008

£

	1997	2008
Full-time	317	*450
Male full-time	342	501
Female full-time	*248	*334
Part-time	**72	*143
Male part-time	**50	x
Female part-time	**72	*144

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
Guide to quality
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.
Key CV <= 5% * CV >5% and <=10% ** CV > 10% and <=20% x CV >20%
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics. 1997and 2008

Population Statistics

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the most recent projections made by the Office for National Statistics are of population densities in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland for (i) the earliest date for which such projections have been made (ii) 2031, (iii) 2056 and (iv) the most distant date for which such projections have been made; what estimate has been made of the population density of each such area in 2009; and what information the Office for National Statistics holds on the population density of other EU member states for the purposes of comparison with its projections for the UK. [288409]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what most recent projections made by the Office for National Statistics are of population densities in (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales and (e) Northern Ireland for (i) the earliest date for which such projections have been made

(ii) 2031, (iii) 2056 and (iv) the latest date for which such projections have been made; what estimate has been made of the population density of each such area in 2009; what information the Office for National Statistics holds on the population density of other EU Member States for the purposes of comparison with its projections for the UK. (288409)

Projected population densities can be calculated for any year from the published projected total population for that year and the relevant land area. The estimated population density for mid-2006 and projected population densities derived from the 2006 population base are given in the table below for the years 2009, 2031, 2056, 2081 and 2106.

The next set of national population projections, based on the mid-2008 population estimates, are due for publication by the Office for National Statistics on 21 October 2009.

Projected population density of UK and constituent countries for selected years 2006 to 2106

Persons/sq km

	2006	*2009*	*2031*	*2056*	*2081*	*2106*
United Kingdom	250	255	293	324	352	379
England	390	398	464	521	574	626
Wales	143	145	159	165	168	171
Scotland	66	66	69	67	64	61
Northern Ireland	128	132	147	153	152	150

Note:
Population densities for 2006 are derived from mid-year population estimates, whilst those for 2009 onwards are derived from the 2006-based population projections. All densities have been calculated assuming constant land area for the UK and its constituent countries into the future.
Source:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

National population projections are produced for up to 100 years ahead, but only published for up to 75 years ahead, and are available from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8519

However, long-term projections should be treated with great caution. Population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward, particularly for smaller geographic areas.

Eurostat publishes estimates of population densities for all EU countries up to 2007—see table tps0003 under main demographic indicators at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/main_tables

Public Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 93-99W, on public bodies, which of the bodies classified as public corporations in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* 2008 were deemed to be part of the Civil Service. [287279]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question pursuant to the Answer of 5 May 2009, Official Report, columns 93-99W, on public bodies, which of the bodies classified as public corporations in (a) 1996 and (b) 2008 were deemed to be part of the Civil Service. (287279)

The requested information is attached at Annex A. The list for 1996 comprises public corporations not included in the Answer of 5 May 2009, as further information has recently become available.

Annex A

Public Corporations deemed to be part of the Civil Service in 1996

1. Central Office of Information;
2. Companies House;
3. Driving Standards Agency;
4. Fire Service College;
5. Land Registry;
6. Meteorological Office;
7. Patent Office;
8. Registers of Scotland;
9. Royal Mint;
10. UK Hydrographic Office.

Public Corporations deemed to be part of the Civil Service in 2008

1. Central Office of Information;
2. Companies House;
3. Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory;
4. Defence Support Group;
5. Driving Standards Agency;
6. Export Credit Guarantee Department;
7. Fire Service College;
8. Land Registry;
9. Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency;
10. Meteorological Office;
11. OGC Buying Solutions;
12. Ordnance Survey;
13. Registers of Scotland;
14. Royal Mint;
15. The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre;
16. UK Hydrographic Office;
17. UK Intellectual Property Office; previously the Patent Office;
18. Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1479W, on trades union, what checks are undertaken by the Cabinet Office on whether office working space provided to trade union representatives is used for political activities. [287281]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1479W.

Ulcers: Death

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths there were in respect of which pressure ulcers were listed on the death certificate as a contributory cause of death in each region in each of the last five years. [287683]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were where pressure ulcers were listed on the death certificate as a contributory cause of death in each region in each of the last five years. (287683)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where pressure ulcer was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, for government office regions in England, for 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with any mention of pressure ulcer on the death certificate[1], Government office regions[2], England, 2004-08[3,4]

Deaths (persons)

Region	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
North East	50	68	51	71	44
North West	138	160	139	143	160
Yorkshire and the Humber	69	79	78	69	64
East Midlands	75	85	74	95	86
West Midlands	127	141	122	125	107
East of England	122	122	128	136	102
London	103	114	142	140	126
South East	132	137	133	148	155
South West	59	75	68	69	73
England	875	981	935	996	917

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code L89 (Decubitus ulcer, bedsore, plaster ulcer or pressure ulcer) where it appeared anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Unemployment

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what information her Department holds on the number of people who were *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* long-term unemployed between (i) 1980 and 1985 and (ii) 1990 and 1995, by (A) qualification and (B) previous occupation; [286748]

(2) how many people were *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* long-term unemployed in each year between (i) 1980 and 1985 and (ii) 1990 and 1995, by (A) qualification and (B) previous occupation. [286749]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

what information her Department hold on the number of people who were (a) unemployed and (b) long-term unemployed between (i) 1980-1985 and (ii) 1990-1995, by (A) qualification and (B) occupation. (286747)

what information her Department holds on the number of people who were (a) unemployed and (b) long-term unemployed between (i) 1980-1985 and (ii) 1990-1995, by (A) qualification and (B) previous occupation. (286748)

how many people were (a) unemployed and (b) long-term unemployed in each year between (i) 1980-85 and (ii) 1990-95, by (A) qualification and (B) occupation. (286749)

Estimates on the number of people who were unemployed by qualification are not available for 1980 to 1985 and 1990 to 1995. Estimates for unemployed people by occupation in last job are available for 1992 to 1995 and are provided in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Unemployed people aged 16 and over by occupation in last job and duration of unemployment, three month periods ending September, 1992-95, Great Britain, 1992-94; United Kingdom, 1995, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Occupation in last job[1]	Unemployed[2]	Long-term unemployed[3]
1992	Managers and senior officials	195	63
	Professional occupations	79	18
	Associate professional and technical	123	37
	Administrative and technical	288	91
	Skilled trades occupations	491	194
	Personal service occupations	204	65
	Sales and customer service occupations	185	54
	Process, plant and machine operatives	328	129
	Elementary occupations	358	166
	Total[4]	2,808	1,039
1993	Managers and senior officials	204	84
	Professional occupations	93	28
	Associate professional and technical	132	37
	Administrative and technical	297	101
	Skilled trades occupations	497	239
	Personal service occupations	213	79
	Sales and customer service occupations	196	68
	Process, plant and machine operatives	350	160
	Elementary occupations	339	159
	Total[4]	2,887	1,205
1994	Managers and senior officials	182	75
	Professional occupations	87	25
	Associate professional and technical	121	41
	Administrative and technical	249	93
	Skilled trades occupations	386	192
	Personal service occupations	207	78
	Sales and customer service occupations	171	58
	Process, plant and machine operatives	305	146

Unemployed people aged 16 and over by occupation in last job and duration of unemployment, three month periods ending September, 1992-95, Great Britain, 1992-94; United Kingdom, 1995, not seasonally adjusted

	Occupation in last job[1]	*Unemployed*[2]	*Thousand* *Long-term unemployed*[3]
	Elementary occupations	341	170
	Total[4]	2,644	1,123
1995[5]	Managers and senior officials	165	68
	Professional occupations	86	28
	Associate professional and technical	109	37
	Administrative and technical	251	79
	Skilled trades occupations	332	171
	Personal service occupations	197	72
	Sales and customer service occupations	183	56
	Process, plant and machine operatives	310	151
	Elementary occupations	303	132
	Total[4]	2,535	1,028

[1] Standard Occupational Classification 1990.
[2] Includes those whose duration of unemployment was not known.
[3] Includes those unemployed for 12 months or more.
[4] Includes those whose occupation was not known.
[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 ≤ CV<5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)

JUSTICE

Aylesbury Prison: Injuries

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of self-injury have been recorded in Aylesbury prison in each month since January 2009; and how many such injuries have required hospital treatment. [286788]

Maria Eagle: The latest recorded self-harm figures available are for 2008. NOMS records data across a diverse range of incident types. These data are subject to reporting lags and other issues inherent in any large scale administrative database. Therefore NOMS policy is not to provide current year-to-date figures.

In 2008, there were 265 incidents of self-harm at HMYOI Aylesbury. Of these incidents, six required treatment in external hospital. These figures are given in aggregate form only. NOMS also has a policy not to provide breakdowns of data, particularly of prison-level data, to the extent where the anonymity of individuals may be compromised.

The National Offender Management Service has a broad integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) procedures. Most self harm is not directly life threatening, but nevertheless can be extremely distressing for those who have to deal with it. A prisoner focussed care planning system for those at risk has helped prisons manage self harm. There are no easy answers to managing self harming behaviour but we remain committed to finding ways to manage it.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which parliamentary constituency each Bail Accommodation and Support Service property *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed since 12 January 2009 is located. [286829]

Mr. Straw: As at 10 July there have been 28 bail accommodation and support service properties opened and 10 properties closed since 12 January 2009.

(a) Bail accommodation and support service properties opened since 12 January 2009

Constituency	*Date opened*
Bedford	14 January 2009
Southampton Test	16 January 2009
Southend West	20 January 2009
Rochford and Southend East	20 January 2009
Ipswich	29 January 2009
Luton South	4 February 2009
Reading West	9 February 2009
Portsmouth South	9 February 2009
Hazel Grove	12 February 2009
Poplar and Canning Town	16 February 2009
North East Milton Keynes	16 February 2009
Erith and Thamesmead	26 February 2009
Bracknell	19 March 2009
Nottingham South	20 March 2009
Cardiff South and Penarth	20 March 2009
Folkestone and Hythe	27 March 2009
Slough	30 March 2009
North Thanet	30 March 2009
Stretford and Urmston	8 April 2009
Newport East	9 April 2009
Cardiff West	21 April 2009
Northampton North	30 April 2009
Slough	2 June 2009
Swansea East	17 June 2009
Carlisle	23 June 2009
Carlisle	23 June 2009
Worcester	24 June 2009
Truro and St. Austell	8 July 2009

(b) Bail accommodation and support service properties closed since 12 January 2009

Constituency	Date opened	Date closed
Lewisham East	20 September 2007	28 February 2009
Reading East	31 August 2007	12 March 2009
Portsmouth South	27 June 2007	15 March 2009
Luton North	28 September 2007	19 March 2009
Cardiff West	2 February 2007	24 April 2009
Lewisham East	30 March 2009	13 May 2009
Newport West	29 August 2007	20 May 2009
Swansea East	8 July 2008	7 June 2009
Northampton North	25 October 2007	12 June 2009
Nottingham East	11 October 2007	13 June 2009

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287398]

Mr. Straw: We can find no record of any meeting with Mr. McBride connected with my official duties.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286543]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice was established in May 2007. The Ministry has robust security measures in place to protect the information held on its computer systems. One unsuccessful attempt was made to gain unauthorised access to the Money Claim On Line System in 2008. The integrity of the system and information held on it was not compromised.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information databases his Department *(a)* maintain and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284389]

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database become operational; and if he will make a statement. [284903]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice maintains a large number of major databases covering different aspects of the justice system, as well as smaller database systems which support local business areas.

The main databases, which are maintained centrally, are as follows:

CaseMan
FamilyMan
e-Diary
Money Claim On Line
Crest
Juror
Juror Summoning Bureau
eXchanging Hearing Information By Internet Technology
ProbateMan
ARIA (Asylum and Immigration system)
Service Upgrade Project (pilot)
Funds Accounting System
Receivership Accounting System
Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal system
Generic Appeals Processing System 2
Mental Health Tribunal
ETHOS (Employment Tribunal system)
CLAIMS (Criminal Injuries and Compensation Panel system)
MERIS (Office of the Public Guardian system)
ORACLE financials (General Ledger, Supplier database, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Fixed Assets)
Local Fees database
CHRIMSON (HR system)
Occupational Health, Counselling and Screening Services
Business Management System
Magistrates Courts databases
Libra application
Trust Accounting and Banking System
BACCHUS (Bankruptcy case management system)
Centralised Attachment of Earnings
County Court Bulk Centre
Commercial Court
Electronic Records Management
Judicial Database
Management Information System
Tax Tribunal Remuneration
Decree Absolute System
Parental Responsibility
Supreme Court Costs Office System
Wardship System
Crown Office Information Network System
Life Imprisonment Minimum Term
Payment of Legal Aid Remuneration
Case Recording System
RECAP (Civil Appeals Case Management)
CASREC (Public Guardian Office Case Recording)
CACTUS (Criminal Appeals Case Recording)
LIDS (Local Inmate Database System)
IIS (Inmate Information System)
P-NOMIS
OASYS
SIS (Security Intelligence System)
Phoenix
National Intelligence Unit
APVU (Assisted Prison Visitors Unit)
Prisoner Location Service
Pin Phone
PSIMON
Lifers Service
Branston Staff Files
Branston IRMS Service
ROWD MIS
Construction Unit Service
E&SS Textile Service
DGCU Service

Accommodation and Occupancy
Registered Intermediaries database
Court Appearance Database
PROGRESS
XHIBIT Portal
CJS Exchange Links
CJ MIS
FOI database
Sharepoint
Mandatory Drugs Testing Database
Accommodation and Occupancy Database
4Projects Database
Delius
ICMS Case Management System
CRAM Case Management System
IAPS
HR Data warehouse

Most of the databases contain some personal information.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring the confidentiality, integrity and security (in accordance with HMG policy) of personal information held within the Department's systems. Because of the potential security threat, it would not be appropriate to disclose the detailed information requested.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what categories of personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each category of information was first collected; and if he will make a statement; [285974]

(2) what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each database expected to become operational in the next five years and which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement; [286150]

(3) what databases which will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will contain personal information are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* expected to go live in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286506]

Mr. Straw: Ministry of Justice maintains 82 major databases which support different aspects of the justice system. These databases are of varying size and complexity and cover a wide range of activities, for example, enabling processing and tracking of cases through the court system, scheduling appointments, and tracking systems for monitoring departmental correspondence. Any personal data stored on databases are subject to the Data Protection Act.

Following publication of the cross Government Data Handling Review in June 2008, new projects and programmes that hold significant amounts of personal data are obliged to conduct privacy impact assessments.

Detailed information relating to individual databases is held within individual projects and business areas and not available centrally. This information could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on the implementation of drugs policies in each category in each of the last 10 years. [286734]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice delivers a broad range of work in relation to drugs, primarily through the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

Most of the expenditure for this work is part of prison and probation services general funding and therefore, it is not possible to accurately disaggregate the costs. NOMS is currently undertaking a specification, benchmarking and costing exercise which will provide more accurate costing of the interventions delivered.

Elections Bill

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of whether the new provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill on non-resident donors are compatible with *(a)* European Union law and *(b)* the European Convention on Human Rights. [288090]

Mr. Straw: When legislating, the Government are always mindful of the requirements of EU law and the rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights. Having considered those requirements, as we are obliged to do, the Government are satisfied that the provisions of the Political Parties and Elections Bill are compatible with all relevant rights and freedoms.

Elections: Campaigns

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether candidate freepost election mailings in European and Parliamentary elections are delivered to households who have registered with the Mailing Preference Service a desire not to receive unsolicited mailings. [287349]

Mr. Wills: Candidate freepost election mailings can be delivered to all households for European and Parliamentary elections. Registering with the Mailing Preference Service does not apply to election mailings. This provides for a level playing field for all candidates and ensures that those standing for election have an opportunity to make their policies known to the electorate.

Electorate

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* armed forces personnel and *(b)* members of the public who are registered to vote. [287358]

Mr. Wills: No assessment has been made of the proportion of *(a)* armed forces personnel and *(b)* members of the public who are registered to vote. This is because the Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not have information on the proportion of the public who are registered to vote, as not everyone who is usually resident is entitled to vote. The total number of full-time armed forces personnel at 1 May 2009 was 194,280.

ONS figures reveal that as of 1 December 2008 the number of armed forces personnel who registered by way of a service declaration was 21,928. Not all armed forces electors, however, register as service voters. They may either register as an ordinary elector, an overseas elector or a service elector. The Ministry of Defence Service Voting Survey 2008 indicates that 75 per cent. of respondents were registered as ordinary voters.

The Government are keen to support armed forces personnel in registering to vote. In order to increase service registration rates, the Government have recently announced that we will increase the service voter declaration period from three years to five years, which we hope will encourage more service personnel to register. We aim to bring forward this change in secondary legislation as soon as possible.

The statistics for the proportion of members of the public registered are similarly difficult to calculate because ONS figures on total population do not show whether those people are eligible electors. ONS reports that the total number of local government electors registered in the UK on 1 December 2008 stood at 46,147,877.

Firearms: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people in each age group who were convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 received the mandatory sentence provided for by that Act in each of the last five years; and what the average length of sentence was of those convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 in each of the last four years. [285759]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is found in the following table.

Persons sentenced for firearms offences liable for mandatory minimum custodial sentence as prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003[1]

		2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Juveniles[5]	Total sentenced	69	60	36	17	16
	Immediate custody	10	12	9	8	7
	Received mandatory minimum[3] at least three years	n/a[2]	n/a[2]	4	5	2
	Percentage of offenders sentenced receiving mandatory minimum	n/a	n/a	11.1	29.4	12.5
	ACSL[4]	11.2	22.7	26.0	29.8	30.6
Young adults	Total sentenced	121	122	59	46	40
	Immediate custody	23	35	34	31	32
	Received mandatory minimum—at least three years[6]	n/a[2]	n/a[2]	7	14	15
	Received mandatory minimum—at least five years[6]	n/a[2]	n/a[2]	18	10	9
	Percentage of offenders sentenced receiving mandatory minimum	n/a	n/a	42.4	52.2	60.0
	ACSL[4]	18.6	39.5	45.5	43.6	42.1
Adults	Total sentenced	713	565	294	220	208
	Immediate custody	183	206	199	173	171
	Received mandatory minimum[7]—at least five years	n/a[2]	n/a[2]	124	126	132
	Percentage of offenders sentenced receiving mandatory minimum	n/a	n/a	42.2	57.3	63.5
	ACSL[4]	29.3	35.3	48.6	54.0	56.3

[1] Offences under Firearms Act 1968 of: Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition, or Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object.
[2] The mandatory is only applicable for offences that occurred on or after 26 January 2004.
[3] Mandatory minimum for persons aged under 18 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004 is three years.
[4] Average custodial sentence length (months) excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
[5] Not all of those in this age bracket would have been eligible for the mandatory minimum as they may have been under 16 at the time of the offence.
[6] Mandatory minimum is dependant on age at the time of the offence data held by the Ministry of Justice only shows age at time of sentence so offenders in this age group could have been liable for three or five years, offenders have not been double counted.
[7] Mandatory minimum for persons aged over 18 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004 is five years.
Notes:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.
Ref: PQ(OMSAS) 722 (8/07/2009).

These figures may also be found in the answer given to Dominic Grieve on 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1014W. Data for 2008 will not be available until 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' is published later in the year.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 prescribed mandatory minimum custodial sentences for the offences of: Possessing or distributing prohibited firearms or ammunition and Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object where the offences were committed on or after 26 January 2004.

The minimum sentence it set was three years where the offender was aged between 16 and 18 at the time of the offence and five years for offenders aged over 18 at the time of the offence.

Data held by the Ministry of Justice cannot determine the date the offence took place or the age of the offender at the time of the offence rather it is the date the sentence was passed and the age of the offender at the time of sentencing that is held.

Data provided in this answer shows all offenders given the mandatory minimum from 2005-07, while all offenders sentenced in 2005 may not have been eligible for the mandatory minimum it is not possible to separately identify those cases that occurred prior to 26 January 2004.

Those offenders in the juvenile (10-17 years old) age band are all assumed to be eligible for the three year mandatory minimum, similarly those in the adult age band (21+) are all assumed to be eligible for the five year mandatory minimum, those offenders in the young adult age band (18-20) could potentially have been eligible for either minimum sentence so the numbers given between three and five years and over five years have been shown separately.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the time taken by the Information Commissioner's office to investigate complaints relating to refusals by bodies to provide information requested by applicants under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [286816]

Mr. Wills: I have received correspondence from members of the public and from hon. and right hon. Members on this matter. I have also responded to Parliamentary Questions on this subject. In addition, the Justice and Constitution Select Committees have commented on the timeliness of the Information Commissioner's Office's handling of freedom of information cases.

For this financial year, the Government have identified additional funding of £500,000 for the Information Commissioner's Office's freedom of information work, over and above the baseline funding of £5 million. We are discussing with the Office how it can use this additional funding most effectively to reduce the number of outstanding cases. In addition, seven secondees from central government departments are working for the ICO to help clear the freedom of information cases at their home departments' expense.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations have responded to his Department's consultation on extending the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to cover additional bodies. [287189]

Mr. Wills: On 16 July, the Government published their response to the consultation on extending the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to cover additional bodies through a section 5 order. Copies have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office and on the Ministry of Justice website. Annex B of the report lists all of the respondents to the consultation.

HM Courts Service: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in HM Courts Service in each of the last five years. [280673]

Mr. Straw: Non-consolidated performance payments are available for all staff in Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS), as they are for all staff across the Ministry of Justice.

HMCS was created on the 1 April 2005 and the first reporting year ended on 31 March 2006. Non-consolidated performance payments are paid following the conclusion of the reporting year and the first non-consolidated performance payments for staff in HMCS were paid in the financial year 2006-07.

HMCS does not categorise its staff as asked in the question and to extract the data from Ministry of Justice records in relation to HMCS staff below the Senior Civil Service would involve disproportionate cost.

We have included all Senior Civil Servants within HMCS in providing the answer for the category 'Directors'. The figures for the last three years are as set out in the table:

		£
2006-07	Senior Civil Servants	358,250
2007-08	Senior Civil Servants	389,000
2008-09	Senior Civil Servants	345,500

Homicide: Rape

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* murders and *(b)* rapes were committed by offenders subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by MAPPA level. [287887]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the total number of offenders living in the community in England and Wales who were charged during the period in question with a serious further offence (SFO) allegedly committed by them at a time when their management was overseen via multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) meetings. This will include all charges of *(a)* murder and *(b)* rape but also those for other serious sexual and violent offences. The data is aggregated from the MAPPA annual reports produced in each of the 42 areas of England and Wales and it is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to identify retrospectively which relate to murder and rape charges only.

The table relates to those offenders managed at MAPPA levels 2 and 3 at the point of charge. Offenders at level 1 are those who are eligible for MAPPA meeting oversight but whose risk management plan does not currently require it; offenders move between levels depending on the requirements of the risk management plan.

Over the years in question, between 0.4 per cent. and 0.6 per cent. of offenders subject to active multi-agency management have been charged with serious further offences.

England and Wales	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total MAPPA managed offenders (i.e. level 2 and 3)	[1]2,152	12,766	13,688	15,291	12,806
SFOs at level 2	n/a	47	50	69	72
SFOs at level 3	26	32	12	13	7

[1] Reflects only level 3 total. Data at level 2 not collected.

Judicial Appointments Commission: Newspaper Press

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many newspaper advertisements the Judicial Appointments Commission placed in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [287186]

Mr. Straw: In the 12 month period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, the judicial appointments commission placed 35 newspaper advertisements which cost £81,674.57 excluding VAT.

Judiciary: Pensions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of the Judicial Pensions Scheme in each of the next 10 years. [287129]

Mr. Straw: No estimate of costs over that period have been made. Forecasts of actual costs of pension benefits payable and lump sums based on current assumptions of inflation and salary costs for the next five years are shown in the following table.

	Salary costs (£)
2009-10	75,685,000
2010-11	76,028,000
2011-12	77,928,000
2012-13	80,829,000
2013-14	83,445,000

Forecasts of costings on an accruals basis are only available for the next two years and are shown in the following table.

	Forecast of costings (£)	
	Current service cost	*Interest cost*
2009-10	108,000,000	110,000,000
2010-11	111,000,000	119,000,000

To obtain figures for further years would require assessments to be made on assumptions and calculations made by the scheme actuary and the costs to do so would be disproportionate.

Legal Aid

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal aid awards were made available to defendants with incomes of over *(a)* £50,000 and *(b)* £100,000 per annum in the last year for which figures are available. [285300]

Mr. Straw: In 2008-09, two defendants in the magistrates courts with earnings over £50,000 and one defendant with earnings over £100,000 were awarded legal aid. All three were awarded under hardship review which provides a safety net for those with high incomes who are genuinely unable to pay their defence costs. In most circumstances applicants with an income in excess of £22,325 will not be granted legal aid in the magistrates courts.

The Legal Services Commission is unable to answer the question in respect of defendants in the Crown court. In the Crown court, provided applicants pass the Interests of Justice test, they are currently entitled to legal aid regardless of income, and since no income test is applied to applicants, it is not known how many applicants (defendants) have incomes in excess of £50,000 or £100,000. However, we will be introducing means testing in Crown courts from January 2010 and rolling it out across England and Wales by June 2010.

No awards have been made to applicants in civil proceedings as there is a gross income cap of £31,884.

Legal Services Commission: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to page 78 of the Legal Services Commission's Annual Report 2008-09, what the expenditure was which was reported as miscellaneous; and if he will make a statement. [286909]

Mr. Straw: The Legal Services Commission's annual report for 2008-09 has not yet been laid before Parliament.

In 2007-08, the miscellaneous expenditure reported on page 78 of the annual report was £460,000. The vast majority of this (£457,000) related to an exercise carried out to catch up on certain payments to solicitors which should have been made but had not. These payments were against costs orders, awarded by the judge at the end of a case, which included costs incurred prior to the grant of legal aid. These costs are only payable when recovered from the opponent of the legally aided person.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18 and *(c)* over 18 years old who were convicted of possession of a knife in 2007 received a fine; and what the (i) average, (ii) smallest and (iii) largest such fine was in that year. [285760]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a fine[1,2] by offender age group, England and Wales, 2007

Age band	*Number of offences receiving a fine*	*Total number of offences receiving a caution or a sentence*	*Percentage offences receiving a fine*
10 to 15 year olds	9	3,128	*
16 and 17	56	3,860	1
18 and over[3]	1,187	21,350	6

[1] As recorded by the police on the police national computer.
[2] The figures are a count of offences rather than offenders. Where an offender has been sentenced for several possession offences each sentence has been counted.
[3] Adults are classed as offenders aged 18 and over, juveniles are those aged 10-17.
* Indicates that one or more of the comparative numbers are less than 50. For small numbers this could give misleading percentage changes.

Table 2: Minimum, maximum and average fine amounts[1] for the possession of a knife or offensive weapon, England and Wales, 2007

	£
Minimum fine amount	10
Maximum fine amount	2,000
Average[2] fine amount	156

[1] As recorded by the police on the police national computer.
[2] There were six offences that were given a fine but without a recorded fine amount, these were removed from the average.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

PNC data have been used here rather than court data, which is the usual source of published sentencing statistics. The PNC data provide more up to date figures ahead of the finalised annual court data and was used for the Ministry of Justice's publication 'Knife Crime Sentencing: Quarterly Brief' published on 12 March 2009 and available from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/knife-crime-sentencing.htm

Operation Safeguard: Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has been invoiced by each police force in respect of costs incurred under Operation Safeguard in each month of 2009; and if he will make a statement. [286490]

Mr. Straw: Police cells have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells have been on stand by since the end of October 2008.

Political Parties

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether an impact assessment, including a small firms impact assessment, will be made in relation to the new provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill on non-resident donors. [288088]

Mr. Straw: Impact assessments for all substantive provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill, including the new provisions requiring a declaration as to taxation status of individual donors, will be published at Royal Assent. The new provisions relating to taxation status relate only to donations made by individuals and do not impose or reduce costs on business. There is thus no requirement for a small firms impact assessment to be conducted in relation to these provisions.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his timetable is for consultation with other political parties on the scope for further amendments to the provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill on non-resident donors. [288091]

Mr. Straw: The Government have circulated revised versions of the amendments to the taxation status provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill to Opposition spokespeople and others with an interest ahead of further parliamentary consideration.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the provisions of the Political Parties and Elections Bill on non-resident donors will place restrictions on overseas residents campaigning in UK elections. [288092]

Mr. Straw: The amendments tabled by the Government to the Political Parties and Elections Bill on taxation status will restrict donations above £7,500 in a calendar year from an individual who is not resident, ordinarily resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom for income tax purposes.

Section 52(1)(g) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 states that

"the provision by any individual of his own services which he provides voluntarily in his own time and free of charge"

should not be regarded as a donation. Therefore a non-resident individual who campaigns on behalf of a party voluntarily, in his own free time and free of charge would not be required to be resident, ordinarily resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom for income tax purposes.

Section 50(2)(f) of the 2000 Act states that

"the provision otherwise than on commercial terms of any property, services or facilities for the use or benefit of the party (including the services of any person)"

should be regarded as a donation.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the recommendation on introducing tax relief for small donations to political parties made in the Sixth Report of the Committee for Standards in Public Life. [287353]

Mr. Wills: The Fifth Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL), entitled "The Funding of Political Parties in the United Kingdom", recommended that tax relief should be introduced on donations to political parties, capped at a level of £500 per donor per year.

The Government's response to the CSPL's Fifth Report said

"Tax relief would amount to general state aid by another route. A tax-relief scheme would be expensive for the Inland Revenue and political parties to administer relative to the likely level of take-up. Furthermore, the Government has to balance the loss of revenue (likely to be upwards of £4 or £5 million a year against other spending priorities."

(The funding of political parties in the United Kingdom: The Government's proposals for legislation in response to the Fifth Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, page 33, paragraph 6.3).

The Government have not made any further estimate of the likely cost of introducing tax relief for small donations to political parties. Under the legislative framework set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, recipients of donations are not required to record details of any donations received below the level of £200. It is therefore difficult to know with any accuracy how many such donations occur in a given year and thus what the cost of providing tax relief on such donations would be likely to be.

Prisoner Escapes

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates who escaped from prison in each year since 1979 remain at large. [285791]

Mr. Straw: Escapes from prison have been falling for over a decade and 2008-09 saw the lowest level of prison escapes since centralised recording of these incidents

began. The data in the table show the number of prisoners who have escaped from prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 12 years and those who remain unlawfully at large. Figures on prisoners unlawfully at large following an escape are not available centrally before this period and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Escapes of prisoners by year from prisons in England and Wales showing those remaining unlawfully at large

		Number
	Escaped prisoners	*Offender remaining at large*
1997-98	23	0
1998-99	28	2
1999-2000	30	1
2000-01	11	0
2001-02	15	0
2002-03	5	1
2003-04	10	1
2004-05	12	0
2005-06	3	0
2006-07	2	0
2007-08	4	1
2008-09	1	0

Notes:
1. There has not been an escape of a category A prisoner since 1995.
2. Figures on those unlawfully at large following an escape are not available centrally prior to 1997 and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Figures on escapes and a range of other prison performance statistics are available at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10004423prison_escapes_jan09.pdf

Prisoners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners held in a cell designed for two people shared their cell with two or more other prisoners in each prison in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [286488]

Maria Eagle: The figures requested are shown in the following table. Since 1997, the Government have increased prison capacity by over 24,000 places (not all of them new build). The Government increased capacity by over 3,300 places last year, aim to increase it by around 1,750 this year and are committed to increase net capacity to 96,000 by 2014.

Establishment name	*Average number of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2007-08*	*Percentage of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2007-08*	*Average number of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2008-09*	*Percentage of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2008-09*
Acklington	0	0	0	0
Albany	0	0	0	0
Aldington[1, 2]	—	—	—	—
Altcourse[3]	1,717	11.8	1,612.0	10.6
Ashfield[3]	0	0	0	0
Ashwell	0	0	0	0
Askham Grange	0	0	0	0
Aylesbury	0	0	0	0
Bedford	117	2.0	210.0	3.8
Belmarsh	4,467	40.6	4,579.0	42.5
Birmingham	0	0	0	0
Blakenhurst[3]	0	0	—	—
Blantyre House	0	0	0	0
Blundeston	0	0	0	0
Brinsford	0	0	0	0
Bristol	0	0	0	0
Brixton	0	0	0	0
Brockhill[3]	0	0	—	—
Bronzefield[3]	0.0	0	0	0
Buckley Hall	0	0	0	0
Bullingdon	60	0.5	0	0
Bullwood Hall	0	0	0	0
Camp Hill	0	0	0	0
Canterbury	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	0	0
Castington	0	0	0	0
Channings Wood	0	0	0	0
Chelmsford	0	0	0	0
Colchester[1, 2]	—	—	—	—
Coldingley	0	0	0	0
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	0
Dartmoor	0	0	0	0
Deerbolt	0	0	0	0

Establishment name	Average number of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2007-08	Percentage of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2007-08	Average number of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2008-09	Percentage of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2008-09
Doncaster[1]	201	1.5	271.0	2.0
Dorchester	0	0	0	0
Dovegate[1]	0	0	0	0
Dover	0	0	0	0
Downview	0	0	0	0
Drake Hall	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0
East Sutton Park	0	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	0	0	0	0
Edmunds Hill	0	0	0	0
Elmley	3,606	30.5	4,051.0	34.7
Erlestoke	0	0	0	0
Everthorpe	0	0	0	0
Exeter	0	0	0	0
Featherstone	0	0	0	0
Feltham	0	0	0	0
Ford	0	0	0	0
Forest Bank[1]	0	0	0	0
Foston Hall	0	0	0	0
Frankland	0	0	0	0
Full Sutton	0	0	0	0
Garth	0	0	0	0
Gartree	0	0	0	0
Glen Parva	0	0	0	0
Gloucester	0	0	0	0
Grendon	0	0	0	0
Guys Marsh	0	0	0	0
Haslar	0	0	0	0
Hatfield	0	0.0	0	0.0
Haverigg	0	0	0	0
Hewell[1]	—	—	0	0
Hewell Grange[2]	0	0	—	—
High Down	3,531	36.2	3,123.0	23.9
Highpoint	0	0	0	0
Hindley	0	0	0	0
Hollesley Bay	0	0	0	0
Holloway	0	0	0	0
Holme House	0	0	0	0
Hull	0	0	0	0
Huntercombe	0	0	0	0
Kennet	0	0	0	0
Kingston	0	0	0	0
Kirkham	0	0	0	0
Kirklevington	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	0	0	0	0
Lancaster Farms	0	0	0	0
Leicheuve House	0	0	0	0
Leeds	0	0	0	0
Leicester	0	0	0	0
Lewes	0	0	0	0
Leyhill	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0
Lindholme	0	0	0	0
Littlehey	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	0	0	0	0
Long Lartin	0	0	0	0
Low Newton	0	0	0	0
Lowdham Grange[1]	0	0	0	0
Maidstone	0	0	0	0
Manchester	0	0	0	0

Establishment name	Average number of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2007-08	Percentage of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2007-08	Average number of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2008-09	Percentage of prisoners in trebled accommodation 2008-09
Moorland	0	0	0	0
Morton Hall	0	0	0	0
Mount	0	0	0	0
New Hall	0	0	0	0
North Sea Camp	0	0	0	0
Northallerton	0	0	0	0
Norwich	45	0.7	90.0	1.4
Nottingham	0	0	0	0
Oakley	0	0	0	0
Parc[3]	0	0	0	0
Parkhurst	0	0	0	0
Pentonville	0	0	0	0
Peterborough[3]	0.0	0	0	0
Portland	0	0	0	0
Preston	0	0	0	0
Ranby	0	0	0	0
Reading	0	0	0	0
Risley	0	0	0	0
Rochester	0	0	0	0
Rye Hill[3]	0	0	0	0
Send	0	0	0	0
Shepton Mallet	0	0	0	0
Shrewsbury	0	0	0	0
Stafford	0	0	0	0
Standford Hill	0	0	0	0
Stocken	0	0	0	0
Stoke Heath	0	0	0	0
Styal	0	0	0	0
Sudbury	0	0	0	0
Swaleside	0	0	0	0
Swansea	126	2.5	225.0	4.4
Swinfen Hall	0	0	0	0
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	0
Usk/Prescoed	45	1.3	69.0	1.4
Verne	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	0	0	0	0
Warren Hill	0	0	0	0
Wayland	0	0	0	0
Wealstun	0	0	0	0
Weare	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	0	0	0	0
Werrington	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	0	0	0	0
Whatton	0	0	0	0
Whitemoor	0	0	0	0
Winchester	0	0.0	3.0	0.0
Wolds[3]	0	0	0	0
Woodhill	0	0	0	0
Wormwood Scrubs	0	0	0	0
Wymott	0	0	0	0
Service Total	1,161	1.4	1,186.1	1.4

Key:
[1] Not operational in 2007-08
[2] Not operational in 2008-09
[3] Contracted out

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners held in a cell designed for one inmate shared their cell with one or more other prisoners in each prison in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [286489]

Maria Eagle: The figures requested are shown in the following table. Since 1997, the Government have increased prison capacity by over 24,000 places (not all of them new build). The Government increased capacity by over 3,300 places last year, aim to increase it by around 1,750 this year and are committed to increase net capacity to 96,000 by 2014.

Establishment name	*Average number of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2007-08*	*Percentage of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2007-08*	*Average number of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2008-09*	*Percentage of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2008-09*
Acklington	0	0	0	0
Albany	0	0	0	0
Aldington[2, 3]	—	—	—	—
Altcourse	825.4	68.2	825.7	65.3
Ashfield[1]	0	0	0	0
Ashwell	9.7	1.8	24.5	4.2
Askham Grange	0	0	0	0
Aylesbury	0	0	0	0
Bedford	299.3	62.0	257.3	56.2
Belmarsh	0	0	0	0
Birmingham	652.8	45.0	640.7	44.8
Blakenhurst[3]	480.0	45.1	—	—
Blantyre House	0	0	0	0
Blundeston	32.7	7.1	32.7	6.3
Brinsford	44.3	9.7	30.3	5.7
Bristol	156.0	25.9	158.3	26.3
Brixton	249.0	31.0	226.7	29.2
Brockhill[3]	0	0	—	—
Bronzefield[1]	0	0	0	0
Buckley Hall	53.0	13.9	70.0	18.5
Bullingdon	400.0	41.7	424.3	41.2
Bullwood Hall	0	0	0	0
Camp Hill	129.7	22.0	146.3	25.0
Canterbury	154.2	55.1	203.5	67.2
Cardiff	478.5	63.7	520.8	66.9
Castington	7.7	2.0	5.7	1.5
Channings Wood	46.0	6.6	32.0	4.4
Chelmsford	303.8	43.5	257.2	37.5
Colchester[2, 3]	—	—	—	—
Coldingley	38.5	9.9	39.3	9.0
Cookham Wood	15.5	23.3	0	0.0
Dartmoor	44.3	7.0	42.2	6.6
Deerbolt	0	0	0	0
Doncaster[1]	725.9	64.0	704.4	63.3
Dorchester	171.5	74.1	172.0	75.3
Dovegate[1]	73.8	8.8	120.3	14.3
Dover	0	0	0	0
Downview	0	0	0	0
Drake Hall	0	0	0	0
Durham	715.0	75.6	676.5	73.4
East Sutton Park	0	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	59.2	17.8	51.3	16.2
Edmunds Hill	0	0	0	0
Elmley	204.8	20.8	176.5	18.1
Erlestoke	8.0	1.9	0	0
Everthorpe	153.2	22.6	152.7	22.6
Exeter	351.2	73.3	400.2	79.8
Featherstone	16.5	2.5	25.8	3.8
Feltham	0	0	0	0
Ford	0	0	0	0
Forest Bank[1]	593.8	54.3	626.8	56.2
Foston Hall	0	0	0	0
Frankland	0	0	0	0
Full Sutton	0	0	0	0

Establishment name	Average number of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2007-08	Percentage of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2007-08	Average number of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2008-09	Percentage of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2008-09
Garth	12.0	1.8	30.7	3.7
Gartree	0	0	0	0
Glen Parva	294.8	36.6	286.3	36.5
Gloucester	151.8	52.7	153.0	50.7
Grendon	0	0	0	0
Guys Marsh	85.5	15.1	89.2	15.6
Haslar	0	0	0	0
Hatfield	0	0	0	0
Haverigg	11.2	1.9	21.0	3.4
Hewell[2]	–	–	414.2	29.6
Hewell Grange[3]	0	0	–	–
High Down	0	0	19.0	1.7
Highpoint	38.8	4.8	38.5	4.7
Hindley	0	0	0	0
Hollesley Bay	0	0	0	0
Holloway	0	0	0	0
Holme House	271.9	27.6	240.7	25.2
Hull	560.5	54.3	567.3	55.8
Huntercombe	0	0	0	0
Kennet	188.3	91.5	326.3	96.7
Kingston	0	0	0	0
Kirkham	0	0	0	0
Kirklevington	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	143.0	71.0	152.7	65.9
Lancaster Farms	58.8	11.8	61.8	13.5
Latchmere House	0	0	0	0
Leeds	739.5	73.2	601.8	59.5
Leicester	287.7	82.7	300.2	83.8
Lewes	148.7	28.3	145.5	21.8
Leyhill	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	493.5	73.5	508.3	73.4
Lindholme	88.5	8.6	106.0	9.6
Littlehey	89.2	12.8	124.0	17.2
Liverpool	408.2	30.0	388.0	29.4
Long Lartin	0	0	0	0
Low Newton	54.7	19.5	62.5	20.7
Lowdham Grange[1]	64.5	9.7	89.5	13.1
Maidstone	53.8	10.5	55.3	11.8
Manchester	629.5	51.2	606.5	50.7
Moorland	69.0	6.8	73.3	7.2
Morton Hall	0	0	0	0
Mount	24.8	3.4	30.5	4.0
New Hall	49.3	12.4	55.3	13.8
North Sea Camp	0	0	0	0
Northallerton	188.8	78.6	179.7	78.4
Norwich	187.5	33.8	172.5	33.2
Nottingham	337.8	61.7	329.8	60.9
Onley	0	0	0	0
Parc[1]	267.3	23.7	315.7	26.5
Parkhurst	60.0	11.8	58.8	12.1
Pentonville	733.2	64.1	676.5	60.7
Peterborough[1]	123.7	12.9	246.3	25.5
Portland	0	0	0	0
Preston	661.8	90.9	650.2	90.2
Ranby	234.8	22.8	238.2	22.1
Reading	157.8	60.9	124.2	51.2
Risley	82.3	7.6	79.5	7.3
Rochester	0	0	0	0
Rye Hill[1]	16.8	2.7	0	0
Send	0	0	0	0

Establishment name	Average number of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2007-08	Percentage of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2007-08	Average number of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2008-09	Percentage of prisoners in doubled accommodation 2008-09
Shepton Mallet	43.7	23.4	45.8	24.7
Shrewsbury	301.8	92.6	241.3	80.1
Stafford	0	0	0	0
Standford Hill	0	0	0	0
Stocken	50.0	7.5	60.0	7.5
Stoke Heath	184.5	29.3	132.3	22.1
Styal	18.2	4.1	20.0	4.5
Sudbury	0.7	0.1	0	0
Swaleside	30.2	3.9	28.0	3.6
Swansea	325.3	77.4	333.5	79.0
Swinfen Hall	7.8	1.3	29.0	4.7
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	0
Usk\Prescoed	209.3	52.6	220.8	54.1
Verne	66.2	11.2	65.2	11.1
Wakefield	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	1168.8	79.2	1141.5	70.4
Warren Hill	0	0	0	0
Wayland	79.3	11.2	85.3	8.7
Wealstun	31.3	4.0	36.2	6.8
Weare[2, 3]	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	2.0	0.3	2.5	0.4
Werrington	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	20.0	5.7	10.2	3.0
Whatton	63.7	8.2	56.5	6.8
Whitemoor	0	0	0	0
Winchester	333.7	61.1	359.5	59.6
Wolds[1]	84.7	22.8	96.0	25.2
Woodhill	256.2	31.5	298.0	36.4
Wormwood Scrubs	124.0	9.8	124.0	9.9
Wymott	90.0	8.5	104.0	9.5
Service total	19,054.3	23.6	19,152.6	23.1

Key: [1] Contracted out. [2] Not operational in 2007-08. [3] Not operational in 2008-09.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* in each age group have been admitted to prison in each year since 1997. [286732]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the number of people received into prison under an immediate custodial sentence by age group and sex. This excludes those received on remand that did not subsequently enter prison under sentence in the same year, fine defaulters and non-criminals.

Receptions into prison establishments[1] under an immediate custodial sentence by age and sex, England and Wales

Number of persons

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Male											
All ages	75,985	80,059	83,422	84,189	83,292	85,895	84,252	85,062	82,390	80,436	82,205
15-17	5,365	5,283	5,523	5,530	5,598	5,392	4,729	4,986	4,971	5,127	5,165
18-20	12,525	13,245	14,264	14,567	14,101	13,512	12,345	12,252	11,770	11,845	12,778
21-24	15,794	15,608	15,905	16,621	16,866	17,754	17,147	16,527	15,138	14,520	14,535
25-29	16,180	17,086	17,133	17,085	16,113	16,642	16,146	16,038	15,105	14,801	15,146
30-39	17,431	19,365	20,596	20,567	20,525	22,202	22,704	22,612	22,136	20,771	20,346
40-49	5,935	6,422	6,772	6,726	6,993	7,356	7,985	9,108	9,623	9,647	10,258
50-59	2,160	2,408	2,505	2,319	2,376	2,347	2,448	2,708	2,791	2,805	2,950
60 and over	595	642	724	774	720	690	748	831	856	920	1,027
Female											
All ages	4,847	5,849	6,816	7,006	7,231	7,720	7,993	8,264	8,024	7,698	8,056
15-17	252	302	354	304	305	346	189	186	204	164	191
18-20	601	769	879	932	965	986	916	940	874	849	888
21-24	973	1,113	1,368	1,450	1,520	1,667	1,781	1,674	1,502	1,375	1,326

Receptions into prison establishments[1] under an immediate custodial sentence by age and sex, England and Wales

Number of persons

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
25-29	1,071	1,311	1,516	1,477	1,606	1,694	1,786	1,825	1,695	1,596	1,720
30-39	1,325	1,618	1,909	2,041	2,042	2,157	2,352	2,519	2,422	2,403	2,485
40-49	480	582	584	602	605	725	773	986	1,072	1,043	1,135
50-59	125	135	184	166	162	122	173	200	214	216	258
60 and over	20	19	22	34	26	23	23	34	41	52	53

[1] Excludes police cells.

The table is taken from table 6.6 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which can be found in the Libraries of the House and which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* in each age group admitted to prison have tested positive for illegal drugs on arrival in each of the last 10 years; and which drug or drugs they tested positive for. [286736]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners can be subject to mandatory and clinical drug tests on reception. Clinical drug test results are not held centrally and can be obtained only by surveying 138 establishments, which would be at disproportionate cost.

Not all prisons operate reception mandatory testing, and of those that do, not all are on new receptions into custody.

However, the number of positive samples by gender under the mandatory drug testing (MDT) programme on reception is given in the following table. It is not possible to provide figures by age group.

MDT conducted on reception

Number of positive samples for each drug

	Total number of positive samples	*Cannabis*	*Opiates*	*Cocaine*	*Benzodiazepines*	*Methadone*	*Amphetamines*	*Barbiturates*	*LSD*	*Buprenorphine*
Female prisoners										
1999-2000	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2000-01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001-02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002-03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003-04	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2004-05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005-06	3	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	0
2006-07	41	14	25	27	27	6	0	4	0	0
2007-08	13	1	10	8	11	1	0	0	0	2
2008-09	36	15	16	12	17	4	0	0	0	5
Male prisoners										
1999-2000	776	534	282	72	140	18	19	3	0	2
2000-01	1,024	640	476	156	299	30	26	3	0	10
2001-02	508	313	220	86	140	13	19	2	0	7
2002-03	485	300	195	90	160	12	9	3	0	8
2003-04	491	330	154	84	138	12	10	9	0	23
2004-05	687	488	175	91	164	11	25	8	0	66
2005-06	860	555	254	91	177	27	19	16	0	82
2006-07	1,087	643	350	120	263	47	24	9	0	74
2007-08	1,456	860	489	149	391	109	34	9	0	128
2008-09	1,302	782	365	142	342	120	15	5	0	183

Notes:
1. MDT results are recorded anonymously. It is possible therefore that some positive samples relate to the same prisoner.
2. The sum of the number of positive samples for each drug is greater than the total number of positive samples. This is due to some samples testing positive for more than one drug.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* in each age group tested positive for illegal drugs in each of the last 10 years; and which drug or drugs they tested positive for. [286737]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners can be subject to mandatory, voluntary and clinical drug testing. Voluntary and clinical drug test results are not held centrally and can be obtained only by surveying 138 establishments, which would be at disproportionate cost.

The number of positive results under all types of mandatory drug testing (MDT) is given in the following tables. It is not possible to provide figures by age group.

MDT conducted on female prisoners

		Number of positive samples for each drug								
	Total number of positive samples	*Cannabis*	*Opiates*	*Cocaine*	*Benzodiazepines*	*Methadone*	*Amphetamines*	*Barbiturates*	*LSD*	*Buprenorphine*
1999-20000	780	181	441	37	275	16	17	7	0	2
2000-01	812	168	504	35	215	14	7	3	0	6
2001-02	681	126	402	49	194	23	11	2	0	9
2002-03	578	109	265	32	232	31	7	0	0	22
2003-04	688	122	240	39	331	89	5	3	0	34
2004-05	900	147	415	57	306	98	7	3	0	117
2005-06	1,009	169	480	60	280	104	6	8	0	166
2006-07	1,054	122	505	79	310	112	7	10	0	164
2007-08	925	91	338	61	236	112	9	2	0	295
2008-09	688	116	231	44	178	72	0	1	0	200

MDT conducted on male prisoners

		Number of positive samples for each drug								
	Total number of positive samples	*Cannabis*	*Opiates*	*Cocaine*	*Benzodiazepines*	*Methadone*	*Amphetamines*	*Barbiturates*	*LSD*	*Buprenorphine*
1999-2000	17,098	11,814	6,458	369	1,374	67	103	21	1	74
2000-01	15,990	9,284	7,437	437	1,631	60	81	14	0	264
2001-02	13,689	7,518	6,560	391	1,353	40	72	21	0	346
2002-03	12,304	8,086	4,439	354	1,212	33	56	17	0	347
2003-04	14,059	10,035	4,166	343	1,354	49	101	44	0	568
2004-05	14,903	9,491	5,341	346	2,235	116	129	57	0	1,033
2005-06	14,714	8,476	5,746	339	1,180	159	108	90	0	1,388
2006-07	13,123	6,116	6,170	328	1,228	219	125	94	0	1,293
2007-08	14,243	6,199	6,949	438	1,411	402	121	27	0	1,564
2008-09	13,212	5,852	5,066	357	1,398	514	55	31	0	2,928

Notes:
1. MDT results are recorded anonymously. It is possible therefore that some positive samples relate to the same prisoner.
2. The sum of the number of positive samples for each drug is greater than the total number of positive samples. This is due to some samples testing positive for more than one drug.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Prisoners: Financial Provision

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the financial circumstances of adult male and female prisoners at the time of imprisonment; what research he has commissioned on the subject; and if he will make a statement. [284848]

Maria Eagle: The only information systematically held is from the assessment of offending related factors made through the Offender Assessment System (OASys) which is only applied to young prisoners and to adult prisoners serving sentences of more than 12 months.

During the period 1 April 2008 until 31 March 2009, 7,844 adult male offenders and 825 adult female offenders

were assessed at the start of a custodial sentence as having an offending linked factor related to 'financial management and income'.

Pilots are under way regarding extending assessment to all prisoners and Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR) is a longitudinal study aiming to provide an overview of prisoners' needs, interventions received and related outcomes.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-81W, on prison accommodation, (1) what proportion of his Department's expenditure of £60 million at the former RAF Coltishall he expects to be incurred on *(a)* structural changes, *(b)* refurbishment, *(c)* construction of new buildings, *(d)* security measures, *(e)* hygiene and other services and *(f)* other works; [286759]

(2) what estimate he has made of the lifetime of *(a)* the new prison development at RAF Coltishall and *(b)* the capital construction cost per prison place per year of that lifespan. [286761]

Mr. Straw: It is estimated that approximately £1.8 million will be spent on structural changes, £31.4 million will be spent on refurbishment, £13.6 million will be spent on construction of new buildings, £2.8 million will be spent on security measures, £7.2 million will be spent on hygiene and other services and £3 million will be spent on other works.

The estimated lifespan of the new prison development at Coltishall is 60 years. The capital construction cost is £60 million or approximately £2,000 per prison place per year during this time.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* current and *(b)* certified normal capacity of the prison estate in each region is; what estimate he has made of the estate's capacity in 2016; and what proportion of the current prison population originated in each region is. [286762]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the certified normal accommodation (CNA) of prisons in each region against the corresponding operational capacity as of May 2009.

Capacity by region, May 2009 data

Region	(a) Operational Capacity	(b) In use CNA
East Midlands	10,373	9,197
Eastern	8,355	7,486
London	7,736	6,421
North East	5,217	4,623
North West	13,167	10,777
South East	14,220	12,760
South West	6,830	5,954
Wales	2,860	1,936
West Midlands	8,322	7,307
Yorkshire and the Humber	9,725	8,223

Operational capacity in the table does not take into account the prison estate's "operating margin". This is reflected in the useable operational capacity of the estate and is the best estimate of the total number of prisoners that the estate can readily hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of regimes including single cell risk assessments. It allows for the fact that prisoners are managed separately by sex, risk category and conviction status and that the population will not exactly match the distribution of places available across the country. Useable operational capacity is currently set at 2,000 places (the "operating margin") below the overall capacity of the prison estate.

Our analysis suggests we need to increase the capacity of the prison estate to around 96,000 places by 2014, and we are on course to achieve this through the current building programme. No decisions have been made on the provision of further capacity once the programme to increase the estate to 96,000 places is complete.

The following table shows the prison population originating from each region as of September 2008.

Population by region of origin[1], September 2008 data

Region	Originating population
East Midlands	5,900
Eastern	5,700
London	17,200
North East	3,900
North West	13,100
South East	8,600
South West	4,700
Wales	4,200
West Midlands	8,900
Yorkshire and the Humber	8,700
Grand total[2]	80,900

[1] Region of origin is derived from a prisoner's home address. If this home address is not recorded centrally the prisoner's court of committal is used as a proxy for home area.

[2] This total excludes around 2,400 prisoners who do not have a centrally recorded home or court address.

Note:
Data are rounded to the nearest 100.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of the use of *(a)* random and *(b)* non-random mandatory drugs testing in prisons between 2002-03 and 2008-09; and what plans he has for the future use of mandatory drugs testing in prisons. [285885]

Maria Eagle: There is no research directly into the cost-effectiveness of mandatory drug testing.

Independent research carried out by the Office for National Statistics

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr0305.pdf

concluded that the mandatory drug testing programme met its key objectives. Mandatory drug testing continues to be an integral part of the strategy to reduce the supply of drugs in prisons.

The success of the strategy overall is reflected in a reduction in drug misuse in prisons of 63 per cent. since 1996-07.

Probation: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many high risk *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders in each age group there were in the Hemel Hempstead probation area in each of the last five years. [284320]

Maria Eagle: The total number of male offenders, by age group and the total number of female offenders in Hertfordshire probation area who were categorised as Tier 4 (high risk) as at 31 March in each of the last three years is provided in the following table. Information is available at probation area level only and has not been provided for women by age group because of the small numbers of cases involved.

	2006		2007		2008	
Age group	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
18-20	32	[1]—	58	[1]—	50	[1]—
21-24	37	[1]—	49	[1]—	46	[1]—
25-29	53	[1]—	68	[1]—	53	[1]—
30-39	78	[1]—	104	[1]—	70	[1]—
40-49	39	[1]—	53	[1]—	54	[1]—
50 and over	20	[1]—	18	[1]—	16	[1]—
All	259	32	350	24	289	9

[1] Data not provided because of the small numbers involved.

Information on tier prior to 1 April 2005 was not recorded.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Probation Service

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Probation Service spent on *(a)* consultants, *(b)* monitoring of performance, *(c)* IT systems which were abandoned as unsuccessful, *(d)* IT systems which were retained as successful and *(e)* management in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08. [282472]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to answer the questions, except for the C-NOMIS project and the Delius case management system, without incurring disproportionate cost as it would be necessary to request information from each of the 42 local area probation boards that comprised the National Probation Service (NPS) in England and Wales up to 31 March 2008.

However, some elements of IT provision are managed centrally, within which Delius, a case management system already in use by some probation areas, has been implemented where existing NPS case management systems are in urgent need of replacement. This replacement began in 2007-08 and for that financial year, expenditure was £367,000.

The National Audit Office (in its report on the National Offender Management Information System, HC292, 2008-09) estimated that the National Offender Management Service had spent around £15 million on the probation element of C-NOMIS which is no longer required.

Reoffenders: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders from Milton Keynes were charged with each category of violent offence while under supervision by the Probation Service in each of the last five years. [283651]

Maria Eagle: Local reoffending data was published for the first time on 12 February 2009, covering the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008.

The National Offender Management Service holds information on the number of offenders charged with serious further (violent) offences while under probation supervision for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, this does not include all types of violent offence and the data are collected at probation area level. The information in relation solely to Milton Keynes is not held centrally and would involve checking the local records for the Thames Valley probation area at a disproportionate cost.

Voting Methods

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on his Department's review of weekend voting; and what timetable has been set for the Government's response to the consultation. [287356]

Mr. Wills: The "Election Day: Weekend Voting" consultation attracted nearly 1,000 responses. It has taken time to analyse, in detail, the views and evidence provided. The Government's response to the consultation will be published in due course.

Young Offender Institutions: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on young offender institutions: per capita costs, what the average cost of providing a place in *(a)* a young offender institution for 18 to 21 year olds, *(b)* a young offender institution for 15 to 17 year olds and *(c)* a secure training centre for under 15 year olds was in 2008-09. [285491]

Mr. Straw: The average cost per year of a place at a young offender institution (YOI) for 2008-09 is not yet available. The figures will be calculated after completion of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Annual Report and Accounts, due to be issued at the end of July, and published on the NOMS website. I will write to the hon. Member when the figures are available.

The average cost per year of a place at a secure training centre (STC) for 2008-09, as provided by the Youth Justice Board, was £179,972. The age range of young people held in STCs is 12-17 years.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 993W, on basic skills, how many Learning and Skills Council-funded adult learners aged between 16 and 19 years old were eligible for inclusion in statistics used to measure progress against the Skills for Life Public Service Agreement target in *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06 and *(e)* 2006-07. [278871]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows Skills for Life achievement figures for working age 16 to 19 year-olds between 2002-03 and 2007-08. The table shows only those achievements which count towards the 2010 PSA target which is to improve the basic skill levels of 2.25 million adults between the launch of Skills for Life in 2001 and 2010. This target was achieved in 2008.

Table 1: Skills for Life 2010 target-bearing achievements (annual discounted achievements)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
16 year-old	50,100	70,200	86,900	99,000	105,500	111,400
17 year-old	30,200	43,200	58,200	78,300	81,600	84,300
18 year-old	13,000	22,900	33,200	47,500	52,200	51,800
19 year-old	6,400	12,200	19,500	28,000	32,000	32,400
16 to 19 year-olds	99,600	148,400	197,700	252,900	271,200	279,900

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Achievements are "discounted" to take into account learners that may have previously contributed to the target. For example, if a learner had previously achieved a level 1 literacy qualification in 2005-06 but subsequently achieved a level 1 numeracy qualification in 2006-07, we "discount" the number of learners to ensure we do not double-count learners achieving the target.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record Student data.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged 16 to 24 started an apprenticeship in each quarter since August 2007. [283991]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* Table 1 shows apprenticeship starts for 16 to 24 year-olds in each quarter since August 2007.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts by age

	1 August 2007 to 31 October 2007	1 November 2007 to 31 January 2008	1 February 2008 to 30 April 2008	1 May2008 to 31 July 2008	1 August 2008 to 31 October 2008	1 November 2008 to 31 January 2009	1 February 2009 to 30 April 2009
16-18 year-olds	54,500	17,800	16,800	18,000	32,200	16,100	13,400
19-24 year-olds	28,700	17,200	23,600	20,600	31,500	18,100	18,300

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Age is calculated based on age at the start of the course.

Source:
WBL ILR

The National Apprenticeship Service has developed a 16-18 Apprenticeships Action Plan and is taking forward a range of actions to increase the number of young people starting an apprenticeship. These include: an £11 million investment to provide 3,000 additional places with large businesses that have a track record in offering high-quality apprenticeships, with 1,800 places for 16 to 18 year-olds; a £7 million investment in Group Training Associations which can help attract new and hard to reach employers and new individuals to become apprentices; a focus on increasing the number of apprenticeship places available in the public sector by 21,000 this year with a specific focus on health, education, central and local government; and the publication of OGC guidance to enable Central and Local Government to utilise the £175 billion spent each year on procurement contracts to increase apprenticeship numbers and investment in training.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made towards provision of the proposed 1,500 apprenticeships under the New Opportunities, New Challenges strategy. [286188]

Kevin Brennan: In the Manufacturing: New Opportunities, New Challenges strategy, the Government committed to extend and expand high quality Apprenticeships by approximately 1,500 new places, by inviting bids from larger manufacturers to train additional apprentices, including for their supply chains.

On 1 December 2008 the Apprenticeship Expansion Programme Prospectus was launched, inviting Expressions of Interest from employers or groups of employers who are already delivering high-quality Apprenticeship programmes.

On 13 May the majority of the successful bids were announced. Out of the approximately 3,000 additional Apprenticeships created under the Expansion Programme, at least 1,400 will be in the Engineering and Manufacturing sector. The first additional apprentices will be taken on in September 2009.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on level four apprenticeships in each year since 2001. [286798]

Kevin Brennan: Our records show that in 2006-07, £115,000 was spent on funding level four apprenticeship places. This rose to £202,000 in 2007-08, as more learners started apprenticeships and we continued to fund the programmes of those who had started in the previous year. In previous academic years, level four apprenticeships were not available.

Apprentices: Females

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of apprenticeships were completed by women in each of the last 10 years. [284282]

Kevin Brennan: The table shows the volume and proportion of apprenticeships completed by women in each year from 2003/04 to 2007/08.

Apprenticeships completed by women

	Volume	*Proportion (percentage)*
2003/04	25,200	51
2004/05	32,200	48
2005/06	45,700	46
2006/07	50,900	45
2007/08	50,800	45

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred, and percentages to the nearest per cent.
Source:
WBL ILR

In many areas the take up of apprenticeships reflects the gender divide in the workplace. For example 1 per cent. of construction apprentices are women but in the care sector women comprise 97 per cent. of apprentices. We do not accept this and we have asked that the new National Apprenticeship Service to take action to address inequalities within the Apprenticeship programme.

Apprentices: Hertfordshire

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeships to be taken up by those over the age of 24 years in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in the next five years. [285889]

Kevin Brennan: The table shows apprenticeship starts in Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency and Hertfordshire local authority in 2007/08, the latest year for which we have full-year information. Information is not available at local authority district level and hence figures for Dacorum, which is part of Hertfordshire local authority, are not shown.

Apprenticeship starts in 2007/08

	Area	
Age at start of programme	*Hemel Hempstead constituency*	*Hertfordshire local authority*
Under 19	140	1,300
19-24	160	1,200
25 plus	50	300
All starts	350	2,800

Notes
1. Area is based on home postcode of learner.
2. Figures for parliamentary constituency have been rounded to the nearest ten and figures for local authority have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Therefore figures may not sum to the total due to rounding.
3. Age is calculated based on age at start of programme.
Source:
WBL ILR

Nationally, in 2008/09 we anticipate that more adults than ever before will start an apprenticeship. As part of our unprecedented investment in apprenticeships we have seen tremendous growth in the adult (25 plus) Apprenticeship programme from just 300 starts in 2006/07, to over 27,000 in 2007/08 in England. We are delighted that this trend has continued and demand from employers for adult apprenticeships remains very high. This demonstrates that apprenticeships provide a high-quality, all-age offer for businesses and that employers recognise the benefits of continuing to train in the current economic climate. The Government's Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 (due in autumn 2009) will set out national projections for apprenticeship starts for 2009/10 and 2010/11 academic years.

Apprentices: Thames Valley

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeships which will be taken up by those over the age of 24 years resident in *(a)* the Thames Valley and *(b)* Oxfordshire in the next 12 months. [285595]

Kevin Brennan: The following table shows apprenticeship starts in Oxfordshire in 2007-08, the latest year for which we have full-year information. Information is also provided for all of the local authorities covered by the Thames Valley Local Learning and Skills Council.

Apprenticeship starts in 2007-08

	Age at start of programme			*All starts*
Local authority	*Under 19*	*19-24*	*25+*	
Bracknell Forest	200	200	100	400
Buckinghamshire	800	700	100	1,600
Milton Keynes	400	500	100	1,000
Oxfordshire	1,000	800	200	2,000
Reading	200	200	100	500
Slough	200	200	100	400
West Berkshire	300	300	100	700
Windsor and Maidenhead	200	200	—	400
Wokingham	900	900	300	2,000
Total	4,100	3,900	1,100	9,100

Notes:
1. Area is based on home postcode of learner.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and may not sum to the total due to rounding.
3. '—' indicates a value of less than 50.
4. Age is calculated based on age at start of programme.
Source:
WBL ILR

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Better Regulation Executive

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the projected expenditure by the Better Regulation Executive is for each of the next five years. [283431]

Ian Lucas: The Better Regulation Executive has a formal budget for 2009-10 and an indicative budget for 2010-11 as set out:

	2009-10 (formal)	£ million 2010-11 (indicative)
Programme budget	4.7	4.7
of which:		
Local Better Regulation offices	4.4	4.4
Communications	0.3	0.3
Administration budget	6.4	6.4
Total budget	11.1	11.1

These budgets were set out in the comprehensive spending review (CSR) 2007, covering the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11. Budgets for future years will be decided as part of the next spending round, which has not yet been announced by HM Treasury.

Business: Billing

Mrs. McGuire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times cases under *(a)* the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 2002 and *(b)* other late payment legislation have been brought in UK courts in the last four years. [286711]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Ministry of Justice does not hold any statistical information about court applications (including Scotland) relating specifically to *(a)* the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 2002 and *(b)* other late payment legislation.

This is because the administrative computer systems used in the courts do not presently identify these specific application types. While the relevant cases will be logged on the system, they cannot be distinguished from other types of claims issued. Changing the administrative systems to create specific case types for these types of cases would incur disproportionate cost.

Mrs. McGuire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what research has been carried out into the size of companies bringing court cases under late payment legislation. [286712]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Ministry of Justice does not hold any statistical information about applications (including Scotland) relating specifically to payment legislation.

This is because the administrative computer systems used in the courts do not presently identify these specific application types. While the relevant cases will be logged on the system, they cannot be distinguished from other types of claims issued. Changing the administrative systems to create specific case types for these types of cases would incur disproportionate cost.

Business: Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage business growth in seaside resorts in England. [284759]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Support is available to established businesses, new businesses and those wanting to start a business throughout England, including in seaside resorts, via Business Link. Business Link is the Government's multi-channel business support service providing access to information and advice and directing clients to private and public sector support.

This Department sponsors the nine English RDAs. The RDAs are the delivery vehicle for business development at a sub-national level and are responsible for the day-to-day management of Business Link. The RDAs have an important role to play, with other partners, in helping coastal areas in their regions to achieve their full economic potential, as part of wider regional strategies to deliver sustainable growth.

Business: Empty Property

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the number of empty business properties there are in each constituency in England. [286596]

Ms Rosie Winterton: These data are not available at constituency level.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses have received assistance from the Working Capital Guarantee Scheme; and how much funding has been committed to date. [259010]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* The Working Capital Scheme (WCS) is not available directly to businesses. The scheme enables participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses.

By guaranteeing portfolios of working capital facilities, this will release regulatory capital held by the banks against these portfolios. The banks have agreed they will make commitments to re-deploy this capital in order to increase all types of lending to small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) and mid-sized corporates above their current base line.

We have signed £1 billion of guarantees with RBS and Lloyds for portfolios of £2 billion. The financing for businesses it releases has already started from 1 March as a result of the lending agreements based on the Asset Protection Scheme and WCS. We will be allocating from the £10 billion WCS, guarantees for trade credit insurance in response to the constraint to working capital arising from withdrawal of trade credit insurance. We will also be consulting on the viability of using some of these guarantees for letters of credit and other forms of export finance which are also possible areas of constraint for working capital.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of companies which will apply for assistance under the Working Capital Scheme; how much has been allocated by his Department to the scheme; what criteria are used by his Department on deciding suitability under the scheme; under what

circumstances assistance would be refused; whether interest is charged under the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [259065]

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses have received funding under the Working Capital Scheme. [260556]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Working Capital Scheme (WCS) is not available directly to businesses. The scheme enables participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses

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Helen Southworth: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what business support measures from his Department are available to small and medium-sized businesses in Warrington. [276518]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government fully appreciate the challenges faced by small and medium-sized businesses, especially during these difficult economic times, and we provide real help to businesses in the Warrington area through a wide range of business support. Details are set out in our 'Real Help' publication for the north-west which can be found at:

http://realhelpnow.bmg.gov.uk/pdf/northwest.pdf

The Northwest Regional Development Agency also provide a broad range of business support in areas such as small business loans (from £3,000 to £50,000), grants, venture capital (ranging from £50,000 to £250,000), start-up, innovation and efficiency, high growth, international trade, training and development, and specific sector-based initiatives in areas such as manufacturing, digital and creative, business and professional services—full details can be found at:

http://www.nwda.co.uk/publications/business/support-for-northwest-business.aspx

Any business looking for support can access it through Business Link Northwest by visiting:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in the London Borough of Southwark have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received assistance from the (i) Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and (ii) Capital for Enterprise Fund in 2009; and how much funding has been provided to businesses in Southwark under each scheme. [279301]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* The Department records information on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and Capital for Enterprise Fund on a regional basis, including London. It does not hold the information requested at borough level and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Set out in the following tables is the information for London since the launch of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and Capital for Enterprise Fund on 14 January:

Enterprise Finance Guarantee

	Number
Number of eligible applications	395
Number of loans offered	354
Number of loans drawn	212
	£ million
Value of eligible applications	43.9
Value of loans offered	37.2
Value of loans drawn	22.4

Capital Enterprise Fund

	Number
Number of inquiries	91
Number of inquires under consideration	11
	£ million
Investment required	108.2
Value of inquires under consideration	16.7

The fund managers are continuing due diligence on the proposals that have been put forward.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what sources of support are available to raise finance for small businesses which apply for assistance under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and meet the eligibility criteria but are not accepted on the scheme by commercial lenders; and if he will make a statement. [279644]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* EFG is only available,to viable businesses which are at the margins of commercial lending because they have insufficient security or their proposal involves a higher risk of loss in case of default.

Businesses that have been unable to secure funding from a lender under EFG may be eligible for a loan or other assistance from their Regional Development Agency. Business Link can advise on what additional finance help is available in the English regions on 0845 600 9 006 or via:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

In addition Business Link offers businesses a free review of their business by a professional business adviser. As at 11 June 2009, over 57,800 businesses have benefited from these reviews. An average of 1,865 per week since the service began in October 2008.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to assist *(a)* small and *(b)* medium-sized businesses in the London Borough of Bexley. [281657]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Through Business Link, small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in Bexley can access a wide range of mainstream Government business support products and services. Recent additional support has been made available to help SMEs during these tough economic times, including business health checks and a rapid response service to help SMEs hit hardest by the recession.

The Government are further assisting SMEs with 'real help now for businesses' which consists of targeted products and initiatives to help SMEs, including those in Bexley, during the downturn.

The full suite of business support services is routinely delivered in Bexley, including: advice, guidance and practical financial support with business start-ups, support for entrepreneurs and innovators with information on how to develop and explore their ideas, from inspiration to planning, to research, marketing, launch, business growth and exporting. Community development finance institutions (CDFIs) provide loans and other financial services to SMEs experiencing difficulty in accessing mainstream finance. This support complements that offered to SMEs by other departments:

Jobcentre Plus assists local businesses with recruitment and training and the LSC provides Train to Gain and apprenticeship funding.

Alongside support targeted at specific businesses the London Development Agency continues to support development of the local business infrastructure in Bexley. Examples include:

Estates Excellence South London/Soloman Ltd. (supporting 480 SMEs),

Building Futures/Trust Thamesmead (employment support to 200 SME employers),

Community Leaders Development (58 businesses supported, 11 new businesses created),

East London Business Place (6 Bexley SMEs supported)

Business: Insurance

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from *(a)* representative business organisations and *(b)* individual businesses on the availability of trade credit insurance; and if he will make a statement. [278604]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Government have had regular discussions with the CBI and a range of businesses on the availability of trade credit insurance.

In response, the Government launched a trade credit insurance scheme to help those businesses who have suffered reductions in their level of cover. This top-up scheme will help mitigate disruption to trade and cash flows.

Following further engagement, the Government announced on 9 June that eligibility for the scheme will be backdated to include suppliers who had their cover reduced since 1 October 2008.

Business: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses were registered for value added tax in *(a)* City of York constituency and *(b)* the York unitary authority area in each year since 1992. [285872]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total numbers of businesses registered for VAT at the start of each year from 1992 to 2008 for the city of York constituency and York local unitary authority are shown as follows:

Year[1]	*City of York parliamentary constituency*	*York local unitary authority area*
1994	2,110	4,070
1995	2,115	4,075
1996	2,115	4,100
1997	2,090	4,130
1998	2,145	4,235
1999	2,180	4,335
2000	2,220	4,425
2001	2,270	4,560
2002	2,315	4,665
2003	2,330	4,790
2004	2,425	4,965
2005	2,505	5,105
2006	2,565	5,200
2007	2,635	5,270
2008	2,705	5,435

[1] Large increases in the compulsory VAT registration threshold in 1991 and 1993 mean that figures before and after these dates are not directly comparable to data from 1994 onwards. The VAT series between 1980 and 1993 is available from the following link: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/vat8093.xls

Between 1994 and 2008, the number of VAT registered businesses in the city of York constituency and the York local authority area increased by 31 and 34 per cent. respectively.

Constructing Excellence: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each regional development agency has given to (i) the Centre for Constructing Excellence and (ii) each regional centre for constructing excellence since its inception. [278541]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows funding provided by my Department to Centre for Constructing Excellence.

BIS funding to Constructing Excellence

	£ million
2003-04	6
2004-05	4.6
2005-06	3.4
2006-07	1.5
2007-08	0.1
2008-09	0.2

Notes:
1. These figures include core funding for specific projects.
2. The RDAs did not provide any funding to the Centre for Constructing Excellence since its inception.
3. My Department has not provided any core funding to regional Centres for Constructing Excellence.

The following table shows RDA funding to regional Centres for Constructing Excellence.

RDA funding to regional Centres for Constructing Excellence

RDA	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*£000 2008/09*
AWM	0	0	0	0	712	1,393	1,420	1,393
EEDA	0	0	0	0	0	23	5	0
EMDA	0	0	0	78	402	0	299	304
EDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
ONE	[1]	[1]	54	54	54	100	130	[2]
SEEDA	0	17	38	44	0	0	15	0
SWRDA	0	0	0	0	0	47	127	128

[1] To identify the funding that has been provided would incur disproportionate cost.
[2] ONE's funding for 2007/08 was re-profiled to include 2008/09. Currently the regional centre has an application in for further funding.

Debts

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies with registered addresses in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Gloucestershire are registered to execute debt relief orders; what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the debt relief scheme; and if he will make a statement. [286013]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The Secretary of State has designated six organisations as competent authorities. Those organisations in turn can approve individual advisers to act as intermediaries, that is to confirm that the entry criteria appear to be met and to assist with applications for debt relief orders. On receipt of the completed application and payment of the fee, the official receiver can make the order.

None of the registered addresses of those six organisations is in Gloucestershire. Anyone in Gloucestershire wishing to apply for a debt relief order will be able to seek advice from one of the three designated organisations that offer telephone advice, or will be able to contact the other organisations to inquire about Gloucestershire-based advisers. The organisations are listed in a leaflet available online at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/bankruptcy/DROdebtors.htm

or in hard copy from the Insolvency Service.

It is too early to be able to properly assess the effectiveness of the scheme. Formal evaluation will take place in approximately three years but as this is a new process, the Insolvency Service, which delivers DROs in partnership with the advice sector, is actively monitoring the effectiveness of the new procedures to ensure they are working as envisaged.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many members of staff will be employed in his Department's Manufacturing Insight office; and when the office will start operations. [285159]

Ian Lucas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 988W.

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect on UK *(a)* businesses and *(b)* consumers of the import from the Channel Islands of health food products which contain illegal ingredients or are marketed using illegal claims; and if he will make a statement. [286016]

Kevin Brennan: This Department has made no such assessment. The Food Standards Agency is the Government organisation responsible for the legislation that governs health food products.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when officials of his Department last met representatives of the health food industry to discuss the effect of the trade in health food products from the Channel Islands on *(a)* UK businesses and *(b)* UK consumers. [286017]

Kevin Brennan: My officials have not met with representatives of the health food industry to discuss the effect of the trade in health food products from the Channel Islands although they have been in written communication. However, officials from the Food Standards Agency (who have responsibility for the legislation in this area) are in regular discussion with them.

East of England Development Agency: Land

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* land and *(b)* buildings owned by the East of England Development Agency are unused. [270139]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All land and property held by EEDA has been acquired with the intention of eventual disposal for appropriate use in support of regional and local economic strategies.

The process prior to disposal depends on the condition and status of the sites on acquisition and the extent of planning and or access/services provision required to make the sites fit for purpose.

Sites cannot be developed until these issues have been suitably addressed. However, once addressed, these will be disposed of for productive use at the earliest opportunity.

However, some sites are currently vacant due to them being at different stages in the remediation and development process.

On this basis, EEDA has provided the following table of those sites in its ownership which are neither the subject of a binding legal agreement with a developer or potential purchaser at the date of the question, nor forms part of an approved plan with any other party.

Land and buildings currently vacant comprise

Land only	*Land and buildings*
Northwick Road (Canvey, Essex)	Peterborough (South Bank) North (Peterborough, Cambridgeshire) [1]
Wybunbury (Wybunbury, Staffordshire)	Saul's Wharf (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk) [2]
South Denes (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk)	

[1] one short term tenant
[2] empty buildings pending demolition

Education (Student Support) Regulations 2009

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects of application of the provisions of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2009 on each type of funding support his Department provides for students in 2009-10. [286993]

Mr. Lammy: None. The Education (Student Support) Regulations 2009 set out funding support for students studying in the academic year starting 1 September 2010: they do not affect the student support available in the 2009-10 academic year.

The Government remain committed to investing in higher education and are increasing funding for student support in 2009-10 financial year by 4 per cent. compared with 2008-09. In cash terms, we are planning to spend over £5 billion on student support in 2009-10, and even more in 2010-11.

Education: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on accelerated support for *(a)* capital projects to improve further education infrastructure and *(b)* accelerated support for projects to improve facilities at higher education institutions of bringing forward capital expenditure from 2010-11 to 2009-10 and 2008-09; and how much of the funding has been spent in each month since it was announced. [286656]

Kevin Brennan: As announced in the pre-Budget report 2008, the former Department for Innovation Universities and Skills accelerated £442 million from 2010-11 budgets into 2008-09 and 2009-10. That capital was accelerated as set out in the following table:

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*£ million Total*
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) capital funding for higher education institutions	50	200	250
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) capital funding for further education institutions	110	—	110
Student Loans infrastructure	2	—	2
Research Capital Investment Fund	—	25	25
Natural Environment Research Council facilities	5	—	5
Large Facilities Capital Fund (projects managed by the research councils)	—	50	50
Total	167	275	442

The £50 million of capital that was accelerated to higher education institutions (HEIs) from 2010-11 into 2008-09 was spent in full in that financial year, having been allocated to institutions in January 2009 under the standard Capital Investment Formula. This amount, therefore, formed part of larger payments to HEIs and is not readily distinguishable from them in each month of spend. The £200 million brought forward to 2009-10 has been committed to specific projects, delivering throughout the year. That money will support 144 different projects, in 107 HEIs, and including additional capital leveraged by the initial investment, will deliver more than £370 million of capital activity. Payments will be made to higher education institutions on a quarterly basis, and the first instalment of £25 million was paid by HEFCE in May 2009. Examples of the projects accepted include: £6.4 million for a new arts building at Sussex; £3 million for a new building for the Centre for Immunology and Infection at York; £2.7 million for new mechanical engineering facilities at Imperial; and £2.6 million for chemical engineering and life sciences facilities at Sheffield. Over two-thirds of these projects are already under way.

The further education capital programme has seen nearly 330 colleges and 700 projects benefit since 2001. Only 42 colleges have yet to benefit from investment. In 2008-09, more than 100 further education building projects were completed, as a result of nearly £550 million of investment, including the £110 million accelerated from future budgets. This money was spent to bring forward building work, benefiting learners and regenerating communities. Recent National Audit Office and Public Accounts Committee reports have acknowledged the success of the further education capital programme, and its value for money.

Education: Prisons

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in prison received *(a)* a student maintenance loan and *(b)* a student grant in each of the last five years. [282730]

Kevin Brennan: In his written statement on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on the Education (Student Support) Regulations the Secretary of State announced that he was amending the student support regulations to disallow prisoners who were also full-time students from receiving financial support for maintenance, thereby removing the long-standing provision which had allowed prisoners to claim such support.

In a further written statement on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 6WS, he announced that an investigation showed that 154 individual prisoners had received some form of maintenance payment whilst a full time student since 1998. In total, prisoners received £70,000 in maintenance loans and £160,000 in maintenance grants over that period. The investigation also showed

that assessments for student support were carried out in accordance with the rules that applied at the time. There was also evidence of some maintenance payments made to prisoners between 1990 and 1998.

According to records held by the Student Loans Company no prisoners have applied for or received a maintenance loan toward their living costs in the academic year 2008/09.

The following table gives a breakdown of the number of prisoners receiving maintenance loans and grants by academic year.

Prisoners receiving maintenance loans and grants[1]

Academic year	*Number*
2003/04	18
2004/05	21
2005/06	32
2006/07	48
2007/08	44

[1] The figures reflect the number of prisoners in each year who received a payment. In some cases, prisoners will have received payments in more than one year.

Exports: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies in Yorkshire and the Humber exported goods and services in each year since 1997. [285750]

Ms Rosie Winterton: HM Revenue and Customs publishes a regional breakdown for trade in goods. The number of companies in Yorkshire and the Humber region exporting in each year from 1997 is:

	Exporters to EU	*Exporters-non EU*	*Total exporter count*
1997	1,545	4,124	4,359
1998	1,490	4,447	4,653
1999	1,395	4,380	4,609
2000	1,352	4,370	4,581
2001	1,381	4,599	4,837
2002	1,497	4,717	4,998
2003	1,540	5,000	5,273
2004	1,595	5,132	5,407
2005	1,726	5,180	5,534
2006	1,723	5,222	5,591
2007	1,596	5,133	5,434
2008	1,655	5,288	5,582

Foreign Investment in UK: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much foreign investment there has been in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* the City of York in each year since 2003; and what estimate he has made of the number of jobs generated. [285751]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A total of 295 foreign direct investments have been recorded in the Yorkshire and Humber (Y&H) region since 2003, of which 27 were in the city of York. These are the foreign direct investments that Yorkshire Forward has been directly involved in.

Breakdown of foreign direct investments since April 2003

	Yorkshire and the Humber	*York*
2003-04	24	2
2004-05	43	3
2005-06	29	6
2006-07	41	2
2007-08	76	3
2008-09	82	11
Total	295	27

Since 2003, the total number of new jobs created in the region as a result of the foreign direct investment totals 9,766. Of this total, 560.5 were in the city of York. The total number of jobs saved in the region as a result of foreign direct investment since 2003 totals 9,967. Of these, 23 were located in York.

	Y&H new jobs	*Y&H safeguarded jobs*	*York new jobs*	*York safeguarded jobs*
2003-04	2,356	460	53	0
2004-05	2,596	1,207	10	3
2005-06	1,700	1,021	21.5	0
2006-07	699	1,034	85	0
2007-08	1,141	2,562	87	0
2008-09	1,274	3,683	304	20
Total	9,766	9,967	560.5	23

Further Education: Energy

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department provides to further education colleges to improve their energy efficiency. [285528]

Kevin Brennan: We provide support through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to enable further education colleges to benchmark their performance against the most efficient providers. These toolkits enable colleges to draw comparisons between their estates running costs, including energy costs. In the last spending review, colleges realised £48 million of efficiency savings from the more effective running and maintenance of its estate—which included lowered energy costs.

The standards of environmental sustainability are increasing through a requirement for new college capital projects to meet BREEAM (the building research establishment environment assessment method) 'excellent' criteria introduced by the LSC in March 2008.

The LSC also ran a pilot scheme with SALIX, which made available energy efficiency grants for small projects. The pilot showed that, in cash terms, colleges would be able to recoup their investment within 3.5 years through energy savings. We shall be working in partnership with colleges to examine the scope for them to make further efficiency gains in the future, including improving their energy efficiency.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the timetable for the next phase of decisions on colleges' capital programmes is; and if he will make a statement. [284022]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* After an open and transparent prioritisation exercise in consultation with the sector the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) announced which projects would proceed to the next stage of the process—through value for money challenge to reduce the cost of projects—on 26 June. The LSC have subsequently invited the 13 successful colleges to submit revised proposals by 22 July. As soon as credible cost reductions can be secured, final approvals will be accelerated in order for building to begin as soon as possible.

For colleges which have not been selected to proceed this year, the next steps start this autumn when the LSC will further consult with the sector to agree a robust, fair and transparent process for prioritising the capital investment programme ready for the next spending review period.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the age is of *(a)* the main site and *(b)* any rebuilding or extension of each of the further education colleges (i) which received provision to proceed with their capital projects on 26 June 2009 and (ii) whose capital building programmes remain frozen. [286091]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* As independent institutions, further education colleges are responsible for the upkeep and development of their own estates. As such, the Government, via the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), makes available capital grant support to enable further education colleges to undertake such renewal and modernisation. Over this current spending review period, we will invest a record £2.6 billion in the further education sector.

While in the provision of such grant, the LSC requires the respective college to provide details about its capital proposal—it does not require the college to state the age of its buildings. I am therefore unable to provide the hon. Member with the information requested as we, nor the LSC, collect it.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether Ministers played a role in decisions on which further education college building projects for which funding was frozen would be approved; and if he will make a statement. [286705]

Kevin Brennan: Under the Learning and Skills Act 2000, Ministers may not direct the LSC in its decision making regards individual capital approvals. Ministers have discussed with the LSC the overall approach, consistent with their responsibility for determining the strategic direction that the LSC should follow.

Recent decisions made by the LSC regarding which further education college building projects would proceed to the next stage of the approvals process followed a robust and transparent assessment by independent consultants against prioritisation criteria that was agreed with the sector and that built upon the recommendations made by Sir Andrew Foster.

Graduates: Employment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to improve the employment prospects of those graduating in 2009. [285335]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to helping new graduates improve their prospects for work in these challenging economic times. The key message is there are still jobs out there—but graduates will need to do their research thoroughly and take every opportunity to gain experience and build their CV. Graduates should take advantage of the professional support available from university careers services and look at all, job opportunities—including non-graduate jobs which can provide a route to their chosen careers.

We are putting in place a range of options for graduates to build their employability skills and boost their CV—the Graduate Talent Pool which will allow graduates to match themselves to thousands of internships from a range of employers; more postgraduate study options; support through Professional and Career Development Loans (PCDLs); volunteering places and help with business start up or entrepreneurship training.

Graduates: Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of graduates were unemployed three months after obtaining their degree in each year since 1997. [287756]

Mr. Lammy: Information on destinations of graduates after three months is not available centrally. However, data are collected after six months and these form the basis of the response in the following table.

From 1997 to 2002, leavers were asked to fill out the First Destination of Leavers survey. This changed to the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey in 2003. The wording of the questionnaire changed in this year, as did the coverage to include part-time graduates as well as full-time. Therefore numbers before and after 2003 are not directly comparable.

UK domiciled first degree graduates assumed to be unemployed six months after leaving higher education 1997 to 2008

Year graduated	*Number unemployed*	*Total respondents*	*Percentage unemployed*
1997	11,905	171,280	6.9
1998	9,920	172,660	5.7
1999	9,715	176,205	5.5
2000	9,335	170,735	5.5
2001	11,050	176,405	6.3
2002	12,110	176,375	6.9
Change in coverage and questionnaire			
2003	13,135	196,155	6.7
2004	12,450	200,740	6.2
2005	12,795	202,653	6.3
2006	12,595	204,105	6.2
2007	11,450	203,225	5.6
2008	17,360	213,270	8.1

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA)

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people *(a)* applied and *(b)* were accepted through

the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service for a place on a higher education institution undergraduate course in each year since the service was established. [287776]

Mr. Lammy: The information is in the following table:

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via Universities and Colleges Admissions Service 1994 to 2008

Academic year of entry	Applicants	Accepted applicants
1994	405,117	270,898
1995	419,442	290,596
1996	418,400	295,807
1997	458,781	336,338
1998	446,457	329,788
1999	442,931	334,594
2000	442,028	339,747
2001	453,833	358,041
2002	461,365	368,115
2003	476,467	374,307
2004	486,028	377,544
2005	522,155	405,369
2006	586,304	390,890
2007	534,495	413,430
2008	588,689	456,627

Source:
UCAS

In 2008 the nursing and midwifery admissions system (NMAS) was subsumed in to the UCAS application system and part of the increase from 2007 to 2008 can be attributed this factor. In 2008 there were 13,487 applicants who applied via UCAS to ex-NMAS courses only and 14,184 applicants who were accepted to former NMAS courses, the majority of whom were English domiciled (and NMAS was only for English institutions).

Industry: Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effects of levels of work-related stress on the profitability of British industry; and if he will make a statement. [285817]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety Executive does not collect data on the effects of work-related stress on the profitability of British industry. However, HSE estimates the economic costs to society of work-related stress in the order of £4 billion a year (2009).

HSE recognise that stress is a major cause of occupational ill health, leading to poor productivity and potential human error. Given the prevalence of work-related stress in Britain, HSE developed the Management Standards for Work-related stress in 2004. This approach is designed to address the key causes of stress at work and help employers, employees and their representatives manage the issue sensibly and minimise the impact on their business.

Innovation Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether funding from the new Innovation Fund will be available to *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector companies. [284956]

Mr. Lammy: The UK Innovation Investment Fund will invest in a small number of specialist technology funds. These funds will invest in strategically-important companies in life sciences, clean technologies, digital and advanced manufacturing. Investments in individual companies will ultimately be a commercial decision for the fund manager based on the investment opportunity, the potential risk and the current investment portfolio. These companies may be publicly or privately owned.

Insolvency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies were declared insolvent in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England and Wales in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [285899]

Ian Lucas: It is not possible to answer part *(a)* of the question asked because statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at sub-national level within England and Wales. The following table gives the number of corporate insolvencies by insolvency procedure type in England and Wales for the period requested.

Number

	Compulsory liquidations	Creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs)[1]	Receivership appointments[2]	Administrations[3]	Company voluntary arrangements (CVAs)
2005	5,233	8,341	590	2,261	604
2006	5,418	8,633	588	3,560	534
2007	5,165	8,437	337	2,512	418
2008	5,494	11,034	867	4,822	587

[1] Includes CVLs following administration.
[2] Includes Law of Property Act receiverships. Receivership figures from 2007 are not consistent with those for the earlier period.
[3] Includes administrator appointments prior to Enterprise Act 2002 and administrations under Enterprise Act 2002.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies went into administration in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England and Wales in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [285900]

Ian Lucas: It is not possible to answer part *(a)* of the question asked because statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at sub-national level within England and Wales. The following table gives the number of administrations in England and Wales for the period requested:

Administrations[1]

	Number
2005	2,261
2006	3,560
2007	2,512
2008	4,822

[1] Includes administrator appointments prior to Enterprise Act 2002 and administrations under Enterprise Act 2002.

Insolvency Service: Marketing

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Insolvency Service spent on advertising and marketing in each of the last five years. [285442]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service on has not spent anything on advertising and marketing in the last five years, therefore, the answer is nil.

Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 2002

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether his Department has conducted research on the size of companies bringing forward cases under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 2002; and if he will make a statement; [286230]

(2) how many cases brought under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 2002 have been heard in court in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286231]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Ministry of Justice does not hold any statistical information about court applications (including Scotland) relating specifically to the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 2002.

This is because the administrative computer systems used in the courts do not presently identify these specific application types. While the relevant cases will be logged on the system, they cannot be distinguished from other types of claims issued. Changing the administrative systems to create specific case types for these types of cases would incur disproportionate cost.

Literacy: Young Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young offenders in prison have been recorded as improving their standard of literacy during their sentence in each of the last five years. [285263]

Kevin Brennan: The data provided is from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) showing the number of literacy enrolments and achievements by young offenders aged 15 to 17 and 18 to 21 for the academic years August 2006 to July 2007 and August 2007 to July 2008. The data collected records the number of literacy enrolments in a year rather than individual learners. As learners may enrol on more than one literacy course in any year, and may achieve at one level and progress to the next level, the number of enrolments and achievements does not represent individual learners.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for the provision of education in prison and young offender institutions for learners over the age of 18, with the Department for Children, Families and Schools having responsibility for 15 to 17-year-olds. As both sets of data have been supplied by the LSC, they are included for completeness.

	Age group	
	15 to 17	*18 to 21*
Literacy enrolments for the 2006-07 academic year	6,186	8,366
Literacy achievements for the 2006-07 academic year	1,303	2,336
Literacy enrolments for the 2007-08 academic year	6,386	10,567
Literacy achievements for the 2007-08 academic year	1,660	3,357

The information for the 2006/07 academic year may include a small number of enrolments by young offenders serving community sentences because the LSC started recording the custody and community provision separately from the 2007/08 academic year onwards. There is no comparable data prior to 2006 before the LSC became responsible for capturing and recording the information.

Mail Order Selling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on enforcement action by the Office of Fair Trading in circumstances where companies repeatedly distribute mail order catalogues containing illegal claims about health products. [288018]

Kevin Brennan: This Department has received no such representations.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead, on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, dated 13 April 2009, transferred to his Department from HM Treasury. [285826]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member. My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Economics Competitiveness, Small Business and Enterprise will respond shortly.

Migrant Workers: Burnley

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employers in Burnley have had enforcement action taken against them for employing illegal migrant workers in each of the last five years. [286455]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

No illegal working enforcement operations were conducted in Burnley during the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

Two illegal working enforcement operations were conducted in Burnley during the period from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Four illegal working enforcement operations were conducted in Burnley during the period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

No employers in Burnley have been subject to criminal prosecution under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 or section 21 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 for employing illegal migrant workers in each of the last five years.

One employer was served with a civil penalty under section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 in August 2008.

No information relating to enforcement action taken against employers in Burnley for employing illegal migrant workers is available for the period prior to 1 April 2006.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the average undiscounted retail price has been to date of cars sold under the car scrappage scheme; [278769]

(2) how many sales of cars of each make have attracted support from the car scrappage scheme to date. [278770]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* 38 manufacturers including makers of the UK best selling cars have signed up to the scheme. Motorists are being offered £2,000 towards a new car or van (up to 3.5 tonnes) if they trade in vehicles they have owned for 12 month plus and which are older than 10 years for scrappage. The £2,000 grant is made up of £1,000 from government with matched funding from industry.

Figures are not available on how many sales of each brand have been supported by the scheme. However, The Prime Minister and my noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills announced on 29 May 2009 that 60,000 scrappage orders had been placed since the scheme was announced. Government do not routinely collect figures on the average retail price of vehicles sold with or without support from the scheme.

National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions the Secretary of State and his predecessor had with representatives from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [285857]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills met the chair of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) on 2 June 2008.

In addition, the Minister for Science and Innovation has met regularly with NESTA representatives in the last two years.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who is responsible for making appointments to the Board of Trustees of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts. [285858]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The appointment of the chair of the Board of Trustees and the Arts Trustee are made jointly by the Secretaries of State for the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. All other appointments are made by my noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people are employed by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA); what the annual salary cost is of *(a)* all NESTA employees and *(b)* its senior management team. [285859]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* At 31 March 2009, NESTA employed 92 people, covering the equivalent of 88 full-time posts.

In the year to 31 March 2009, salaries for all NESTA staff totalled £4,150,960, and salaries for the senior management team totalled £584,639.

National Vocational Qualifications: Construction

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on Government-funded National Vocational Qualification courses in the construction industry in each of the last five years. [281187]

Kevin Brennan: Funding for further education and skills is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The LSC agrees indicative budgets with colleges and providers prior to the start of the academic year based on the expected delivery of an overall volume of learning. The actual funding paid will depend on the choice of learning area made by employers and learners. As funding is not allocated at an individual course level, details of the amount made available to support specific qualifications in this sector are not held centrally in the Department.

Training in the construction industry is also part-funded through a levy raised on employers by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to finance their activities and share the cost of training more evenly between companies. In 2008 the amount of levy income was £181 million.

We have agreed a Train to Gain Sector Compact with the construction sector which will make available £133 million over three years to meet the identified priority skills needs of the industry focused on economic renewal and future growth.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of businesses which claim small business rate relief. [286595]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 909-10W.

Non-domestic Rates: Rural Areas

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) which local authorities in rural areas are providing more than 50 per cent. rural rate relief to small businesses; [286569]

(2) which local authorities in rural areas are providing 100 per cent. rural rate relief to small businesses. [286570]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following is a list of authorities in England that are regarded as being rural under the DEFRA "Classification of local authorities in England for 2007-08" that reported awarding rural rate relief in 2007-08.

Mandatory rural rate relief is awarded at 50 per cent. of a property's non-domestic rates bill. In addition, local authorities can awarded discretionary rural rate relief that tops up the relief granted to up to 100 per cent. of the property's rates bill. It is not possible to award more than 100 per cent. relief.

List of authorities in England that are regarded as being rural under the DEFRA "Classification of local authorities in England for 2007-08" that reported awarding rural rate relief in 2007-08

Allerdale
Alnwick
Amber Valley
Ashford
Aylesbury Vale
Babergh
Barnsley
Basingstoke and Deane
Bassetlaw
Bath and North East Somerset
Bedford
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Blyth Valley
Bolsover
Boston
Braintree
Breckland
Brentwood
Bridgnorth
Broadland
Bromsgrove
Calderdale
Caradon
Carlisle
Carrick
Castle Morpeth
Charnwood
Chelmsford
Cherwell
Chester
Chichester
Chiltern
Colchester
Congleton
Copeland
Cotswold
Craven
Crewe and Nantwich
Daventry
Derbyshire Dales
Derwentside
Doncaster
Dover
Durham
Easington
East Cambridgeshire
East Devon
East Dorset
East Hampshire
East Hertfordshire
East Lindsey
East Northamptonshire
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Staffordshire
Eden
Fenland
Forest Heath
Forest of Dean
Great Yarmouth
Guildford
Hambleton
Harborough
Harrogate
Hart
Herefordshire
High Peak
Hinckley and Bosworth
Horsham
Huntingdonshire
Isle of Wight
Isles of Scilly
Kennet
Kerrier
Kettering
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
Lancaster
Lewes
Lichfield
Macclesfield
Maidstone
Maldon
Malvern Hills
Melton
Mendip
Mid Bedfordshire
Mid Devon
Mid Suffolk
Mid Sussex
New Forest
Newark and Sherwood

North Cornwall
North Devon
North Dorset
North East Derbyshire
North Hertfordshire
North Kesteven
North Lincolnshire
North Norfolk
North Shropshire
North Somerset
North Warwickshire
North West Leicestershire
North Wiltshire
Oswestry
Penwith
Purbeck
Restormel
Ribble Valley
Richmondshire
Rother
Rugby
Rushcliffe
Rutland
Ryedale
Salisbury
Scarborough
Sedgefield
Sedgemoor
Selby
Sevenoaks
Shepway
Shrewsbury and Atcham
South Bucks
South Cambridgeshire
South Derbyshire
South Hams
South Holland
South Kesteven
South Lakeland
South Norfolk
South Northamptonshire
South Oxfordshire
South Shropshire
South Somerset
South Staffordshire
St. Edmundsbury
Stafford
Staffordshire Moorlands
Stratford-on-Avon
Stroud
Suffolk Coastal
Swale
Tandridge
Taunton Deane
Teesdale
Teignbridge
Tendring
Test Valley
Tewkesbury

Tonbridge and Malling
Torridge
Tunbridge Wells
Tynedale
Uttlesford
Vale of White Horse
Vale Royal
Warwick
Waveney
Waverley
Wealden
Wear Valley
Wellingborough
West Berkshire
West Devon
West Dorset
West Lancashire
West Lindsey
West Oxfordshire
West Somerset
West Wiltshire
Winchester
Wychavon
Wycombe
Wyre Forest

Data are as reported on audited national non-domestic rates (NNDR) 3 forms completed by all billing authorities in England.

Rural authorities were defined as those authorities that fell into the Significant Rural, Rural-50 or Rural-80 categories of the DEFRA "Classification of Local Authorities in England 2007-08".

North West Development Agency: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Secretary of State expects to appoint a new Chair of the North West Development Agency. [280994]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Before long.

Office of Fair Trading: Freedom of Information

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which requests for information received by the Office of Fair Trading under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2008 were *(a)* classified as not resolvable and *(b)* refused in full. [286133]

Kevin Brennan: In 2008, of the requests for information received by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, *(a)* three were appealed to the Information Commissioner after an Internal Review and *(b)* 152 were refused in full. The OFT receives a significant number of requests relating to complaints received by the OFT; the disclosure of this information is prohibited under the Enterprise Act 2002 and as a consequence is subject to the absolute exemption from disclosure under section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act. Where the OFT is unable

to provide the information requested, it seeks to provide any advice or information that would be helpful to the requester.

Prisoners: Higher Education

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of those who were released from prison in each year from 2000 to 2006 *(a)* did and *(b)* did not achieve a degree while in prison. [282235]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The National Offender Management Service, or any other agency, does not collect educational attainment data of prisoners on release. The following table records details of those discharged from prison (excluding those deported without sentence):

England and Wales	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Males and Females				
Prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence—adults	69,500	71,500	69,800	65,900
Prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence—young offenders	15,500	14,800	14,500	12,500
First releases from prison on life licence	223	205	200	135

The following table details the number of OU degrees achieved by prisoners while serving their sentence. Information on degrees awarded by other higher education institutions is not collected centrally.

	Number of prisoners achieving OU degrees
2000	11
2001	17
2002	13
2003	16
2004	17
2005	22
2006	25

It is not possible to say whether prisoners achieving a degree were released in the same year of achieving it.

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many prisoners gained a degree while in prison in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003, *(e)* 2004, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2006 and *(h)* 2007. [282237]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The number of offenders gaining Open University degrees while in prison, broken down by year, is as follows:

	Number
2000	11
2001	17
2002	13
2003	16
2004	17
2005	22
2006	25
2007	16

Information on degree qualifications awarded by other higher education institutions is not collected centrally.

Public Houses: Closures

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many public houses have closed in each region in each of the last three years; and how many of these were *(a)* managed houses, *(b)* tenanted or leased houses and *(c)* freehouses. [288776]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of how many public houses have closed in each region in each of the last three years; and how many of these were (a) managed houses, (b) tenanted or leased houses and (c) freehouses. (288776).

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography. The attached table contains the count of enterprise deaths for each of these categories, for the latest three years available.

Count of enterprise deaths by SIC 55402,55403 and 55404 for 2005-07

	55402—Independent Public Houses and Bars	*55403—Tenanted Public Houses and Bars*	*55404—Managed Public Houses and Bars*
2005			
North East	315	85	5
Northwest	585	565	50
Yorkshire and the Humber	790	175	25
East Midlands	700	160	25
West Midlands	445	495	40
East of England	510	240	30
London	320	135	40
South East	695	335	45
Southwest	670	245	30
Wales	480	105	15
Scotland	570	45	10
Northern Ireland	100	0	0
2006			
North East	255	75	5
Northwest	525	475	75
Yorkshire and Humber	675	175	15
East Midlands	540	155	30
West Midlands	395	405	45

Count of enterprise deaths by SIC 55402,55403 and 55404 for 2006-07

	55402—Independent Public Houses and Bars	*55403—Tenanted Public Houses and Bars*	*55404—Managed Public Houses and Bars*
East Midlands	515	210	35
London	295	105	30
South East	585	325	60
South West	565	215	35
Wales	400	120	10
Scotland	460	45	5
Northern Ireland	90	5	5
2007			
North East	260	80	0
North West	530	490	80
Yorkshire and Humber	680	150	15
East Midlands	570	190	25
West Midlands	370	375	55
East Midlands	450	210	40
London	290	110	40
South East	585	350	55
South West	595	225	30
Wales	380	110	5
Scotland	475	40	5
Northern Ireland	80	5	0

Redundancy: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of those made redundant in each of the last 12 months were women by *(a)* region and *(b)* age. [287328]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of those made redundant in each of the last 12 months were women by (a) region and (b) age. (287328)

The attached tables provide estimates for the information requested for the latest four quarters from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Monthly data are not available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the tables are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Proportion of people aged 16 and over made redundant[1] who were women by region, three-month periods ending June, September, December and March: 2008 to 2009, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Region						
		North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*Eastern*	*London*
2008	Q2	40	37	42	46	50	39	33
	Q3	47	35	36	39	46	43	63
	Q4	25	35	28	32	27	26	55
2009	Q1	28	36	38	32	37	39	34

Percentage

		Region					
		South East	*South West*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*Total*
2008	Q2	39	30	38	60	53	42
	Q3	33	38	40	60	[2]	42
	Q4	40	26	[2]	24	[2]	31
2009	Q1	41	36	22	26	27	34

Proportion of people aged 16 and over made redundant[1] who were women by age, three-month periods ending June, September, December and March: 2008 to 2009, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Age					
		16-24	*25-34*	*35-49*	*50-59*	*60 and over*	*Total*
2008	Q2	50	37	43	41	30	42
	Q3	32	29	52	49	44	42

Proportion of people aged 16 and over made redundant[1] who were women by age, three-month periods ending June, September, December and March: 2008 to 2009, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Age					
		16-24	*25-34*	*35-49*	*50-59*	*60 and over*	*Total*
	Q4	23	26	39	32	34	31
2009	Q1	32	34	35	43	25	34

[1] Includes those who have been made redundant in the three months prior to their LFS interview.
[2] Sample size too small for reliable estimates.
Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Regional Development Agencies: Expenditure

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on levels of funding allocated by regional development agencies for expenditure on support for the tourism industry. [287908]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) contributes towards the regional development agencies' (RDAs) single programme budget. The single programme budget, once allocated, is available to the RDAs to deliver regional priorities identified in their regional economic strategies and the challenging targets set by them in the corporate plans. RDAs are currently revising their corporate plans and DCMS are involved in this process.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what provisional budget his Department has set for regional development agencies in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [285690]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The regional development agencies have an indicative budget of £1.8 billion for 2010-11, and no budgets have been indicated to them beyond that period.

Regional Development Agencies: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid in employer pension contributions to *(a)* the Chief Executive and *(b)* each board member of each regional development agency in each of the last three years. [277993]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* The financial value of the employer pension contribution made to both RDA chief executives and RDA chairs are detailed in the tables. RDA board members do not receive a pension from the RDA. The data have been rounded up/down, as appropriate and exclude London, which is the responsibility of the Mayor.

AWM

	CEX	*Chair*
2005/06	29,773	18,911
2006/07	17,574	19,995
2007/08	36,676	20,127

EEDA

	CEX	*Chair*
2005/06	26,000	18,991
2006/07	28,000	19,881
2007/08	29,000	20,127

emda

	CEX	*Chair*
2005/06	27,084	18,991
2006/07	27,693	18,329
2007/08	28,764	17,258

NWDA

	CEX	*Chair*
2005/06	19,245	8,849
2006/07	27,693	16,615
2007/08	28,764	28,000

ONE

	CEX	*Chair*
2005/06	25,250	18,911
2006/07	32,729	19,881
2007/08	33,187	20,127

SEEDA

	CEX	*Chair*[1]
2005/06	37,303	0
2006/07	39,535	0
2007/08	40,182	0

[1] The chair has been in post since December 2002 and is the only board member eligible to receive pension contributions. Employer contributions of £104,344, based on the civil service pension scheme rates, were paid to the chair's personal pension scheme in December 2008 to cover contributions from December 2002 to December 2008 when he was due to retire.

South West RDA

	CEX	*Chair*
2005/06	25,978	18,911
2006/07	29,666	19,881
2007/08	28,764	20,127

Yorkshire Forward

	CEX	*Chair*
2005/06	32,000	20,739
2006/07	[1]28,000	19,881
2007/08	[1]29,000	20,127

[1] During this period there was a time of overlap where YF had two CEOs. In 2005/06 the outgoing CEX claimed £28,000 while the incoming CEX claimed £4,000 and in 2006/07 the incoming CEX claimed £27,000 while the outgoing claimed £1,000.

Retail Trade: Kent

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department intends to consult on the wider application of the Kent County Council Act 2001 and the Medway Council Act 2001 for the regulation of markets and occasional sales. [280890]

Kevin Brennan: A consultation on measures to tighten the regulation of markets and occasional sales was recommended in the Gower Review of intellectual property. However, the Department's resources are limited and current efforts are focused on providing targeted help and protection for consumers struggling to make ends meet as a result of the global downturn. It is therefore not possible to give a specific timeframe for implementing this recommendation.

Skilled Workers

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase levels of management skills among employers. [284621]

Kevin Brennan: The Train To Gain Leadership and Management programme provides support and funding for senior managers of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access personalised training that meets their development needs. Specialist advisers work with individuals to understand their needs and recommend suitable opportunities. A grant of up to £1,000 can be allocated for employers to spend on any leadership and management development activity deemed appropriate. As part of the Government's package of support developed for SMEs in the economic downturn, the leadership and management programme is now available to all employers with between five and 249 employees.

The Government are increasing investment in Train to Gain. This will rise to over £1 billion by 2010-11.

Skilled Workers: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the skills base in Milton Keynes. [279737]

Kevin Brennan: The Department utilises data and advice from the UKCES and the National Employer Skills Survey to provide a national level picture of skills needs. Information is also available on a regional basis. However, the Department would look to our key partners, regional development agencies and local authorities to work closely with Sector Skills Councils and employers in order to identify skills needs in more defined geographical areas.

South East England Development Agency: Redundancy Pay

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the South East England Development Agency has paid out in redundancy payments in the last 24 months; and how much each individual payment was. [286677]

Ms Rosie Winterton: SEEDA has made 33 individual redundancy payments, totalling £663,659.54, between July 2007 and June 2009. These payments have been made as a result of the completion of projects and programmes and the need to restructure teams to focus on new goals requiring different skill sets. Individual payments are listed as follows:

£80,891.90
£49,891.34
£46,174.15
£43,601.33
£36,038.14
£34,285.07
£27,194.50
£24,787.31
£24,539.85
£23,977.98
£23,545.60
£23,497.64
£23,489.37
£19,481.68
£17,620.82
£16,893.12
£16,023.72
£12,844.43
£12,119.94
£11,180.73
£10,121.15
£8,699.71
£8,638.16
£8,469.91
£8,445.29
£8,132.01
£7,718.75
£7,462.54
£7,318.59
£7,292.02
£6,541.63
£3,968.45
£2,766.71

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the South East England Development Agency takes account of service in previous public sector employment when calculating redundancy payments for individuals. [286680]

Ms Rosie Winterton: SEEDA is bound by the Civil Service Compensation Scheme for calculating redundancy payments and SEEDA includes service in previous public sector employment in calculating redundancy payments where such service satisfies the rules of the scheme.

Students: Fees and Charges

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of ending tuition fees for first degree *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time undergraduates. [286229]

Mr. Lammy: There are no plans to end tuition fees for either full-time or part-time undergraduate students studying at English Higher Education institutions. Such fees generate an income of around £3 billion annually for Higher Education institutions and it helps them to tackle the challenges Government identified when introducing the new fee and student support arrangements to maintain and improve high standards, to expand and widen access to meet rising skills needs, and to compete globally. Both the number of overall entrants to higher education and those from low participation neighbourhoods has increased since the introduction of tuition fees in 2006.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many live accounts the Student Loans Company holds in respect of which no repayment is being received; what the reasons are for which no repayments are being made; and how many live accounts are not receiving repayments for each such reason. [286833]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The information requested is published in table 2(ii) for mortgage-style loans and in table 2(iii) for income contingent loans of the Statistical First Release entitled Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2008-09 (provisional) which is available at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022009.pdf

A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of students enrolled on their first degree course have received a tuition fee loan in each year since 2006. [286834]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show that 981,500 English-domiciled students studying in UK and EU students studying in England enrolled on their first degree in academic year 2006-07 and 1,000,000 in 2007-08. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

The latest figures published by the Student Loans Company show that 397,300 of English-domiciled students studying in UK and EU students studying in England received a tuition fee loan in academic year 2006-07, 553,600 in 2007-08 and 713,700 in 2008-09 (provisional figures).

The figures are not directly comparable. The HESA figures cover students who enrolled in their first degree and include part-time students whereas the SLC figures cover students who also enrolled in their sub-degree and only cover a small proportion of part-time students i.e. Initial Teacher Training students.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many EU-domiciled students have received a tuition fee loan in each year since 2006. [286836]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The information requested is published in the Statistical First Release entitled Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008/09 (provisional) which is available at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr052008.pdf

A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Tuition fee loans were first introduced in academic year 2006/07. Each academic year the new cohort of students becomes eligible to apply for this loan, thereby increasing the total number of EU-domiciled students who have a tuition fee loan.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of eligible students took out *(a)* a maintenance loan only, *(b)* a tuition fees loan only and *(c)* loans for both for maintenance and tuition from the Student Loans Company in the most recent academic year for which figures are available. [286985]

Mr. Lammy: In 2006/07 the estimated proportion of eligible English domiciled students studying in the UK who took out a maintenance loan is 80 per cent. The information is available at table 4A of the Statistical First Release by the Student Loans Company entitled Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008/09 (Provisional) which is available at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr052008.pdf

A copy is available in the House Library.

It is not possible for us to determine the proportions for the further two categories because the population eligible for tuition fee loans, as opposed to tuition fee grants, cannot be estimated in a robust manner.

As at 31 March 2009, the number of English domiciled borrowers studying in the UK and EU domiciled borrowers studying in England in 2007/08 who had taken out loans is as follows:

52,100 tuition fee loans only;

237,000 maintenance loans only

514,000 tuition and maintenance loans.

Tuition fee loans were introduced in 2006/07 so these figures represent an early stage in the process.

Train to Gain Programme

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people from the North East registered for Train to Gain courses but who have not yet commenced their training. [280703]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) delivers the Train to Gain programme on behalf of the Department. It counts the number of learners who register for Train to Gain at the point where they formally start on programmes. However, there is no formal registration process before a learner starts and therefore no central mechanism is in place to measure the number of people registering an interest.

The LSC is working closely with providers to support ongoing new starts for the remainder of the 2008/09 academic year where providers are within their maximum contract value. Maximum contract values for 2009/10 academic year will be finalised during June.

Train to Gain Programme: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire have successfully completed a Train to Gain course in each year of its operation. [284564]

Kevin Brennan: The table shows the number of Train to Gain achievements by people living in Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency and Hertfordshire local authority.

Train to Gain achievements

	Hertfordshire local authority	*Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency*
2005/06	100	—
2006/07	800	70
2007/08	2,800	330

Notes:
1. Geographic area is based on learner's home postcode.
2. Numbers within a local authority have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Numbers within a parliamentary constituency have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TtG ILR

UK Trade and Investment: Manpower

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) staff had at least one year's experience in the commercial sector prior to joining UKTI. [281706]

Ian Lucas: Neither the Department nor UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) holds centrally the information requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

However, people working for UK Trade and Investment do have considerable commercial and business experience. Five out of six members of the UKTI Executive Team and all three of its non-executive directors have business experience as do most of the local staff based in Foreign and Commonwealth Office Posts overseas (some 1,100) and nearly all the International Trade Advisors (just under 300) based in the nine English Regions. UKTI also has a programme of secondments both to and from the private sector.

Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 420W, on unemployment, how many and what percentage of persons in each category not in education, employment or training in the first quarter of 2009 were *(a)* male and *(b)* female. [283993]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The following table shows the number and proportion of people aged[1] 16 to 18 and 19 to 24 not in education, employment or training in England, split by male and female. These estimates are from the Quarter 1 2009 Labour Force Survey.

Numbers not in education, employment or training, Q1 2009

	Male		*Female*	
Age group	*NEET*	*Percentage*	*NEET*	*Percentage*
16-18	123,000	12.3	97,000	10.2
19-24	314,000	15.3	401,000	20.0

[1] Age used is academic age, which is the age of the respondent as at the preceding 31 August.

Base: England only

Source:
Labour Force Survey Q1 2009

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of people aged between 18 and 24 years were not in education, employment or training in the first quarter of each year since 2000. [284312]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The following table shows the number and percentage of people aged[1] 18 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England. These estimates are from the Quarter 1 Labour Force Survey (LFS).

NEET estimates are not available from LFS datasets prior to Quarter 2 2000 due to incomplete data.

18 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training

Quarter 1	*NEET*	*Percentage*
2001	574,000	14.4
2002	592,000	14.7
2003	612,000	14.9
2004	572,000	13.4
2005	618,000	14.2
2006	674,000	15.2
2007	711,000	15.6
2008	707,000	15.2
2009	827,000	17.6

[1] Age used is academic age, which is the respondents' age at the preceding 31 August.

Base:
18 to 24-year-olds, England

Source:
Q1 Labour Force Survey

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of 16 to 24 year olds were not in education, employment or training in the second quarter of each year since 1997. [284954]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* The following table shows the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England. These estimates are from the Quarter 2 Labour Force Survey (LFS).

NEET estimates are not available from LFS datasets prior to Quarter 2 2000 due to incomplete data. Quarter 2 2009 data are due to be published by DCSF on 18 August.

16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training

Quarter 2	*NEET*	*Percentage*
2000	655,000	12.8
2001	644,000	12.4
2002	703,000	13.3
2003	708,000	13.1
2004	697,000	12.6
2005	771,000	13.5
2006	851,000	14.8
2007	833,000	14.2
2008	840,000	14.0

[1] Age used is academic age, which is the respondents' age at the preceding 31 August.
Base: 16 to 24-year-olds, England
Source:
Q2 Labour Force Survey

Vocational Training

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage employers to increase skills levels among their employees. [284623]

Kevin Brennan: It is now even more important that we give employers the real help they need to invest in training for their staff so that they can survive the economic downturn and emerge to take advantage of new opportunities when the upturn comes.

Train to Gain is a service for employers which gives them access to a wider range of opportunities for improving the skills of their employees and the productivity of their business. Through Train to Gain employers can access:

A brokerage service to help identify the business' skills needs at all levels and source high quality, vocational skills training, including apprenticeships, delivered at a time and place to suit the business.

Government funding for skills training to sit alongside their own financial contribution. This includes a subsidy of up to 100 per cent. for literacy and numeracy and first full level 2 qualifications, and a fully funded offer for 19 to 25-year-olds up to level 3.

A flexible offer, responsive to and tailored to sector-based variations through sector compacts, and with relaxed funding rules for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Government are increasing investment in Train to Gain to over £1 billion by 2010-11. Since its launch in 2006, Train to Gain has engaged with 143,000 employers and helped 1.25 million people to start training.

Funding for apprenticeships has increased by almost a quarter since 2007/08 with just over £1 billion available in 2009-10. In January this year, the Prime Minister announced a package for an additional 35,000 apprenticeship places in 2009-10. The number of people starting apprenticeships has increased from 65,000 in 1996/97 to 225,000 in 2007/08.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an estimate of the cost to the public purse of providing 40 per cent. of the workforce with the opportunity to attain a level 4 qualification by 2020. [284625]

Kevin Brennan: It is not possible to build a meaningful estimate of the long-term costs of this goal, given the time span in question and the fact that we do not know the outcome of the 2009 Fees Commission.

Latest labour force survey data shows that just over 31 per cent. of the working age population are qualified to level 4 or above—a generally upward trend from about 25 per cent. eight years ago. We are on target to achieve 40 per cent. by 2020.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department plans to spend on skills funding in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in 2009-10. [285561]

Kevin Brennan: Planned expenditure by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills on adult further education (FE) and skills for 2009-10 in England is £5.2 billion. The Department is not responsible for further education and skills in Wales, which is devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Vocational Training: Trade Unions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to involve trade unions in initiatives to increase skills levels. [284622]

Kevin Brennan: Trade unions are making a key contribution to our efforts to raise skill levels in the workplace. Unions and their union learning representatives (ULRs) are uniquely placed to engage with those hard to reach workers with few skills or low confidence in their own ability who employers find it so difficult to reach. To help them do this, we introduced the Union Learning Fund (ULF) in 1998 and will be providing £21.5 million to support this budget in 2009-10.

With the help of ULF, unions and their ULRs have now helped over 800,000 people into learning through a wide range of innovative partnership projects with employers to tackle both organisational and individual skill needs. In 2006, with the Government's support, the TUC established 'unionlearn' to provide additional support and training for ULRs and to maximise the trade union contribution to our efforts to improve work force skills at all levels.

Over 22,000 union learning reps have now been trained and are playing a vital role in helping to combat the economic downturn by providing workers at risk of or facing redundancy with advice and guidance about the wide range of support available to help them improve their skills and employment prospects.

Voluntary Work

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess *(a)* the prevalence of unpaid work in the public and private sectors and *(b)* the effect of such work on the economy. [285426]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking *(a)* the prevalence of unpaid work in the public and private sectors and *(b)* the effect of such work on the economy. (285426)

Estimates of the number of people doing unpaid work and the amount of unpaid work they do are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). They relate to the number of people in paid employment whose working week includes unpaid overtime, and those people who are unpaid family workers. The attached table provides detail on unpaid work in the public and private sector in terms of number of people, and hours worked, for the latest data available relating to Quarter 1 2009.

Estimates of the effect of unpaid work on the economy are not available. However, the proportion of these unpaid workers and the hours worked as a percentage of total employment are included to give an indication of the prevalence of this in the labour market.

The estimates are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Unpaid work in the public and private sector[1], [2]: Quarter 1, 2009 United Kingdom: Not seasonally adjusted

	Private sector			*Public sector*			*Total*[1]		
	Number (thousand)	*Total usual weekly hours (million)*	*Average usual weekly hours (per person*	*Number (thousand)*	*Total usual weekly hours (million)*	*Average usual weekly hours (per person*	*Number (thousand)*	*Total usual weekly hours (million)*	*Average usual weekly hours (per person*
People who usually work unpaid overtime	3,593	26.3	7	1,803	13.0	7	*5,400	39.3	7
Unpaid family workers	87	1.3	16	n/a	n/a	n/a	*87	1.3	16
Total	3,679	27.6	8	1,803	13.0	7	*5,487	40.8	8
As percentage of the total for all in employment	17	4	n/a	25	5	n/a	19	4	n/a

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Includes those who did not state whether they worked in the public or private sector.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 ≤ CV<5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
Source:
Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)

York College: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what budget his Department has provided for York College in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 2004. [285699]

Kevin Brennan: Funding for post-16 further education (FE) and skills in England is allocated to FE colleges and providers by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The following table shows the funding that has been allocated to York College by the LSC, for both young people and adults, in each of the years requested, alongside the corresponding real terms value of these allocations:

£

	Cash allocation[1]	*Real terms*[2]
2004-05	16,570,839	18,252,637
2005-06	18,599,637	20,112,064
2006-07	19,195,411	20,159,859
2007-08	19,592,068	20,020,916
2008-09	20,515,652	20,515,652

[1] LSC allocations data
2 These figures have been calculated using the Gross Domestic Product deflators correct as at 30 June 2009

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 21 July 2009

WALES

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287423]

Mr. Hain: I have not met Mr. McBride in either 2008 or 2009. Prior to that Mr. McBride was occasionally present at meetings I attended in the course of my ministerial duties in 2006-07.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [287092]

Mr. Hain: The information is as follows:

(a) The Wales Office has 7 per cent. (four staff members) of its staff on a flexible working contract.

(b) None is on a job share employment contract.

(c) One member of staff (2 per cent.) works from home for more than four hours per week.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay is of (i) male and (ii) female employees. [288604]

Mr. Hain: Women constitute 52 per cent. of the Wales Office work force. Collectively their average hourly rate of pay is £17.54. The average hourly rate of male staff is £19.24.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the executive functions of his Department are. [288645]

Mr. Hain: Most of the executive functions which were the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Wales before 1 July 1999 have been transferred to the Welsh Assembly. The Secretary of State for Wales retains joint responsibility for approving a range of appointments, makes certain election orders for Wales and continues to have responsibility for royal matters, which includes holding the programme budget for lords lieutenant.

The work of the Wales Office is described in detail in its annual reports to Parliament.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Government Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 977W, on Government Departments: accountancy, what the nature was of the direction in relation to property and notified regularity in relation to the Icelandic Water Trawlermen Scheme. [289095]

Mr. Alan Williams: This is not a matter for the Public Accounts Commission. The hon. Member may wish to request this information from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which has assumed the responsibility for the scheme from the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 977W, on Government Departments: accountancy, if he will place in the Library a copy of each letter of direction in relation to property and regularity sent to the Comptroller and Auditor General since 1997. [289096]

Mr. Alan Williams: This is not a matter for the Public Accounts Commission. The hon. Member may wish to request this information from the Departments concerned.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 807W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much his Department has spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment since November 2008. [289169]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office purchased one flat screen television since November 2008 at a cost of £341 as a replacement for a set which was no longer functioning.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what plans the Electoral Commission has to produce guidance on the new provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill on non-resident donors. [288821]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it intends to produce guidance for those it regulates about the new provisions on non-resident donors, and the other changes to the regulatory regime arising from the Bill, in due course.

The timing of publication of each piece of guidance will depend on the timing of the commencement of the relevant provisions in the Bill.

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what discussions the Electoral Commission has had with HM Revenue and Customs on the enforceability and feasibility of the new provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill on non-resident donors. [288863]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has had no such discussions with HM Revenue and Customs.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what expenditure the Commission for Equality and Human Rights incurred on legal action against *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector organisations in each of the last two years. [286781]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recorded a spend of £230,868 in 2007-08 and £320,819 in 2008-09 (both including VAT) on external legal costs associated with strategic enforcement litigation carried out in relation to private and public sector organisations.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of expenditure in terms of public and private sector, as the EHRC does not record expenditure in this way.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 984W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by the (A) Director General, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance of the Government Equalities Office. [289002]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office uses Microsoft Internet Explorer as its web browser application. The current version in use is v 6.0.3790.1830. This version is used by all staff on both desktop and laptop computers.

Females: Refuge

Robert Key: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many women's refuges there are in England; and how many are staffed at all times. [284061]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government do not collect information centrally on the number of women's refuges in England or the provision of staff within refuges.

The provision of services to victims of domestic violence is a local issue; local decision makers are best placed to assess local needs. The majority of services are delivered through local providers who are supported and funded by local bodies, such as local councils and health organisations.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cycling

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 475W, on cycling, when he expects to announce the decision on the implementation of a cycle to work scheme for staff of the House; and if he will make a statement. [288503]

Nick Harvey: The House Service has investigated the possible implementation of a cycle to work scheme, taking into account the experiences of other public sector organisations which had implemented a scheme. The conclusion was that the House Service should not implement a scheme. This was based on the low take-up rates found elsewhere, and the unrecoverable overhead costs. The House Service will continue to encourage cycling through the bicycle loan scheme and facilities for cyclists, including bicycle racks and showers.

Yorkshire and the Humber Select Committee

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) which witnesses travelled to attend the planned meeting of the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Select Committee in Leeds; what expenses relating to such travel have been met by the House; and if he will make a statement; [288647]

(2) what expenditure on *(a)* accommodation, *(b)* travel by Committee members and staff and *(c)* other expenses the House has incurred in respect of the meeting of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Select Committee which was expected to take place in Leeds but which did not do so because the Committee was inquorate. [288703]

Nick Harvey: The witnesses who travelled to Leeds for this meeting were Richard Wightman, president of Yorkshire and Humber Chambers of Commerce; David Wilson, Engineering Employers Federation; Tony Cherry, national vice-chairman, Federation of Small Businesses; and Andrew Palmer, regional director, Confederation of British Industry. No claims for travel expenses have been received from the prospective witnesses. The costs for staff accommodation were £317.95, and for staff travel were £1,115, in both cases for five staff. Other costs, including the hire charge for the room, were £137.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General what investigations the Serious Fraud Office has conducted into BAE Systems since January 2004. [282068]

The Solicitor-General: There have been four investigations conducted by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) into BAE Systems plc. All four investigations began on 14 July 2004. The SFO decided to discontinue the investigation into the affairs of BAE Systems plc.—as far as they relate to the Al Yamamah defence contract with the Government of Saudi Arabia—on 14 December 2006. The other three investigations continue.

Complaints

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what the policy and procedures are of *(a)* the Treasury Solicitor and *(b)* the Law Officers for handling complaints made against their legal staff. [267948]

The Solicitor-General: Complaints received from members of the public about legal staff in the Law Officers' Departments are dealt with according to each Department's individual procedure.

The underlying principle is that there is a tiered system of oversight starting at the local level, progressing, if the complainant remains dissatisfied, to a nominated senior lawyer in that Department. After a Department's own procedure has been concluded the complainant can write to the Attorney General's Office for it to consider whether the complaint was handled fairly, sensitively and in confidence, and whether each concern raised has been appropriately dealt with.

Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General how many requests from foreign jurisdictions relating to allegations of overseas corruption offences the mutual legal assistance unit of the Serious Fraud Office has received in the last 10 years; from which jurisdictions such requests have come; and how many such requests have resulted in domestic investigations since 2001. [282009]

The Solicitor-General: It would incur disproportionate cost to identify the number of requests received from foreign jurisdictions by the Serious Fraud Office's (SFO) mutual legal assistance Unit over the last 10 years.

The SFO does not disclose details of assistance provided to overseas investigations without consent from the referring jurisdiction or unless the referring jurisdiction has made public disclosures.

Since 2001, only two requests for assistance involving corruption from overseas jurisdictions have resulted in domestic investigations being opened by the SFO. One of these investigations is ongoing, while the other was discontinued in June last year.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General what criteria the Serious Fraud Office applies in deciding whether to investigate an allegation of overseas bribery. [282007]

The Solicitor-General: The key criterion used by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) when deciding whether to accept a case is that the suspected fraud or corruption appears to be so serious or complex that its investigation should be carried out by those responsible for its prosecution.

Other factors taken into consideration when deciding whether to accept a case are as follows:

Whether the value of the alleged fraud exceeds £1 million;

If the case has a significant international dimension;

If the case is likely to be of widespread public concern;

If the case requires highly specialised knowledge—for example, of financial markets;

If there is a need to use the SFO's special powers, such as section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act.

The SFO does not have separate criteria that apply to allegations of overseas bribery. Allegations of this nature would have to meet the above criteria for the SFO to commence an investigation.

The SFO could not—and does not—take on every referred case of suspected fraud or corruption. It must focus its resources on the major, most complicated and serious instances of fraud or corruption. Cases which do not meet the SFO's case acceptance criteria may be referred to other authorities for investigation and prosecution.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General to which countries the Serious Fraud Office has provided assistance in corruption cases since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [282008]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office's (SFO) mutual legal assistance unit has provided assistance to 26 countries since 2001.

There has been a notable increase in the number of countries that the SFO has assisted since the former Solicitor-General (Mr. O'Brien) answered a similar question to this on 11 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 644W.

The SFO does not disclose details of assistance provided to overseas investigations without consent from the referring jurisdiction or unless the referring jurisdiction has made public disclosures.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General what cases of alleged overseas bribery and corruption which the Serious Fraud Office has accepted for investigation are under investigation; which countries are concerned; and if she will make a statement. [282018]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office is currently investigating a number of significant cases where there are allegations of overseas bribery and corruption, as well as fraud.

It is not possible for operational reasons to give specific details of each of these cases, but two examples of current investigations include an investigation into Kellog Brown and Root in connection with Nigeria and a number of other countries, and an investigation into reinsurance involving the National Insurance Institute in Costa Rica.

A number of other cases are also currently being considered for investigation in the vetting process.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases had been recorded on the register of referrals for overseas corruption on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many cases recorded on the register were *(a)* investigated, *(b)* researched to establish whether an investigation was merited, *(c)* closed after investigation and *(d)* passed to another agency in each year since 2001. [282047]

The Solicitor-General: The register of referrals for overseas corruption was maintained by the National Criminal Intelligence Service from 14 February 2002 after sections 108 and 109 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act (2001) came into effect. On 1 August 2005, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) took over responsibility for maintaining the register.

The SFO had 202 cases recorded on the register of referrals for overseas corruption as of 30 June 2009—the latest date for which figures are available.

In respect of parts *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* of the right hon. Member's question, the figures are shown in the following table.

Calendar year	*Cases recorded*	*(a) Investigated (following research)*	*(b) Researched*	*(c) Closed after investigation*
2002[1]	6	0	4	0
2003	7	4	1	2
2004	34	6	18	1
2005	23	6	12	3
2006	24	4	12	3
2007	36	11	17	3
2008	44	16	17	8
2009[2]	28	0	23	0
Total	202	47	104	20

[1] From 14 February 2002.
[2] To 30 June 2009.

In respect of part *(d)* of the question, approximately 30 cases have been passed on to other agencies since the register was opened. A year-by-year breakdown cannot be provided as records are not kept in this format.

Corruption: Prosecution

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with (i) representatives of business organisations, (ii) representatives of individual companies and (iii) other persons on the prosecution of corruption offences in the last 12 months; and what representations have been received on the matter in that period. [282048]

The Solicitor-General: Officials from the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) frequently meet with representatives of business organisations and individual companies, professional advisers and other interested parties such as non-Government organisations. These meetings often involve discussions about the prosecution of corruption offences as well as other counter-fraud matters. The SFO encourages an open dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders on corruption and continues to receive representations from these on how it can improve its approach to this important issue.

Crown Prosecution Service: Expert Evidence

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made by the Crown Prosecution Service in its evaluation of appropriate standards for expert witnesses in criminal trials. [287015]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has welcomed and responded to the recent consultation by the Law Commission on the Admissibility of Expert Evidence in Criminal Proceedings. It has also been assisting the independent Forensic Science Regulator in producing a set of Quality Standards for Forensic Experts which have been the subject of consultation. The CPS has established an internal advisory Expert Evidence Assurance Panel (EEAP) to support the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in this area; and it continues to contribute to key criminal justice agencies' work in this field.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General on what date *(a)* she and *(b)* the Attorney General last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of their official duties. [287422]

The Solicitor-General: Neither myself nor the Attorney-General met with Mr. Damien McBride in the course of official duties.

Domestic Violence: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions of (i) men and (ii) women for acts of domestic violence there were in (A) Stockport, (B) Greater Manchester and *(c)* the North West in each of the last 10 years. [271177]

The Solicitor-General: The following tables show the number of defendants prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in Stockport, Greater Manchester, and the North West for offences of domestic violence in each of the five years (these are the years for which complete records are available). CPS data are confined to defendant case outcomes in a set of proceedings. Information on arrests has been provided by the Home Office in the following tables. This information is captured on a different basis, and cannot easily be associated with CPS data.

Outcomes are divided into convictions, including guilty pleas as well as convictions after trial, and unsuccessful

outcomes, comprising all other outcomes. Figures are shown separately for male and for female defendants. The North West comprises CPS Cumbria and CPS Lancashire.

The tables also show comparable data for England and Wales as a whole for the same period.

Domestic violence outcomes by gender of defendant

Male

	Convictions		*Unsuccessful outcomes*		*Total*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Stockport						
2004-05	76	63.3	44	36.7	120	94.5
2005-06	79	57.7	58	42.3	137	94.5
2006-07	111	61.3	70	38.7	181	96.8
2007-08	194	73.2	71	26.8	265	92.7
2008-09	220	82.1	48	17.9	268	94.4
Greater Manchester						
2004-05	895	57.6	660	42.4	1,555	96.3
2005-06	1,548	67.7	740	32.3	2,288	96.1
2006-07	2,149	68.1	1,007	31.9	3,156	95.0
2007-08	2,822	72.3	1,079	27.7	3,901	94.5
2008-09	2,855	75.3	938	24.7	3,793	94.3
North West						
2004-05	969	61.9	596	38.1	1,565	96.1
2005-06	1,566	67.6	750	32.4	2,316	94.9
2006-07	1,944	68.1	912	31.9	2,856	94.9
2007-08	2,754	76.0	870	24.0	3,624	92.4
2008-09	3,607	78.3	1,002	21.7	4,609	90.7
England and Wales						
2004-05	18,659	55.3	15,094	44.7	33,753	95.5
2005-06	28,736	59.9	19,209	40.1	47,945	94.8
2006-07	35,647	65.3	18,913	34.7	54,560	94.8
2007-08	41,430	69.0	18,607	31.0	60,037	94.1
2008-09	45,484	72.4	17,321	27.6	62,805	93.6

Female

	Convictions		*Unsuccessful outcomes*		*Total*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Stockport						
2004-05	2	28.6	5	71.4	7	5.5
2005-06	7	87.5	1	12.5	8	5.5
2006-07	3	50.0	3	50.0	6	3.2
2007-08	13	61.9	8	38.1	21	7.3
2008-09	8	50.0	8	50.0	16	5.6
Greater Manchester						
2004-05	23	38.3	37	61.7	60	3.7
2005-06	65	70.7	27	29.3	92	3.9
2006-07	114	69.1	51	30.9	165	5.0
2007-08	153	67.7	73	32.3	226	5.5
2008-09	166	72.5	63	27.5	229	5.7
North West						
2004-05	45	70.3	19	29.7	64	3.9
2005-06	80	64.5	44	35.5	124	5.1
2006-07	107	70.4	45	29.6	152	5.1
2007-08	223	75.1	74	24.9	297	7.6
2008-09	366	77.7	105	22.3	471	9.3

	Female					
	Convictions		Unsuccessful outcomes		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
England and Wales						
2004-05	806	51.2	769	48.8	1,575	4.5
2005-06	1,474	56.6	1,132	43.4	2,606	5.2
2006-07	1,850	62.3	1,120	37.7	2,970	5.2
2007-08	2,540	67.4	1,230	32.6	3,770	5.9
2008-09	2,968	69.6	1,298	30.4	4,266	6.4

	Total				
	Convictions		Unsuccessful outcomes		
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Total outcomes
Stockport					
2004-05	78	61.4	49	38.6	127
2005-06	86	59.3	59	40.7	145
2006-07	114	61.0	73	39.0	187
2007-08	207	72.4	79	27.6	286
2008-09	228	80.3	56	19.7	284
Greater Manchester					
2004-05	918	56.8	697	43.2	1,615
2005-06	1,613	67.8	767	32.2	2,380
2006-07	2,263	68.1	1,058	31.9	3,321
2007-08	2,975	72.1	1,152	27.9	4,127
2008-09	3,021	75.1	1,001	24.9	4,022
North West					
2004-05	1,014	62.2	615	37.8	1,629
2005-06	1,646	67.5	794	32.5	2,440
2006-07	2,051	68.2	957	31.8	3,008
2007-08	2,977	75.9	944	24.1	3,921
2008-09	3,973	78.2	1,107	21.8	5,080
England and Wales					
2004-05	19,465	55.1	15,863	44.9	35,328
2005-06	30,210	59.8	20,341	40.2	50,551
2006-07	37,497	65.2	20,033	34.8	57,530
2007-08	43,970	68.9	19,837	31.1	63,807
2008-09	48,452	72.2	18,619	27.8	67,071

	2004-05			2005-06		
	No. of DV arrests	No. of DV incidents	DV incident arrest rate (%)	No. of DV arrests	No. of DV incidents	DV incident arrest rate (%)
Avon and Somerset	2,422	14,537	16.7	3,421	14,714	23.2
Bedfordshire	2,031	7,486	27.1	2,093	7,800	26.8
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	1,118	7,081	15.8
Cheshire	1,087	4,115	26.4	2,185	6,709	32.6
City of London	23	102	22.5	39	83	47.0
Cleveland	2,282	9,689	23.6	3,265	12,493	26.1
Cumbria	1,438	5,568	25.8	1,057	3,809	27.8
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	5,106	20,123	25.4	5,086	21,417	23.7
Dorset	1,147	4,016	28.6	1,688	4,962	34.0
Durham	1,853	8,904	20.8	2,045	8,218	24.9
Dyfed-Powys	1,180	3,890	30.3	1,438	3,895	36.9
Essex	2,703	14,399	18.8	2,901	10,785	26.9
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	1,652	6,693	24.7
Greater Manchester	6,150	56,778	10.8	6,965	60,977	11.4
Gwent	2,727	4,329	63.0	2,371	4,787	49.5
Hampshire	3,140	18,787	16.7	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	2,423	12,783	19.0	2,456	10,514	23.4

	2004-05			2005-06		
	No. of DV arrests	*No. of DV incidents*	*DV incident arrest rate (%)*	*No. of DV arrests*	*No. of DV incidents*	*DV incident arrest rate (%)*
Humberside	1,150	7,519	15.3	3,138	12,500	25.1
Kent	4,198	18,321	22.9	4,572	19,464	23.5
Lancashire	6,011	22,514	26.7	7,390	22,020	33.6
Leicestershire	301	3,375	8.9	2,801	12,935	21.7
Lincolnshire	1,257	7,117	17.7	1,062	5,965	17.8
Merseyside	2,936	17,605	16.7	5,075	23,292	21.8
Metropolitan Police	14,738	60,838	24.2	21,268	59,905	35.5
Norfolk	1,407	5,813	24.2	2,250	8,008	28.1
North Wales	198	1,551	12.8	1,062	4,819	22.0
North Yorkshire	1,497	4,660	32.1	2,081	4,276	48.7
Northamptonshire	433	7,012	6.2	1,851	2,818	65.7
Northumbria	5,993	22,879	26.2	6,598	22,871	28.8
Nottinghamshire	840	4,149	20.2	2,037	15,279	13.3
South Wales	3,818	14,797	25.8	4,971	16,791	29.6
South Yorkshire	2,404	5,225	46.0	2,463	6,276	39.2
Staffordshire	5,230	6,714	77.9	5,793	16,234	35.7
Suffolk	997	5,515	18.1	1,168	5,532	21.1
Surrey	1,776	11,563	15.4	2,489	12,498	19.9
Sussex	4,700	15,604	30.1	4,137	14,710	28.1
Thames Valley	3,164	14,884	21.3	6,236	18,124	34.4
Warwickshire	—	—	—	165	908	18.2
West Mercia	2555	8486	30.1	3099	11684	26.5
West Midlands	8,388	33,667	24.9	11,789	38,333	30.8
West Yorkshire	11,045	34,914	31.6	15,949	34,857	45.8
Wiltshire	1,318	9,067	14.5	1,722	6,710	25.7
National	—	—	—	—	—	—

	2006-07			2007-08		
	No. of DV arrests	*No. of DV incidents*	*DV incident arrest rate (%)*	*No. of DV arrests*	*No. of DV incidents*	*DV incident arrest rate (%)*
Avon and Somerset	4,569	15,532	29.4	3,313	10,719	30.9
Bedfordshire	1,608	7,341	21.9	1,333	7,603	17.5
Cambridgeshire	1,283	7,501	17.1	1,723	8,908	19.3
Cheshire	2,768	5,161	53.6	2,635	4,865	54.2
City of London	54	96	56.3	55	116	47.4
Cleveland	1,606	6,083	26.4	3,609	10,879	33.2
Cumbria	1,114	4,372	25.5	1,577	4,515	34.9
Derbyshire	3,195	11,818	27.0	4,458	16,425	27.1
Devon and Cornwall	3,715	22,828	16.3	4,395	23,789	18.5
Dorset	2,096	5,458	38.4	2,148	5,867	36.6
Durham	2,016	8,163	24.7	2,123	8,520	24.9
Dyfed-Powys	1,830	3,871	47.3	1,492	2,836	52.6
Essex	4,207	15,225	27.6	5,606	17,826	31.4
Gloucestershire	2,062	8,237	25.0	2,287	7,352	31.1
Greater Manchester	8,269	64,727	12.8	8,924	64,156	13.9
Gwent	1,876	6,757	27.8	1,428	7,696	18.6
Hampshire	8,177	22,682	36.1	7,321	22,912	32.0
Hertfordshire	2,965	10,926	27.1	3,223	11,280	28.6
Humberside	3,396	12,752	26.6	3,159	13,531	23.3
Kent	6,148	19,087	32.2	6,696	20,141	33.2
Lancashire	8,333	22,217	37.5	8,365	23,030	36.3
Leicestershire	2,773	9,918	28.0	2,202	9,033	24.4
Lincolnshire	1,304	4,912	26.5	2,129	5,712	37.3
Merseyside	5,583	25,568	21.8	6,320	29,033	21.8
Metropolitan Police	31,582	69,438	45.5	35,355	84,026	42.1
Norfolk	2,104	7,893	26.7	1,655	6,241	26.5
North Wales	3,580	10,188	35.1	3,461	9,860	35.1
North Yorkshire	2,552	5,986	42.6	1,795	5,466	32.8
Northamptonshire	1,792	7,850	22.8	1,809	9,586	18.9
Northumbria	7,441	24,277	30.7	8,758	25,788	34.0
Nottinghamshire	1,906	17,534	10.9	1,756	19,166	9.2

	2006-07			2007-08		
	No. of DV arrests	*No. of DV incidents*	*DV incident arrest rate (%)*	*No. of DV arrests*	*No. of DV incidents*	*DV incident arrest rate (%)*
South Wales	4,814	15,421	31.2	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	5,781	17,825	32.4	6,377	16,026	39.8
Staffordshire	5,486	18,659	29.4	3,074	20,118	15.3
Suffolk	1,564	4,314	36.3	1,906	4,964	38.3
Surrey	3,068	11,742	26.1	2,843	10,803	26.3
Sussex	6,327	14,374	44.0	3,784	15,877	23.8
Thames Valley	7,794	16,391	47.6	9,053	26,383	34.3
Warwickshire	1,580	6,932	22.8	2,054	7,305	28.1
West Mercia	3,570	12,799	27.9	3,538	13,241	26.7
West Midlands	15,216	40,233	37.8	13,732	37,897	36.2
West Yorkshire	18,378	34,481	53.3	16,729	30,348	55.1
Wiltshire	2,083	6,600	31.6	2,430	6,433	37.8
National	—	—	—	206,230	686,272	30.1

Government Legal Service: Complaints

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what procedures there are within the Government Legal Service for dealing with complaints about non-compliance with the Lexcel standard. [267493]

The Solicitor-General: The procedure in respect of complaints about non-compliance with Lexcel by Treasury Solicitor's Department is that, like any complaint, they should be directed to the Head of Litigation at the Treasury Solicitor's Department or to the Treasury Solicitor for consideration.

Any complaints in respect of other Departments will be dealt with in accordance with the rules of the relevant Department.

Government Legal Service: Manpower

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what the order of precedence and seniority is of the lawyers within the Government Legal Service; and what procedures are used to reconcile differences of opinion between lawyers of different ranks within the Service. [267508]

The Solicitor-General: The Government Legal Service (GLS) is the organisational name for a group embracing the legal divisions in around 30 Departments, agencies and other organisations across Government. The GLS does not employ staff. Lawyers are employed by Departments, agencies and other organisations across Government. Membership of the GLS is by accreditation of the department or other body to which the lawyer belongs. The organisational management structure and lines of accountability apply to Government lawyers in the same way as they apply to all other civil servants working in the same organisation.

The inter-relationships between Government lawyers' obligations as civil servants and as members of the legal profession are set out in the Guidance Note for Government Lawyers, including the right, and at times the duty, to consult the Law Officers on professional questions.

Government Legal Service: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what requirements there are on members of the Government Legal Service who are on the roll of solicitors to report to the Solicitors Regulation Authority the conduct of other members of the Government Legal Service who may not have complied with the professional standards of solicitors. [267507]

The Solicitor-General: Members of the Government Legal Service (GLS) who are enrolled solicitors are under the same requirement as all other enrolled solicitors with regard to the reporting of conduct of solicitors which may have breached professional standards, whether those solicitors are in the GLS, in in-house practice elsewhere or in private practice.

That requirement derives from the Law Society's Code of Conduct which requires the reporting of serious misconduct and serious financial difficulty.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps have been taken to promote legal professionalism within the Government Legal Service. [267547]

The Solicitor-General: The members of the Government Legal Service (GLS) take their obligation to promote the professionalism of their legal staff very seriously. All Government lawyers are bound by the codes of conduct applicable to their branch of the profession, including the duty to undertake Continuing Professional Development. They are supported in this through access to a tailored programme of Professional Training for Government Lawyers—designed by the GLS and delivered through the National School of Government.

Legal Costs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Solicitor-General in how many cases costs have been awarded against the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last three years. [285274]

The Solicitor-General: The following table provides a summary of the total number of payments made and the value of costs awarded against the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in the last three financial years. The CPS

holds no central record of the number of cases in respect of which costs were awarded against the Service. The information is held on individual case files and could only be retrieved by examining every relevant file in each CPS office.

	Value (£000)	Number
2006-07	403	262
2007-08	732	333
2008-09	633	485

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is comprehensive and correct, but a full reconciliation against the original transactions has not been performed as this would incur disproportionate costs.

Legal Profession

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* employment status and *(b)* requirement to pay national insurance contributions is of counsel whom the Government restrict from undertaking work for others. [267494]

The Solicitor-General: The two First Treasury Counsel (who undertake exclusively civil litigation in which the Crown has an interest) are self-employed barristers. Their national insurance position is a matter between them and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Negligence: Legal Costs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what provision has been made by the Treasury Solicitor to meet any professional negligence claims and complaints in each of the last three years; and what provision has been made for the next three years. [267046]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department has made no provision to meet any professional negligence claims in the last three years and has no plans to make any such provision.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department, in common with other Departments, has a formal procedure for external complaints, details of which are available on its website.

Offences Against the Person Act 1861

Jon Trickett: To ask the Solicitor-General how many defendants were sentenced under the provisions of section 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 after a plea bargain by the *(a)* Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) nationally and *(b)* West Yorkshire CPS in 2007-08. [285496]

The Solicitor-General: Plea bargaining is not a term recognised by the criminal law of England and Wales. The decision of a prosecutor to accept guilty pleas to offences other than those charged, or on a different factual basis, is governed by section 10 of the Code for Crown Prosecutors and the Attorney-General's guidelines on the acceptance of pleas and the Prosecutor's role in the sentencing exercise.

Crown Prosecution Service records include a count of the number of offences in which a prosecution commenced under s20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, and these figures are as follows. However, CPS records include no particulars of the outcome of proceedings at this level of detail, and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Offences reaching a first hearing in magistrates courts

	S18 Offences Against the Person Act 1861	
	CPS England and Wales	*CPS West Yorkshire*
2005-2006	7,158	320
2006-2007	6,617	228
2007-2008	6,770	257
2008-2009	6,672	329

	S20 Offences Against the Person Act 1861	
	CPS England and Wales	*CPS West Yorkshire*
2005-2006	5,642	249
2006-2007	5,457	199
2007-2008	5,321	190
2008-2009	5,072	233

Jon Trickett: To ask the Solicitor-General how many defendants over the age of 21 years were charged with an offence of grievous bodily harm under section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 in 2007-08; and how many such defendants subsequently agreed to plead guilty to, and were convicted of, an offence under section 20 of that Act after discussions with the prosecuting authorities. [282017]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service's system for managing its case data includes a count of the number of offences for which a prosecution is commenced under section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, and these figures are as follows. However, the case management system does not record particulars of subsequent amendments to the charges brought. While the CPS records both the outcome of proceedings and the age of defendants, this information is captured at defendant level, not at specific charge level.

Offences against the Person Act 1861 (18)

	Number
2005-06	7,158
2006-07	6,617
2007-08	6,770
2008-09	6,672

Prosecutions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions brought by the Crown Prosecution Service have not resulted in a conviction in each of the last three years. [285273]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows, for each of the last three years, the number of defendants prosecuted by the CPS whose case was completed in magistrates courts and in the Crown court. These are divided into convictions, inclusive of guilty pleas as well as cases convicted after trial, and unsuccessful outcomes, representing all outcomes other than a conviction.

	Magistrates court		Crown court		All courts	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2006 to 2007						
Conviction outcomes	831,901	84.2	69,118	77.3	901,019	83.6
Unsuccessful outcomes	156,080	15.8	20,290	22.7	176,370	16.4
Total completed outcomes	987,981		89,408		1,077,389	
2007 to 2008						
Conviction outcomes	828,535	85.7	76,947	79.3	905,482	85.1
Unsuccessful outcomes	138,091	14.3	20,045	20.7	158,136	14.9
Total completed outcomes	966,626		96,992		1,063,618	
2008 to 2009						
Conviction outcomes	810,605	87.3	84,000	80.9	894,605	86.6
Unsuccessful outcomes	118,103	12.7	19,890	19.1	137,993	13.4
Total completed outcomes	928,708		103,890		1,032,598	

Prosecutors: Training

David Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General what training is given to prosecutors who appear in youth courts to enable them to take account of the age and welfare needs of those aged under 18 years. [284301]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) provides a three-day training course, accredited by the Law Society and the Bar Council, that equips prosecutors to conduct youth court cases in a manner that takes into account the age, welfare and developmental needs of young defendants. The CPS also holds regular seminars and an annual inter-agency conference to inform prosecutors of legal, policy and practical developments affecting young defendants.

Solicitor-General: Meetings

Lynne Jones: To ask the Solicitor-General who else attended the meeting on 13 March 2003 between the then Attorney-General, Lord Falconer, and Baroness Morgan; what subjects were discussed at that meeting; what the duration of the meeting was; and whether an official record of the meeting was kept. [281455]

The Solicitor-General: The meeting is referred to in the disclosure statement made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by the Cabinet Office and the (then) Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers on 22 May 2006. The statement can be found on the website of the Attorney General's Office at:

http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk/sub_disclosure_log_2006.html

No further information about the meeting is held.

Treasury Counsel

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will make it her policy to employ Treasury Counsel on a permanent basis rather than engaging them on a case by case basis with a view to reducing expenditure on legal fees. [267045]

The Solicitor-General: The practice whereby First Treasury Counsel and the members of the Attorney-General's panel of civil counsel are engaged, as practising members of the Bar, to undertake work on individual cases on behalf of Government has served successive Administrations well. There is no intention at present to cease that practice and to engage them on a permanent basis as civil servants.

Treasury Solicitors Department

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what records exist of payments made by the Treasury Solicitor's Department to counsel instructed by it. [267491]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department maintains electronic and paper records in relation to all payments made to counsel instructed by it. This will include information about disbursements and VAT.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General which lawyers working in the Treasury Solicitor's Department have professional practising certificates. [267495]

The Solicitor-General: The Bar Council requires barristers who are employed by the Treasury Solicitor's Department to hold practising certificates. Therefore all those members of staff who are members of the Bar hold practising certificates. The Department's staff who are members of the Law Society are not required to hold practising certificates and therefore the Department does not hold records of those members of staff who are solicitors and hold practising certificates.

Treasury Solicitors Department: Complaints

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what mechanisms are in place to provide redress for individuals in circumstances in which the professional service provided by the Treasury Solicitor's Department is found to have been inadequate. [267479]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department, in common with other Government Departments, has a complaints procedure for external complaints which is publicly available on its website. As well as this internal complaints procedure, an individual who considers that he or she has suffered an injustice as

a result of maladministration by the Department may, through his or her Member of Parliament, make a complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, and details of how to do so are also included on the Department's website.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what requirements there are on the Treasury Solicitor's Department in respect of complaints made to it under the Lexcel procedures. [267496]

The Solicitor-General: The requirements are that there should be compliance with Rule 2 of the Solicitors' Code of Conduct, which addresses client relations and, among other matters, covers the provision of information on complaints.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General how many complaints have been made to the Treasury Solicitor's Department which have been recorded and processed under the Lexcel procedure in the last 12 months; and how many such complaints have still to be processed. [267497]

The Solicitor-General: Treasury Solicitors has recorded 20 external complaints under its complaints procedure (in compliance with Lexcel) within the last 12 months. Of these complaints 18 have been processed and two are outstanding.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what procedures are adopted by *(a)* the Treasury Solicitor, including by a delegation to his Deputy, and *(b)* the Law Officers in response to complaints against the Treasury Solicitor or counsel instructed by the Treasury Solicitor that they are acting for parties who claim to be independent of each other. [267498]

The Solicitor-General: The information is as follows:

(a) The detail of procedures adopted by the Treasury Solicitor's Department in respect of complaints that it receives has been set out in the answer to question 267479.

(b) The position in respect of the Treasury Solicitor's Department acting for more than one part of the Crown, or on behalf of bodies or persons who are not the Crown, is set out in the answer to question 267499.

Treasury Solicitors Department: Conflict of Interests

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) what procedures exist within the Treasury Solicitor's Department to ensure that *(a)* the Treasury Solicitor's Department and *(b)* counsel receiving instructions when acting for more than one legal entity in the same case record any conflict of interest; [267499]

(2) what guidance the Treasury Solicitor's Department provides to its legal staff to ensure that legal professionalism is maintained in respect of potential conflicts of interest; [267950]

(3) what procedures there are to ensure that counsel instructed by the Treasury Solicitor do not act for parties with separate interests in disputes in which the Treasury Solicitor acts for more than one party and may have instructed the same counsel for more than one such party. [267951]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department takes its understanding of the concept of "conflict of interest" from the Law Society's Solicitors' Code of Conduct.

When the Treasury Solicitor, or counsel instructed by the Treasury Solicitor, acts for a Secretary of State, a Minister or a Government Department or agency, the client is the Crown itself (which is to say, the Crown in right of the Executive). There can be no conflict of interest in the legal professional sense in acting for a single client in more than one manifestation.

Occasionally, while acting for the Crown, the Treasury Solicitor is requested to act on behalf of bodies or persons who are not the Crown. These may be non-departmental public departments or, very occasionally, individual Crown servants having a personal legal interest in a matter or claim. In such cases, where there is a possibility of conflict of interest, the Treasury Solicitor's Department operates under procedures that have been designed to be compliant with Lexcel, which is the Law Society's practice management standard. That standard embraces policy and practice in relation to conflict of interests. In pursuit of accreditation, the Department has prepared guidance for all its staff which explains the requirements of the Code and details procedures for identifying and handling potential conflicts of interest. Both the policy and the procedures are kept under review.

The procedures have been designed to ensure that conflicts of interest are swiftly identified, the clients are informed and appropriate steps are taken to safeguard the interests of the parties concerned. Such steps may, where the interests of all parties cannot be properly safeguarded, involve the Department's declining to act for the non-Crown party.

In any case where the question of conflict of interest has arisen, the case work file will contain a record of the consideration and the outcome.

Treasury Solicitors Department: Legal Costs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Treasury Solicitor's Department takes on *(a)* certifying and *(b)* claiming costs for work undertaken to ensure that the quantum of costs claimed is accurate, taking into account the indemnity principle. [267505]

The Solicitor-General: The steps taken on *(a)* certifying and *(b)* claiming costs for work undertaken include the drawing up of a Bill of Costs which is checked by a law costs draftsman from the in-house costs team at the Treasury Solicitor's Department with reference to the following:

(i) Information from the Treasury Solicitor's Department Finance Department is obtained which identifies all the elements of work which have been billed to the client Department, including all disbursements.

(ii) Only elements of work which have been charged to the client Department are included in the subject matter of the costs recovery claim and any elements of work charged to a client Department which would not properly be recoverable from the other side are excluded.

(iii) The hourly rates which are applied accord with the Judgment of the Court of Appeal in "Re Eastwood Deed [1975] Ch. 112."

(iv) The Bill of Costs is also usually sent to the Case Officer who had conduct of the litigation for a similar checking/verification process and to the client Department for approval.

(v) On the return of the Bill from the client Department, the law costs draftsman carries out final checks and completes and signs a certificate as to its accuracy, on behalf of the Treasury Solicitor.

In the context of a Summary Assessment of costs a Schedule of Costs is prepared and checked by the litigation case officer with assistance and input, where necessary, from the in-house costs team.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what guidance and training materials have been produced by the Treasury Solicitor's Department with regard to costs certifications and claims to ensure compliance with the indemnity principle; and when and how such guidance has been amended in the last five years. [267506]

The Solicitor-General: A guidance note was produced in March 2006, this guidance updated, as necessary, earlier guidance. Furthermore, the in-house costs team are continually providing training, support and advice in respect of all aspects of costs law and procedure, including the indemnity principle as qualified by the judgment of the Court of Appeal in Re Eastwood Deed [1975] Ch. 112. During the last 18 months training in costs law and procedure has been delivered to all the litigation teams within the Department.

Treasury Solicitors Department: Manpower

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General how many lawyers working within the Treasury Solicitor's Department are of senior civil service rank; and how many of them are qualified to practise in England and Wales as *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers. [267500]

The Solicitor-General: There are 61 qualified lawyers in the senior civil service in the Treasury Solicitor's Department. Of these, 39 are qualified solicitors and 22 are qualified barristers.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General how many lawyers below senior civil Service rank employed by the Government Legal Service are *(a)* qualified solicitors in England and Wales, *(b)* qualified barristers in England and Wales and *(c)* not qualified solicitors or barristers in England and Wales. [267501]

The Solicitor-General: The Government Legal Service database holds records of 1,686 qualified lawyers below the senior civil service employed by Departments who are members of the Government Legal Service. Of these, 1,297 are qualified solicitors and 389 are qualified barristers. The database has no records of unqualified staff.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what policies and procedures exist to ensure that the Treasury Solicitor staff do not *(a)* undertake work for which a solicitor's practising certificate is required and *(b)* act for those for whom Government lawyers did not act prior to 1974; and what guidance is provided to the Treasury Solicitor's staff about such restrictions on activities. [267510]

The Solicitor-General: The information is as follows:

(a) The Treasury Solicitor is bound to act within the law and his Department is organised, and work is undertaken, accordingly.

(b) It is presumed that the reference to 1974 is a reference to the passing of the Solicitors Act of that year, which governs the activities of solicitors. The provisions of that Act are not understood as limiting the activities of the Treasury Solicitor or his Department to acting only for clients existing prior to that date.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what policies and procedures exist within the *(a)* Treasury Solicitor's Department and *(b)* the Government Legal Service to ensure that its lawyers do not act in conflict of interest situations with particular reference to acting for a party to a dispute and the adjudicator to the dispute. [267545]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department takes its understanding of the concept of "conflict of interest" from the Law Society's Solicitors' Code of Conduct.

As a part of its commitment to compliance with the code, the Department has sought and achieved accreditation with Lexcel which is the Law Society's practice management standard. That standard embraces policy and practice in relation to conflict of interests. In pursuit of accreditation, the Department has prepared guidance for all its staff which explains the requirements of the code and details procedures for identifying and handling potential conflicts of interest.

Both the policy and the procedures are kept under review. In relation to the Government Legal Service, individual Departments are responsible for the conduct of lawyers employed by them.

Treasury Solicitors Department: Pay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General who the 10 highest paid Treasury counsel were in each of the last three years; and how much each counsel received in each of those years. [267492]

The Solicitor-General: The 10 barristers (being either First Treasury Counsel or members of the Attorney-General's panel of civil counsel) receiving the highest fee payments from the Treasury Solicitor's Department in respect of instructions from that Department in the last three financial years were as follows:

	£
2006-07	
Mr. Philip Sales	530,986
Mr. Tim Eicke	221,882
Miss Lisa Giovannetti	184,172
Mr. Jonathan Crow	165,657
Mr. Andrew O'Connor	150,895
Mr. David Barr	148,816
Mr. Paul Gott	140,914
Mr. Martin Chamberlain	139,248
Mr. Jeremy Johnson	138,239
Mr. Alan Payne	136,524
2007-08	
Mr. Philip Sales	551,163
Mr. Jonathan Swift	226,680
Mr. Jeremy Johnson	219,132

	£
Mr. Parishil Patel	217,303
Miss Lisa Giovannetti	206,850
Mr. Nicholas Moss	197,380
Mr. James Eadie	182,520
Mr. Andrew O'Connor	171,840
Mr. Alan Payne	164,666
Mr. Martin Chamberlain	158,993
2008-09	
Mr. Philip Sales	446,974
Mr. David Evans	286,340
Mr. Jonathan Swift	242,764
Mr. Jeremy Johnson	235,182
Mr. Alan Payne	186,555
Mr. Jonathan Glasson	180,300
Mr. Nicholas Moss	175,620
Mr. Philip Coppel	175,129
Miss Leigh-Ann Mulcahy	172,001
Miss Lisa Giovannetti	164,962

Treasury Solicitors Department: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what obligations there are on the Treasury Solicitor and those working for him to comply with the professional obligations of lawyers with practising certificates. [267502]

The Solicitor-General: The holding of practising certificates does not, in itself, impose professional obligations on lawyers. The Treasury Solicitor and his legally qualified staff are under the same obligation to comply with the rules of their professions as any other practising lawyer, solicitor or barrister.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General what guidance there is to ensure that the Treasury Solicitor's Department advises its clients on obligations concerning *(a)* disclosure and *(b)* statements of truth required in litigation; and what records are kept of material by the Treasury Solicitor on provision of such advice. [267546]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown and its servants are obliged to comply with the terms of the Civil Procedure Rules with regard to disclosure and the making of statements of truth.

The Treasury Solicitor and his legally qualified staff owe the same duty of professional care to the Crown as any solicitor or barrister does to his or her client to act lawfully and in the client's best interests.

As well as these requirements all civil servants are expressly bound by the Civil Service Code to "comply with the law and the administration of justice" and Government lawyers are additionally told by the Attorney General's Guidance Note for Government Lawyers "to give impartial, objective and frank advice". In providing such advice, they must "have particular regard to the fact that it is a fundamental obligation of Government that it should itself act in accordance with, and subject to, the law."

Advice tendered to clients in the course of litigation will be a matter of record in the case file pertaining to the matter.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet

Robert Neill: To ask the Prime Minister (1) in what circumstances the Minister of State in the Department for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Doncaster Central, will attend Cabinet; [288292]

(2) in what circumstances the Minister for Housing will attend Cabinet meetings. [288321]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the ministerial appointments press notice issued by my Office. Copies are available in the Library of the House and are also available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19564

Foreign Relations

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Prime Minister from which *(a)* Heads of State and *(b)* Heads of Government he received a letter of congratulation on his appointment. [288618]

The Prime Minister: Details of this correspondence is not made public, but I was grateful to receive such letters.

Government Departments: Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what criteria he uses when determining whether to request the Security Commission to investigate a breach of security in Government Departments. [287286]

The Prime Minister: The Prime Minister would refer a case to the Security Commission following consultation.

Members: Surveillance

David Davis: To ask the Prime Minister whether any hon. Member has been subject to *(a)* official surveillance and *(b)* interception of communications in the last two years. [288592]

The Prime Minister: The Wilson doctrine continues to apply to all forms of surveillance and interception that are subject to authorisation by Secretary of State warrant.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish an updated list of the Government's special advisers before the House adjourns for the summer recess. [286779]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 73-76WS.

National Security Forum

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings the National Security Forum has had in July 2009; and what matters were discussed at each meeting. [287494]

The Prime Minister: The Forum met in July, attended by me, to discuss a variety of issues put to it by the Cabinet Committee on national security, international relations and development. As I set out in my written ministerial statement on 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS, the Government will report annually on its activity.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many maps of their land submitted by farmers in claiming common agricultural policy subsidies in 2007-08 were judged by his Department to be materially incorrect. [284402]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is responsible for the maintenance of mapping data used to support the single payment scheme (SPS) and other direct support schemes.

RPA cannot determine which map notifications from farmers are materially incorrect (have incorrect boundaries and in field features), other than by undertaking an inspection of the farm. In each scheme year the RPA inspects 5 per cent. of SPS customers. As a result of these inspections, in the 2007 scheme year the need for mapping changes were identified in 3,284 farm businesses, which resulted in 18,375 amended fields. In the 2008 scheme year the need for mapping changes were identified in 3,033 farm businesses, which resulted in 20,860 amended fields.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Rural Payments Agency decided to issue a new set of maps in connection with claims for payments under the single payment scheme; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost of doing so. [R] [286065]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is in the process of updating land information used to support the single payment scheme and other direct support schemes. The programme of work is under way to deliver the up-to-date geographic information system, required under EU regulations following criticism in European Commission audits which has the potential to result in financial penalties (disallowance). It is calculated that approximately 5 per cent. of land parcels change every year.

RPA has projected a budget of £21.4 million (covering the period January 2007 to April 2010) to complete the programme of work which includes updating the Rural Land Register (RLR) data with the latest mapping information and confirming the link between each land parcel and a specific claimant; the strategy, necessary IT infrastructure and capability to update the RLR regularly and systematically in future to ensure it meets regulatory requirements and can support further service enhancements such as electronic access.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what date farmers are required to notify the Rural Payments Agency of amendments in relation to the new set of maps issued in connection with claims for payment under the single payment scheme; and within what time period the Rural Payments Agency will be required to confirm such amendments. [R] [286070]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is asking farmers to respond within 28 days of receiving their updated maps. The agency appreciates this is a busy time of year and that farmers with a large number of land parcels may need more time to check their maps. In these circumstance farmers are asked to contact the RPA and agree an extended response date.

Map amendments received by RPA within the 28-day period will be reviewed and, once accepted, should be confirmed in a new set of maps sent to the farmer approximately six to eight weeks later. Any map amendments sent in after the 28-day period will take longer to be accepted and confirmed.

The mapping update is being done now as the application period for the 2009 single payment scheme (SPS) has passed and before the payment window opens. The updated maps should be used to pre-populate the 2010 SPS application forms.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the total monetary value of single farm payments withheld for *(a)* cattle passport infringements and *(b)* other infringements in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [288500]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The monetary value withheld from single payment scheme (SPS) payments because of cattle passport and cattle identification infringements or other infringements is set out in the following table:

£

SPS Scheme Year	*SPS money withheld for cattle passport and cattle identification infringements*	*SPS money withheld for other reasons*
2007	579,011	7,125,230
2008	446,850	3,815,815

The figures are for 2007 and 2008 SPS years and do not correlate to financial years.

Air Pollution: EU Law

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of requiring regional tiers of government to contribute to the payment of fines levied in respect of non-compliance with EU Directives on air quality; and if he will make a statement. [288719]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have made no such assessment. It is for the European Court of Justice to decide whether any fine should be imposed as a result of a member state's non-compliance with EU legislation.

Climate Change: South East

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of climate change on the *(a)* ceremonial county of Hampshire and *(b)* South East in the next 10 years. [288402]

Dan Norris: On 18 June, the Government published the latest UK Climate Projections. These projections show the potential changes in climate for the UK for a range of probabilities, climate variables and emissions scenarios. The data are provided by region to a scale of 25km grid squares in 30-year overlapping time slices, starting from the 30-year average between 2010-39. These data are freely available to all to make their own assessments of the likely effects of climate change. The Government have set the framework to allow local authorities to undertake their own assessments of the risks and effects from climate change into the future by including a new performance indicator (National Indicator 188 Planning to Adapt to Climate Change) in the local government performance framework. Under the Climate Change Act 2008 the Government are required to undertake a risk assessment of the impacts of climate change on the UK. The results of this risk assessment will include an assessment by region and are expected to be published in 2012.

Compost

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research into the proportion of households with access to private gardens to facilitate home composting. [288980]

Dan Norris: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has been funded by the Government to promote home composting as a sustainable means of reducing biodegradable waste going to landfill. WRAP estimates that around 80 per cent. of UK households have access to an open space in which they can undertake home composting (including wormeries/vermiculture). Such open spaces can include yards and balconies as well as gardens.

Dairy Farming: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the merits of using funding from *(a)* his Department's budget and *(b)* Rural Development Programme for England programmes to assist dairy farmers in meeting the cost of slurry stores arising from obligations under the Nitrates Directive. [288406]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ensure the budget available to England under the Rural Development Programme achieves the best possible value for money, it was decided not to implement measures within the Rural Development Regulation that provide assistance to farmers to adapt to standards based on Community legislation. To provide assistance to farmers that would only implement obligations under the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008 would offer no additionality—an important consideration in spending any taxpayers' money.

No new central Government money will be made available for assisting farmers with the costs of meeting the manure storage capacity requirements established by the Nitrates Regulations. Capital grants could simply increase storage tank supply prices and merely postpone the impact of market forces. Providing grants would also contravene the 'polluter pays' principle.

However, there are ways in which farmers can minimise the need for extra storage, through simple actions such as diverting rainwater away from slurry stores and covering storage tanks. We are providing advice and guidance on these actions and have provided a three-year implementation period.

Slurry storage facilities may also be considered as plant and machinery and therefore eligible for plant and machinery allowances such as the new annual investment allowance, capped at £50,000 per year. Slurry pits also qualify for allowances in their own right under the Capital Allowances Act 2001.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287904]

Dan Norris: Since the date of Mr. McBride's resignation (11 April 2009), my right hon. Friend has had no meetings with Mr. McBride.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287335]

Dan Norris: DEFRA intends to lay the Department's resource accounts for 2008-09 before Parliament by 21 July 2009, subject to clearance by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Publication will follow within one month of laying.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286174]

Dan Norris: DEFRA currently holds contracts with a number of suppliers for provision of photocopiers, scanning devices and fax machines. No central record of the numbers provided via individual contracts is held and therefore to obtain the number of machines across the Department would incur disproportionate cost.

In the case of all three types of equipment, no ongoing record is kept of the number used so it is not possible to provide historical information for the last three years.

DEFRA is actively involved in accelerating progress with Green ICT and has significant activity in place to reduce the carbon footprint of its IT estate. A print study is currently under way which will address all facets of document production including photocopying and scanning.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of the (i) male and (ii) female employees in his Department was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287556]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The latest published data are as at 31 March 2008 and held within the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey statistics published by ONS, which can be accessed by using the following link.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0109.pdf

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will request the Waste and Resources Action Programme to produce best practice guidance on the operation of weekly collections of residual household waste. [288979]

Dan Norris: WRAP has produced guidance on a wide variety of collection approaches and best practice for specific material streams. Its forward work programme is agreed annually with DEFRA. DEFRA has not asked WRAP to produce guidance specifically on best practice on weekly collections of household waste to date. We will continue to work with WRAP to ensure the guidance that it provides gives a range of advice that is valuable to local authorities in assisting them in the decisions they have to make about approaches to collecting household waste at a local level.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 724W, on domestic waste: waste management, whether other local authorities have reinstated weekly collections of residual household rubbish *(a)* in whole and *(b)* in part for summer months. [288987]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not keep such records and the Waste and Resources Action Programme is not aware of any other local authorities that have reinstated weekly collections of residual waste either in whole or in part since 9 October 2008.

Fisheries: Prosecutions

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions for offences involving harm or disturbance to marine wildlife and habitats have been brought in each of the last five years. [288208]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) shows the number of prosecutions brought under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (for those sections for which data are available) from 2003 to 2007. The MOJ cannot separately identify from the Act those offences that specifically relate to offences involving harm or disturbance to marine wildlife and habitats.

Wildlife and Countryside Act Prosecutions 2003 to 2007

		Defendants				
Statute	*Offence description*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.28P as added by Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Sch. 9	Carrying out or causing to permit to be carried out any operation likely to damage part of an area of special scientific interest subject to notification by Nature Conservancy Council	2	3	2	1	3
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 8	Protection of captive birds	—	1	2	1	3
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 9	Protection of certain wild animals	3	4	7	22	13
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 11	Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals	1	—	—	2	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.28Q as added by Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Sch. 9	Change of owner or occupier in area of special scientific interest failing to comply with requirements	—	—	—	1	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 1	Protection of wild birds	29	57	28	95	23
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 1	Protection of nests and eggs of wild birds	17	18	16	22	4
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 3	Protection of wild birds in sanctuaries	1	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 5	Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds	3	4	5	4	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 6	Sale etc. of live or dead wild birds, eggs etc.	1	1	—	2	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 17	False statements made for obtaining registration or licence etc.	—	1	2	—	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec. 7	Registration etc. of certain captive birds	2	1	—	—	—

Wildlife and Countryside Act Prosecutions 2003 to 2007

Statute	Offence description	Defendants 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total		59	90	62	150	49

Notes:
1. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Gatwick Airport: Noise

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to send to the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling a copy of the report sent to the European Commission in relation to noise mapping of the area around Gatwick airport which he undertook to enclose in his letter to the right hon. Member of 9 June 2009. [288557]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Two copies of the report sent to the European Commission in relation to noise mapping around Gatwick airport were sent to the right hon. Member on 16 July.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has authorised sites in the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire for use for experiments relating to genetically-modified foods. [288400]

Dan Norris: Between 1995 and 1998 we authorised experimental trials of GM crop plants to take place at various sites in Hampshire, as set out in the following table. No trials have been authorised in Hampshire since 1998.

Town or village	Ordnance Survey grid reference	Crop type
Martyr Worthy	SU 518 341	Oilseed rape
Martyr Worthy	SU 514 340	Oilseed rape
Martyr Worthy	SU 519 340	Oilseed rape
Martyr Worthy	SU 515 333	Oilseed rape
Martyr Worthy	SU 526 333	Oilseed rape
Martyr Worthy	SU 515 334	Oilseed rape
Martyr Worthy	SU 526 345	Oilseed rape
Martyr Worthy	SU 527 343	Oilseed rape
Martyr Worthy	SU 518 341	Maize
Martyr Worthy	SU 528 332	Maize
Weyhill	SU 325 459	Oilseed rape
Ashmansworth	SU 42 56[1]	Oilseed rape
Tufton	SU 473 448	Oilseed rape
Bisterne	SU 15 01[1]	Maize
Itchen Abbas	SU 530 337	Oilseed rape
Headbourne Worthy	SU 48 32[1]	Oilseed rape

[1] Best available information

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer Adjournment. [288916]

Dan Norris: My right hon. Friend has no current plans to do so.

Nature Conservation: Crime

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reported incidents of wildlife crime there were in each of the last 10 years. [288211]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) has recorded wildlife incidents across the UK since April 2007. Information on incidents that occurred prior to April 2007 is not held centrally but would be available from each individual police force across the UK.

The NWCU cannot currently provide details of how many of the following incidents have since been given a crime number by the reporting force. Therefore, these figures must be looked at only as incidents, not accurate figures of wildlife crime.

Incidents reported to NWCU (April 2007 to December 2007) for whole of UK

Category of incident	Total
Badger Persecution	128
Bat Persecution	39
CITES Caviar	0
CITES Ivory	3
CITES Other	12
CITES Tortoises	4
CITES Traditional Medicines	0
Finch Trapping	1
Fox Hunting	21
Fresh Water Pearl Mussels	5
Habitat Destruction	66
Hare Coursing	98
Nest Destruction/Disturbance	117
Other	739
Poaching—Deer	36
Poaching—Fish	53
Poaching—Other	35
Poisoning (Non Raptors/Baits)	32
Poisoning Raptors	17
Raptor Persecution	69
Release of Non Native Species	3
Shooting	99
Traps/Snares	64
Wild Bird Egg/Chick Theft	17
Grand total	1,658

Incidents reported to NWCU (January 2008 to December 2008) for whole of UK

Category of incident	Total
Badger Persecution	280
Bat Persecution	100

Incidents reported to NWCU (January 2008 to December 2008) for whole of UK

Category of incident	Total
CITES Caviar	2
CITES Ivory	5
CITES Other	36
CITES Tortoises	7
CITES Traditional Medicines	5
Finch Trapping	12
Fox Hunting	141
Fresh Water Pearl Mussels	9
Habitat Destruction	127
Hare Coursing	314
Nest Destruction/Disturbance	129
Other	1,267
Poaching—Deer	170
Poaching—Fish	115
Poaching—Other	281
Poisoning (Non Raptors/Baits)	42
Poisoning Raptors	21
Raptor Persecution	108
Release of Non Native Species	9
Shooting	205
Traps/Snares	108
Wild Bird Egg/Chick Theft	21
Grand total	3,514

Incidents reported to NWCU (January 2009 to July 2009) for whole of UK

Category of Incident	Total
Badger Persecution	241
Bat Persecution	38
CITES Caviar	0
CITES Ivory	0
CITES Other	16
CITES Tortoises	7
CITES Traditional Medicines	9
Finch Trapping	5
Fox Hunting	82
Fresh Water Pearl Mussels	5
Habitat Destruction	110
Hare Coursing	261
Nest Destruction/Disturbance	159
Other	1,105
Poaching—Deer	163
Poaching—Fish	86
Poaching—Other	355
Poisoning (Non Raptors/Baits)	29
Poisoning Raptors	22
Raptor Persecution	49
Release of Non Native Species	7
Shooting	190
Traps/Snares	104
Wild Bird Egg/Chick Theft	21
Grand total	3,064

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were charged with offences related to wildlife crime in each of the last 10 years. [288212]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Information on how many people were charged with offences related to wildlife crime in each of the last 10 years is not held centrally.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions for offences related to wildlife crime there were in each of the last 10 years. [288213]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, in England and Wales for the years 1998 to 2007.

	Proceeded against
1998	106
1999	125
2000	113
2001	140
2002	104
2003	110
2004	135
2005	108
2006	190
2007	88

Oil: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued on the point at which a waste oil ceases to be considered a waste product. [287409]

Dan Norris: My Department has not issued guidance on the stage when a waste oil ceases to be waste. However, the Environment Agency has issued an end-of-waste protocol on "the production and use of processed fuel oil from waste lubricating oil". Waste lubricating oil which meets the criteria set in the post-consultation version of the protocol will be considered by the Agency to have ceased to be waste.

Recycling: Business

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what initiatives his Department is undertaking to encourage businesses to recycle waste. [288501]

Dan Norris: Since the Waste Strategy for England 2007 was published, DEFRA has been engaging with key waste stakeholders on priorities for commercial and industrial waste policy and we are aiming to publish a further statement of our strategic aims on commercial and industrial waste later this year.

DEFRA funds a number of delivery bodies to help stimulate and support business to be more resource efficient and reduce and recycle its waste.

These include:

Envirowise—waste and water minimisation.

The National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) to facilitate one operator's waste being used as a raw material by another.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to encourage recycling by business and consumers.

The Centre for Reuse and Remanufacturing, the Construction Resources and Waste Platform to encourage greater resource efficiency in the construction sector.

Action Sustainability to support more sustainable procurement.

The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Centre for local authorities to provide tailored advice to business communities on waste and resource efficiency issues.

In line with the Government's Business Support Simplification Programme and following the outcome of the Delivery Landscape Review, DEFRA has made WRAP responsible for overseeing funded support for material resource efficiency. The development and implementation of measures to minimise and recycle commercial and industrial waste will continue to be a key priority for this body.

Rural Payments Agency: Manpower

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent members of staff of each grade have been employed by the Rural Payments Agency in each year since 2007. [288482]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Full-time equivalent members of staff by grade employed by the Rural Payments Agency in each year since 2007 are as follows:

Grade	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Senior Civil Servant	8	7
Grade 6	24	27
Grade 7	73	84
Senior Executive Officer	155	163
Higher Executive Officer	353	391
Executive Officer	1,002	953
Administrative Officer	1,910	1,708
Administrative Assistant	15	6
Staff total	3,540	3,339

Set-aside Schemes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable he plans for the establishment of a voluntary approach to set-aside. [287820]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following a public consultation, on 9 July the Secretary of State announced our decision to pursue an industry-led voluntary approach to set-aside mitigation, known as the Campaign for the Farmed Environment. The campaign has already established its key principles, agreed targets and attracted support from a range of industry partners, Government and others. A memorandum of understanding between the various parties is close to completion and the campaign is working up more detailed plans.

Sheep: Tagging

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 531-32W, on sheep: tagging, when he plans to announce his proposals for the further reduction of the implementation burden on the industry of the electronic identification of sheep. [288836]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Further changes were secured to Council Regulation 21/2004 on 14 July at the Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health. These changes permit movements to be read on behalf of keepers at central reading points, such as markets and abattoirs. We estimate that this change will save the UK sheep industry between £7 million and £18 million each year.

Combined with the two-year deferment to implementation and the other changes that were secured, the overall cost to the industry could be reduced by up to £65 million, depending on how the industry uses the concessions which were won for them.

In England we will be working closely with industry over the coming months to put in place a practical and workable system for electronic identification of sheep by 31 December 2009.

Trading Standards

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are in place to facilitate information-sharing between his Department and trading standards officials. [288499]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA assesses each request to share information on its merits, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998 and any other applicable legislation, to ensure effective and cost-efficient delivery of public services. If a regular exchange of information is required, data-sharing protocols can be set up to facilitate the process.

There is a close working relationship between Animal Health and Trading Standards in the larger rural counties. Information sharing takes place on many levels:

Working together on enforcement issues including animal welfare cases and many other Animal Health enforcement issues results (notably bovine tuberculosis) in sharing of information on an informal and weekly/daily basis.

Additional funding for Trading Standards offices has been supplied from DEFRA in recent years. Monitoring/auditing this work and our partnership has been done in regular meetings (often quarterly) under what we call the Framework Agreement. This involves sharing of information on a more formal basis.

Animal Health managers are invited to Trading Standards regional meetings of the Central England Animal Health and Welfare Group (CenTSA) on a quarterly basis where information can be shared.

There is an IT system referred to as AMES where information on the activities of Trading Standards staff is recorded. These data are available to both Animal Health and Trading Standards.

Requests from Trading Standards are occasionally received for Animal Health to supply data from Animal Health IT systems. With due regard to data protection legislations, these requests are usually facilitated.

Waste Disposal: Private Finance Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many waste management private finance initiative schemes have been successfully concluded to date; and how many such schemes are awaiting planning permission. [287411]

Dan Norris: 19 waste management private finance initiative (PFI) schemes have reached financial close to date. Six of these projects are currently awaiting planning permission.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many waste disposal private finance initiative schemes have been successfully concluded to date; and how many such schemes are awaiting planning permission. [287428]

Dan Norris: To date, 19 waste private finance initiative (PFI) schemes have reached financial close. Of the 19 closed projects there are 18 in which the scope of the service includes ultimate disposal of waste. Six of these projects are currently awaiting planning permission for the disposal facility.

Water Charges

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the environmental effects of the proposed new surface water drainage charge system. [288125]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2003, following a review of the various options, Ofwat recommended that charging in relation to site area is the fairest approach to charging for surface water drainage. The larger the site area, the more surface water is likely to drain from it. Charging by site area therefore better reflects the actual costs imposed on the system by customers.

Charging by site area is also considered to be the most environmentally responsible approach in that it provides a financial incentive for site owners to reduce the amount of water that is directed into the public sewerage system. Options for achieving reductions include such things as: replacing an asphalt or concrete car parking area with a gravel one, and the installation of soakaways. This will reduce the likelihood of flooding from overloaded sewers.

Surface water drainage needs to be managed more sustainably, by allowing for the increased capture and reuse of water, slow absorption through the ground, and more above-ground storage and routing of surface water separate from the foul sewer, where it is appropriate to do so. Water should increasingly be managed on the surface, rather than relying on the wholesale upgrade of the sewer system which would be a costly and lengthy process.

The Environment Agency has estimated that around two-thirds of the flooding in summer 2007 was due to surface water. Surface water flooding is extremely difficult to predict as it is often a result of sudden localised rainfall events, and very small variations in the built environment can have significant effects on the way the water flows.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average *(a)* metered and *(b)* unmetered water bill was in each water company area in each year since 1989. [288506]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A spreadsheet giving figures for metered and unmetered water bills in each water company area since 1989, in 2009-10 prices, has been placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of each type of ammunition were discharged during the last roulement in Afghanistan. [280821]

Bill Rammell: Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many urgent operational requests made in relation to Afghanistan in the last 12 months had not been met by 13 July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [286820]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) process exists to address unforeseen capability gaps for imminent or current operations. Over 70 UORs for Afghanistan were approved in the period 13 July 2008 to 13 July 2009. We would generally expect these programmes to begin delivering capability to theatre between six and 18 months after approval. We would not, therefore, expect the majority of requirements associated with these programmes to be fully met within the period stated in the question.

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which non-NATO member countries have contributed to the ISAF military mission to Afghanistan in each of the last five years; and what contribution each such country has made. [287545]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* There are currently 14 non-NATO nations contributing to ISAF operations. They are as follows:

Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Finland
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Georgia
Ireland
Jordan
New Zealand
Sweden
Singapore
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates

Details of contributing nations are available on the NATO website at

http://www.nato.int/isaf/structure/nations/index.html

Information about each nation's contributions is a matter for each nation. Information from 2007 is available at

http://www.nato.int/isaf/docu/epub/pdf/placemat.html

Armed Forces: Aviation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of flights *(a)* to and *(b)* from operational theatres have been (i) cancelled and (ii) delayed in each year since 2007; what the (A) location and (B) destination was of each such delayed flight; and what the (1) the length of time of and (2) reason for the delay was of each such delayed flight. [274978]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Bill Rammell to Liam Fox:

My predecessor undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of the 13 May 2009 (Official Report, column 762W) about the number of airbridge aircraft delayed in each year since 2007.

Delay statistics are routinely collected for the passenger airbridge only. The passenger airbridge has provided a consistent and reliable service over the period, moving large numbers of personnel into sometimes hostile environments and under difficult conditions. Every effort is made to minimise delays and over 92% of airbridge flights arrive within six hours of their scheduled time.

No airbridge tasks to Op Telic or Op Herrick have been cancelled since 2007. Delays may occur for a number of reasons. The location and reason for each delay is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Individual tasks could be delayed for more than one reason. Examples include: Air Traffic Control and airspace restrictions, missing imposed theatre arrival slot times, technical and equipment failures, diplomatic clearance, weather, crew duty hours, passenger and ground handling issues, fuelling, and holding aircraft to facilitate deployment of priority aeromedical teams to theatre.

Information on delays to civil aircraft chartered by the MOD to operate the passenger airbridge is given in the following tables. For 2007 delays were measured against the scheduled time of departure. Since January 2008 delays have been measured against scheduled time of arrival. It is not possible to distinguish between outbound and inbound charter flights. The data are held by calendar year and percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Op Telic civil chartered aircraft delays to and from theatre

	Operated on time or within 1 hour	*% on time or within 1 hour*	*Delayed 1-3 hours*	*% 1-3 hours*	*Delayed 3-6 hours*	*% 3-6 hours*	*Delayed 6 hours and over*	*% 6 hours and over*
2007 February to December	289	65	106	24	30	7	17	4
2008	376	85	21	5	16	4	28	6
2009 January to April	98	86	9	8	0	0	7	6

Op Herrick civil chartered aircraft delays to and from theatre

	Operated on time or within 1 hour	*% on time or within 1 hour*	*Delayed 1-3 hours*	*% 1-3 hours*	*Delayed 3-6 hours*	*% 3-6 hours*	*Delayed 6 hours and over*	*% 6 hours and over*
2007 February to December	63	82	11	14	2	3	1	1
2008	111	94	4	3	0	0	3	3
2009 January to April	117	80	12	8	6	4	12	8

Information on delays to RAF Tristar aircraft undertaking the passenger airbridge outbound from the UK to Op Herrick is given in the following table. Delays have been measured against scheduled time of arrival. The data are held by financial year and percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Op Herrick RAF Tristar UK to theatre

Financial year	*Operated on time or within 1 hour*	*% on time or within 1 hour*	*Delayed 1-3 hours*	*% 1-3 hours*	*Delayed 3-6 hours*	*% 3-6 hours*	*Delayed 6 hours and over*	*% 6 hours and over*
2007-08	176	72	44	18	19	8	5	2
2008-09	152	57	59	22	29	11	25	9

Information on delays to RAF Tristar aircraft undertaking the passenger airbridge inbound from the Op Herrick theatre to the UK are only available from January 2008 and are given in the following table. Delays are measured against the scheduled time of departure from theatre and the available statistics only allow identification of delays of between 1-3 hours and over 3 hours. The data are held by financial year and percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Op Herrick RAF Tristar theatre to UK

	Operated on time or within 1 hour	*% on time or within 1 hour*	*Delayed 1 -3 hours*	*% 1-3 hours*	*Delayed 3 hours and over*	*% 3 hours and over*
2008 January to March	30	67	7	16	8	18
Financial year 2008-09	121	51	59	25	55	23

Armed Forces: Detainees

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the names are of all detainees who have died in the custody of UK forces in each year since 2001; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cause of death was in each case. [260499]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* The following table lists the detainees that have died while within the custody of the UK in Iraq. Where known, the official cause of death is included. However, burial is often within 24 hours in accordance with religious custom, preventing a post mortem from occurring.

Operation Telic

Date of death	*Name of deceased*	*Post Mortem Cause of Death*
12 April 2003	Tarik Mahmud	Not established
8 May 2003	Ahmed Jabber Kareem	Drowned
8 May 2003	Radhi Numa (Radhi Nu'ma Jaber)	Heart Attack
17 May 2003	Abd Al Jubbu Mousa Ali	Not established
24 May 2003	Said Shabram	Not established
7 August 2003	AJKhalif	Not established
15 September 2003	Baha Mousa	Asphyxia
10 April 2004	Unknown	Not established

Those Afghans involved in engagements with coalition or Afghan forces who died within a UK facility in Afghanistan from the wounds they sustained in these engagements are listed in the following table. Despite our best efforts, these eight individuals did not survive what were life-threatening injuries. No detainees have died while in a UK detention facility in Afghanistan.

Operation Herrick

Date of death	*Name of deceased*	*Post Mortem Cause of Death*
13 January 2007	Unknown	Not established
5 April 2007	Haji Mohammad	Not established
5 April 2007	Ghos Mohammad	Not established
30 April 2007	Unknown	Not established
3 July 2007	Hadi Abdul	Not established
15 July 2007	Sardar Mohammed	Not established
5 December 2007	Abdul Ahad	Not established
8 September2008	Unknown	Not established

To the best of our knowledge this is a complete record. My predecesaor's statement to the House on 26 February reported on detention records in Afghanistan since the deployment of Task Force Helmand in July 2006 and on detention records in Iraq from 15 December 2003 onwards. Most of the fatalities listed above for Iraq occurred before 15 December and so were not covered in that statement. It is also possible that incidents that occurred before 15 December 2003 in Iraq are not captured in our records.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces retired from front line operational duties for reasons of ill health in each year since 1997. [283342]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The single services record the numbers of personnel who are at any one time "unfit for task" or "unable to deploy", although their figures do not distinguish between the majority who are temporarily non-deployable and the minority for whom this is a permanent diagnosis. Details of the numbers of personnel "fit for task" and "fit to deploy" in each quarter since 2006 were given in my answers to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 20 and 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1262-64W and 1664-66W, and to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1156W.

The numbers of personnel in these categories will be constantly changing and the majority of armed forces personnel who for medical reasons become temporarily unfit to deploy to front line duties will subsequently recover and return to full-fitness. In a relatively small number of cases, their injury or condition may mean that they become permanently unable to deploy. Reasons for this are various, but might include a serious permanent injury (physical or mental) or because during service they develop a medical condition that is incompatible with front line duties.

The majority of those personnel who fall into the category of medically "not fully fit" remain fit enough to work in some capacity and therefore continue to make a contribution to operational effectiveness, often within theatres of operation.

Service personnel with medical conditions or fitness issues which affect their ability to perform their duties will generally be referred to a medical board for a medical examination and review of their medical grading. In clear-cut cases where the individual's fitness falls below the service employment and retention standards, the board will recommend a medical discharge without further delay. In many cases however, the patient will first be downgraded, to allow for treatment, recovery and rehabilitation. For personnel who do not make a total recovery, the board may recommend the patient is retained as permanently downgraded with limited duties, or they may recommend a medical discharge. The numbers of service personnel medically discharged during the period 1997 to 2008 are shown in the following table:

Year of medical discharge	*Naval Service (Royal Navy and Royal Marines)*	*Army*	*RAF*
1997	392	1,062	232
1998	454	1,069	160
1999	456	1,148	178
2000	483	1,063	187
2001	414	1,035	185
2002	392	1,022	137
2003	320	998	251
2004	379	1,084	202
2005	396	1,047	207
2006	357	1,009	241
2007	350	1,000	229
2008	332	842	192
Total	4,725	12,379	2,401

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* longest period of time is for newly trained medical officers to be allocated to postings in the latest period for which figures are available. [280826]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The arrangements in place for the three services are as follows.

All newly qualified military doctors have to undertake two years of foundation training after qualifying from medical school. They then have to complete the course for new entry officers relevant to their particular service, normally six months for the Royal Navy and Army, five months for the Royal Air Force.

In the case of the Royal Navy and the Army, these courses are followed by assignments to ships, Royal Marine commando units, medical regiments, Field Army units or medical centres. RN Medical Officers appointed to submarines undertake a further six months of submarine specific training. In the RAF officers are assigned after the new entry course to GP vocational training, specialist hospital training or to supervised practice in an RAF medical centre.

The period of time from the start of foundation training until initial posting into either a service delivery appointment or, in the case of the RAF, specialty training, can thus be expressed as follows.

	Shortest period	Longest period	Months Average period
Royal Navy	30	36	32
Army	30	30	30
Royal Air Force	29	29	29

Armed Forces: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of training instructors for each helicopter type was in each of the last five years. [284526]

Bill Rammell: Qualified Helicopter Instructors (QHIs) are taught at RAF Shawbury by the tri-service Central Flying School (Helicopters).

The current requirement and actual number of armed forces QHIs are provided in the following table.

Helicopter Type	Required number of instructors	Actual number of instructors
Lynx	49	40
Gazelle	5	5
Apache	40	35
N3 Dauphin	2	2
Bell 212 Griffin	53	49
Squirrel	19	18
Chinook	25	23
Puma	27	20
Merlin	39	31
Sea King	52	46
Augusta 109	0	0

Historical figures are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The figures provided are the required establishment and the available strength to fulfil the task, and represent flying instructors in current flying instructional positions of all ranks. To avoid double-counting, each instructor is shown only once against a single type, but 13 QHIs instruct on more than one aircraft type, and in this sense the table understates the availability of instructors by type. In addition, the figures in the table do not include those who previously qualified as instructors but are currently employed in other, non-instructor, Defence posts as part of their career development.

Since the answer given by the then Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Ingram) to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 29 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1004W, the number of Apache QHIs has almost doubled. However, the 2009 establishment figure has been raised recently from 35 to 40 to increase training capacity.

Required and actual numbers will both vary with time due to many factors including operational requirements, the introduction of newly trained instructors on completion of training courses at set times during the year, injuries, and service leavers. Differences between required figures and actual figures also reflect the time taken to train an instructor on new aircraft types, such as Merlin.

Armed Forces: Higher Education

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* masters and *(b)* doctoral military students attending the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom his Department has funded since 2003; [284523]

(2) what expenditure his Department incurred on postgraduate education for serving members of the armed forces in each year since 2003; and what estimate he has made of such expenditure in each of the next three years. [284524]

Bill Rammell: Three colleges within the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom offer courses which are classed as postgraduate education and include either masters or doctorates.

The fees and numbers attending postgraduate education at the Defence Academy College of Management and Technology for serving members of the armed forces in the period 2003-12 are shown in the table:

Table 1

Academic year	Cost (£ million)	Military staff on masters courses	Military staff on doctorates
2002-03	9.5	[1]	[1]
2003-04	9.4	[1]	[1]
2004-05	9.9	[1]	[1]
2005-06	9.0	248	3
2006-07	6.4	315	7
2007-08	7.8	366	13
2008-09	6.9	418	11
2009-10	7.4	470	13
2010-11	[2]	[2]	[2]
2011-12	[2]	[2]	[2]

[1] This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

[2] Costs and student numbers are not planned to vary significantly from the 2009-10 figures during these two academic years although there may be a modest increase in numbers.

Notes:

1. Figures are provided by academic year (1 September-31 July).
2. The figures in the cost column do not include: salaries of students, accommodation costs or Defence Academy overheads. The figures cover the cost of all postgraduate courses and activities during that academic year but it should be noted that some civil servants and overseas students will also have attended these courses and their costs have not been separated out.

The fees and charges relating to a masters degree offered by Royal College of Defence Studies are as follows:

Table 2

Academic year	*Cost (£ million)*	*Military staff undertaking a masters*
2003	0.009	3
2004	0.020	6
2005	0.036	11
2006	0.036	11
2007	0.022	6
2008	0.018	5
2009	0.049	11
2010-11-12	[1]0.066	[1]8

[1] Per year

Note:

The RCDS offers to its membership an optional MA in International Studies. The option is usually taken up by a quarter of the course. The RCDS course itself provides 60 per cent. of the MA with the remaining 40 per cent. being completed through supplementary seminars, essays, dissertations and exams.

The fees and charges relating to masters degree offered by Joint Services Command and Staff College during the Advanced Command and Staff Course are as follows:

Table 3

Academic year	*Cost (£ million)*	*Military staff undertaking a masters*
2002-03	0.042	139
2003-04	0.040	130
2004-05	0.041	135
2005-06	0.044	148
2006-07	0.043	143
2007-08	0.046	152
2008-09	0.048	161
2010-11-12	0.048	[1]160

[1] Proposed

Note:

These are not full term masters degrees; they are postgraduate degrees gained through supplementary work and an exam on top of the accreditation to the masters degree earned through participation on the JSCSC Advanced Command and Staff Course.

The information requested relating to the courses attended by service personnel outside of the Defence Academy is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the incidence of *(a)* post-traumatic stress disorder and *(b)* other mental illnesses among soldiers in each age group who have served in (i) Bosnia, (ii) Kosovo, (iii) Iraq and (iv) Afghanistan. [286700]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation publishes statistics on new attendances to the MOD's Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) in the UK Armed Forces Psychiatric Morbidity reports. Reports for the whole of 2007 and 2008 are now available both in the Library of the House and on the DASA website at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

DASA only analyses attendances by deployment on recent operations to the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres of operation. Breakdowns by deployment to Bosnia and Kosovo could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of new attendances at the MOD's DCMHs in 2008 who were assessed as having a mental disorder at an initial assessment and who had been deployed to the Iraq theatre of operation prior to their appointment. The number of these individuals who were assessed as having post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is also included.

Age	*Strength*	*Patients assessed with a mental disorder*	*Of which: Assessed with PTSD*
Under 20	1,100	33	—
20 to 24	16,000	353	28
25 to 29	23,100	403	26
30 to 34	17,400	250	21
35 to 39	19,500	206	20
40 to 44	9,600	102	—
45 to 49	4,200	28	0
50+	1,700	8	0

'—' Signifies a number fewer than 5.

The following table shows the number of new attendances at the MOD's DCMHs in 2008, who were assessed as having a mental disorder at an initial assessment and who had been deployed to the Afghanistan theatre of operation prior to their appointment. The number of these individuals who were assessed as having PTSD is also included.

Age	*Strength*	*Patients assessed with a mental disorder*	*Of which: Assessed with PTSD*
Under 20	1,000	35	0
20 to 24	9,700	170	22
25 to 29	11,200	171	12
30 to 34	7,700	108	14
35 to 39	8,000	115	8
40 to 44	3,900	43	—
45 to 49	1,800	11	0
50+	700	4	—

'—' Signifies a number fewer than 5.

Both tables include individuals who have been deployed to both the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres of operation. Therefore, some individuals will appear in both tables.

Finally, the following table shows the number of new attendances at the MOD's DCMHs in 2008 who were assessed as having a mental disorder at an initial assessment and who had not deployed to either the Iraq or Afghanistan theatres of operation prior to their appointment. The number of these individuals who were assessed as having PTSD is also included.

Age	*Strength*	*Patients assessed with a mental disorder*	*Of which: Assessed with PTSD*
Under 20	13,600	213	6
20 to 24	22,000	440	7
25 to 29	14,400	253	—
30 to 34	8,300	167	—
35 to 39	10,900	174	—
40 to 44	7,300	76	—
45 to 49	5,000	44	—
50+	3,600	28	—

'—' Signifies a number fewer than 5.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what provision has been made for the psychological rehabilitation of members of the armed forces returning from military operations; how much funding has been made available for such provision in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement; [281598]

(2) what percentage of members of the armed forces returned from military operations with *(a)* a psychological disorder and *(b)* post-traumatic stress disorder in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [281599]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders in the armed forces is performed by fully trained and accredited mental health personnel, and measures are in place to increase awareness at all levels and to mitigate the development of operational stresses. In Afghanistan, we deploy uniformed mental health nurses to provide the necessary in-theatre care and treatment for our personnel. If personnel need to leave the operational environment, then their care continues either on an out or in-patient basis in the UK.

In the UK, our mental health services are configured to provide community-based mental health care, primarily through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) across the UK (plus satellite centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental health care. The DCMH mental health teams comprise psychiatrists, mental health nurses, clinical psychologists and mental health social workers. A wide range of psychiatric and psychological treatments are available (including psychological therapies, environmental adjustment and medication) where appropriate. The Defence Mental Health Services have particular expertise in treatments for psychological injury.

For the relatively small number of patients who need it, in-patient care is currently provided by a group of seven NHS trusts located throughout England and Scotland, led by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT) through a central MOD contract.

The organisational structure of the Defence Medical Services means that comprehensive figures for mental health care expenditure cannot be provided without disproportionate cost as the sums involved are disaggregated and embedded in the budgets of individual military units and overall operational budgets. Under the contract with SSSFT, payment for in-patient care is made on a case-by-case basis; as a point of comparison, payments totalling £3.3 million were made for in-patient care in 2008-09; most of this was paid to the previous in-patient provider.

Since July 2007 the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation has reported on the Psychiatric Morbidity of the UK Armed Forces. Quarterly reports for 2007 and 2008 are available in the Library of the House and on the DASA website found at the following link:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 377W, on armed forces: mental health, what recent inspections of the Department of Community Mental Health have been carried out. [289006]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Healthcare Commission reported its review of the Defence Medical Services (DMS) in March 2009. As part of that review it looked at the provision of mental health care and visited military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) in Plymouth, Lisburn and Cranwell.

All three Defence Medical Services have processes for inspecting DCMHs, utilising a Common Healthcare Assurance Framework which is based on the Department of Health's "Standards for Better Health". All DMS units will be subject to a biennial set of visits, utilising the framework, from the single services. In addition, the post of inspector-general has been established recently within the Surgeon General's Department and his team will visit units as part of his clinical audit and assurance activities.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 377W, on armed forces: mental health, what mechanisms are in place for monitoring the health of service personnel diagnosed with a mental health disorder. [289007]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Service personnel who are identified as suffering from a mental health condition will be followed up or referred on by the medical staff who first had contact with them. Some personnel will have their conditions managed wholly by primary care staff, who also have the capability to downgrade medically personnel if required; to treat and refer on personnel to military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs); or to liaise with DCMH staff if advice is required, including cases where direct referral to an in-patient facility might be appropriate.

Patients are provided with appropriate treatment and care. If patients cannot be returned to a medically fit state consistent with continuing service, then they will be medically discharged from their service. If this route is required, DCMH social workers will continue to support discharged personnel for the year following discharge to ensure they are getting appropriate care within the NHS.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 377W, on armed forces: mental health, what mental health assessments are provided for service personnel who report to the Department of Community Mental Health. [289008]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Personnel who are referred to one of the military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) will undergo a routine biopsychosocial assessment which will comprise an interview with a mental health professional. This usually takes the form of a one-to-one interview, although further reports (for example, from medical providers or from the chain of command) may be requested and psychometric questionnaires might be used where appropriate. The initial DCMH assessment will focus not just on the problem that led to referral but will take a holistic approach to the difficulties that an individual might be experiencing at the time of referral.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009,

Official Report, column 377W, on armed forces: mental health, whether the Department of Community Mental Health provides treatment for *(a)* nicotine, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* drug and *(d)* other addictions. [289009]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Our military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) provide treatment for addictive behaviours, with referral to in-patient facilities if this is necessary, where individuals are retained in service. Smoking cessation services are provided within primary care. It is frequently the case that such treatment is provided in conjunction with chain of command-led workplace support. Personnel with an addiction that is incompatible with continuing service in the HM armed forces will be supported by military mental health staff during the discharge process.

Armed Forces: Suicide

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many active service personnel are known to have committed suicide following service in either Iraq or Afghanistan since those engagements commenced. [287884]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* We are aware of a total of 27 regular service personnel whose deaths have been recorded as coroner confirmed suicides or open verdicts and who had previously served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The areas of deployment are:

24 who had been deployed to Iraq only;

one who had been deployed to Afghanistan only;

two who had been deployed to both operational theatres.

There have also been five Reservist personnel whose deaths were recorded as suicide or open verdict who had previously served in Iraq.

Additionally there are currently nine deaths that are classified as violent and unnatural causes, where the mechanism is consistent with suicide, but have yet to be confirmed as either a suicide or open verdict by a coroner.

There were two deaths of personnel in Afghanistan and four in Iraq that have been found to be suicide.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of phase (i) 1 and (ii) 2 training instructors is in each of the armed services. [284528]

Bill Rammell: The requirement and actual figures for instructors in phase 1 and 2 training for the services as of 3 July 2009 is shown in the following table (rounded to the nearest 10). There is a difference between the required and actual strength of instructors due to the posting process, operational manning requirements, instructors leaving post, and instructors being able to cover more than one course.

(i) Phase 1	*(a) Required instructors*	*(b) Actual instructors*
Army[1]	1,730	1,710
Royal Navy	590	540
Royal Air Force	280	250

(ii) Phase 2	*(a) Required instructors*	*(b) Actual instructors*
Army	2,100	1,940
Royal Navy	760	660
Royal Air Force	1,190	1,070
Defence Intelligence and Security College (DISC)	140	130
Joint Medical Command (JMC)	50	50
RAF Honington (Phase 1 and Phase 2 combined)	70	60

[1] Phase 1 instructor figures for the Army include those at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, where the combined Phase 1/Phase 2 Combat Infantryman's Course is taught and the Phase 2 Infantry Course for those who completed their Phase 1 training at either the Army Foundation College Harrogate or at the Army Training Regiment Winchester.

The instructor numbers shown for each service include the defence colleges which are grouped together under that service. The Defence Intelligence and Security College (DISC) and Joint Medical Command (JMC) which do not provide phase 1 training, do not fall under single service management and are therefore shown separately.

It is not possible to differentiate between numbers of phase 1 and phase 2 instructors at RAF Honington, as the split can fluctuate with personnel movement.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the drop-out rate is of each recruit training establishment listed in the Ofsted report on the duty of care for recruits and trainees in the armed forces. [284530]

Bill Rammell: The drop-out percentages for financial year 2008-09 (termed as Premature Voluntary Outflow—this comprises all those who elected to leave the service of their own accord) for the training establishments listed in the Ofsted report on the duty of care for recruits and trainees in the armed forces, are shown in the following table. The percentages shown are typical of what the Department expect given the nature of the military training undertaken:

Training establishment	*Drop-out rate (percentage) (rounded to nearest 1 per cent.)*
25 Training Regiment-Deepcut	21
Defence Medical Services Training Centre	5
HMS Raleigh	7
Army Training Centre, Pirbright	19
RAF Halton, Recruit Training Squadron	9
Defence School of Transport	8
RAF Regiment, Regimental Training Squadron (Basics), RAF Honington	27
Army School of Ammunition, Kineton	9
Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines	31
Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn	19
Army Training Regiment, Winchester	21
Infantry Training Centre, Catterick	24

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce the maingate timetable for the Defence Training Review Programme. [287391]

Bill Rammell: The DTR Package 1 programme is under review. I anticipate an announcement of the new date for the Package 1 Main Gate to be made to the House in the autumn.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he plans to award the pre-contract agreement letter on Defence Training Review Package 1 to the preferred bidder. [288062]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The mandatory sitting 14 days for the PCAL2 Review Note submitted in the Departmental Minute to Parliament on 26 June expired on 17 July. However, the PCAL2 underwrite is still subject to the normal process of negotiation and agreement with the preferred bidder, which is ongoing.

Armed Forces: Young People

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people under 18 years old serving in the armed forces have been court-martialled in each of the last five years; and what charges were brought at each court-martial where proceedings have been completed. [288412]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1446-47W. Further to that answer, I can add that the number of service personnel under 18 years old court-martialled in 2008, and the charges they faced were as follows:

Royal Navy:

1 x Battery

Army:

1 x Battery

1 x Assault occasioning actual bodily harm and the supply of drugs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females under 18 years old of each (i) age, (ii) ethnic origin and (iii) disability have been detained with adults in the Military Correction Training Centre in Colchester in each of the last five years. [288413]

Bill Rammell: The Military Correction Training Centre (MCTC) is a key pillar of the military criminal justice system, which has proved to be successful. It is not a prison; it is a military unit, established for military corrective training. It provides detention facilities for men and women of the armed forces and can hold a number of different categories of detainees, the majority of whom are not sentenced for criminal offences and return to their military duties on release.

The provision of information broken down into the categories requested may lead to the identification of one or more of the individuals. This information is regarded as sensitive data and its release would contravene the Department's policy on disclosure and confidentiality.

The total number of personnel under 18 years of age who have been detained in the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester in each of the last full years is provided in the following table.

	Number of personnel
2004-05	15
2005-06	[1]—
2006-07	10
2007-08	5
2008-09	[1]—
2009-10	[1]—

[1] Fewer than 5.

The figures have been rounded to the nearest five to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual personnel medically fit for purpose strength is for each battalion of the infantry; [280814]

(2) what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for duty strength of each infantry battalion is. [284527]

Bill Rammell: The Army's manning situation is improving fast due to a number of factors including the introduction of exceptional action measures, financial incentives, improved marketing and the current economic situation. However, there will be fluctuations in the strength of individual battalions, according to their planned duties at any specific time.

'Required strength' has been interpreted as the maximum number of posts in a battalion's peace time configuration.

'Actual strength' has been interpreted as the number of personnel assigned to a battalion for its planned duties. It will also include augmentees who are temporarily assigned if needed to support the role of the battalion (for operational military tasks and events that cannot be achieved within required strengths). Similarly, the figures exclude those assigned out of the battalion to augment other units.

'Fit for duty' has been interpreted as fit for primary role, including personnel listed as having limited deployability, plus personnel who are unfit for deployment but who can perform a role in an alternative capacity. The difference between the actual strength and number fit for duty represents those who are medically non-effective, i.e. are unfit for any form of duty.

'Medically fit for purpose' has been interpreted as fit for primary role, including personnel listed as having limited deployability, but excluding those who are not fit to deploy and those who are medically non-effective for any form of duty.

The figures requested are shown in the following tables:

Division	*Unit*	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Number fit for duty*	*Number medically fit for purpose*
Guards	1 Grenadier Guards	632	549	544	502
	1 Coldstream Guards	629	587	557	534
	1 Scots Guards	685	580	574	549
	1 Irish Guards	633	584	583	561
	1 Welsh Guards	626	608	596	570
Scots	1 Scots	630	493	493	434
	2 Scots	627	479	473	437
	3 Scots	629	616	611	595

Division	Unit	Required strength	Actual strength	Number fit for duty	Number medically fit for purpose
	4 Scots	686	548	522	497
	5 Scots	657	533	533	517
Queens	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	685	638	626	598
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	605	588	588	566
	1 Royal Regt. Fusiliers	686	616	610	597
	2 Royal Regt. Fusiliers	626	546	539	516
	1 Royal Anglian	670	707	692	665
	2 Royal Anglian	6200	635	627	604
Kings	1 Lancs	658	684	676	619
	2 Lancs	612	597	593	572
	1 Yorks	629	586	574	572
	2 Yorks	623	495	494	459
	3 Yorks	686	549	541	497
Prince of Wales	1 Mercian incl. Gurkha Reinforcement Company 2	628	612	608	573
	2 Mercian	623	549	544	527
	3 Mercian	659	616	610	570
	1 Royal Welsh	623	580	577	551
	2 Royal Welsh	751	679	671	633
Rifles	1 Rifles	623	683	683	654
	2 Rifles	623	679	668	647
	3 Rifles	623	634	632	631
	4 Rifles	711	682	677	660
	5 Rifles	686	785	-785	783 ~
Royal Irish	1 Royal Irish	650	564	554	529
Para	2 Para	650	633	617	602
	3 Para	650	603	602	590
Royal Gurkha Rifles	1 Royal Gurkha Rifles	643	631	623	612
	2 Royal Gurkha Rifles incl. Gurkha Reinforcement Company 1	758	841	838	807

In addition to the battalions shown above there are three incremental Guards companies which are primarily for public duties but which can also be used to augment the other Guards battalions as required;

Unit	Required strength	Actual strength	Number fit for duty	Number medically fit for purpose
Nijmegen Coy Grenadier Guards	108	110	110	101
7 Coy Coldstream Guards	108	82	81	77
F Coy Scots Guards	108	93	92	90

The figures in both tables include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen.

Chinook Helicopters

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Chinook helicopters are inoperable because they are awaiting modifications. [288646]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In addition to eight Chinook Mk3 aircraft that are being converted to provide additional support helicopter capability, there are currently four Chinook Mk2/2a helicopters that are being modified to provide them with an enhanced capability on operations.

Defence: Procurement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the cost of preparing the Defence Industrial Strategy; and when the strategy will be published. [283656]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We remain committed to the Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS) 2005, which we intend to update in due course. No recent estimate has been made of the total cost of the DIS.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last met representatives of Nexter to discuss defence procurement. [288201]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Secretary of State for Defence has not met with representatives of Nexter to discuss defence procurement.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what properties *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many have been sold for housing developments. [265108]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will place a copy of the list of land and property sold by the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years, together with an indication of the expected planning use in the Library of the House. This replaces any previous lists. It should be noted that actual future use is a matter for the purchasers and local planning authorities to determine.

The MOD and the Department for Communities and Local Government are delivering affordable housing as part of wider Government agenda. We have in the past sold a large number of strategic sites to DCLG, including Oakington barracks in Cambridge, Connaught barracks

in Dover and Roussillon barracks in Chichester. This relationship continues with other sites at Aldershot, Daws Hill and Borden being currently discussed.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Grant Shapps:

In my answer of 27 April (Official Report, column 1022W) I undertook to write to you with details of what Ministry of Defence (MOD) properties have been sold in each of the last five years and how many have been sold for housing developments.

The requested list of properties, including details of their expected planning use, has been placed in the Library of the House.

This list does not include details of sites which subsequent to sale by this Department may have been sold on and then used for residential development. This issue is would be a matter for the new owner and MOD does not maintain a record of such cases.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what categories of personal information on members of the public are contained on each database which contains such data managed by his Department and its agencies; when each category of information was first collected; and if he will make a statement; [284895]

(2) what databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if he will make a statement; [285986]

(3) which of the planned databases that will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will hold personal information on members of the public are expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286144]

Bill Rammell: Ministry of Defence officials are currently collating and validating the data needed to answer these questions. I will write to the hon. Member again shortly.

Departmental Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's *(a)* gross resource outturn, *(b)* operating appropriations on aid outturn, *(c)* gross capital outturn and *(d)* non-operating appropriations on aid outturn was under each budgetary sub-heading in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms for the financial year 2007-08. [284569]

Bill Rammell: I have placed a copy of this information in the Library of the House.

Departmental Housing

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of accommodation of *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more bedrooms his Department retains for the purposes of accommodating serving (i) officers and (ii) officials on long-term secondment to his Department; and what his most recent estimate is of the average annual (A) gross and (B) net cost of each type of accommodation in each such category. [273432]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Neil Turner:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 14 May 2009 (Official Report, column 946W), about Service accommodation for senior Officers and officials on long-term secondment to the Department.

Service accommodation is provided to house entitled Service personnel and their families in accordance with the entitlements set out in the Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations (TSARs). The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently holds the following numbers of Service Family Accommodation properties (SFA) to accommodate entitled senior officers:

Type	*Bedrooms*	*Indicative Entitlement*	*UK SFA*	*Overseas SFA*
I	4/5	Major General and equivalent and above	68	9
II	4/5	Colonel and equivalent and above	316	36

Senior Officers may also occupy SFA of a lesser type in cases where SFA to entitlement is not available or in other circumstances set out in the TSARs.

All Officers of the equivalent rank of major and above are entitled to Single Living Accommodation (SLA) comprising an en-suite bedroom and separate sitting area. There are currently 2,418 SLA bed-spaces of this type in the UK with a further 219 overseas.

The information on cost is not held in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The MOD does not retain any accommodation for the purposes of accommodating civilian officials. However, in areas where there is a temporary surplus of SFA, eligible civilians may occupy properties on a non-entitled basis, on the understanding that it be vacated if required for an entitled Service family. The number of civilians who occupy SFA on this basis is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will terminate negotiations with partner countries on procurement plans for the A400M aircraft. [288615]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I have no immediate plans to terminate discussions with partner nations and I am continuing to seek acceptable conditions under which the UK can continue to support the programme. I am meeting with Ministers from participating nations on 24 July, with the objective of reaching a joint decision on the future of the A400M programme.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Joint Strike Fighter consortium on final assembly and checkout of the aircraft in the UK. [288196]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The primary production facility for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) has been established at Lockheed Martin's plant in Fort Worth, Texas, building on the huge investment already made in the development phase of JSF, 90 per cent. of which has been funded by the US. All nine JSF partner nations that have signed the JSF Production, Sustainment and Follow-on Development (PSFD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2006, including the UK, are committed to funding an equitable share of this production facility,

which will eventually produce in excess of 3,000 JSF aircraft. It is our intention to use this best value solution for the build of all UK JSF aircraft.

UK industry has benefited within the development programme to date and is well placed to continue through production. We estimate UK industry will provide in excess of 10 per cent. of the JSF production programme as we progress through the PSFD phase.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual crew number for each aircraft type in the armed forces was in each of the last five years. [284542]

Bill Rammell: The historical information requested is not held centrally and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

The required and actual crew number for each aircraft type in the armed forces as at 9 July 2009 is given in the following table. Air crew numbers fluctuate on a day-by-day basis as individuals are re-assigned, medically downgraded or leave the service. The variations in the required and actual crew numbers are principally due to an increased requirement to support new and increased aircraft types, such as the Typhoon, where it takes time to train aircrew to meet the associated manpower requirement. Similarly, aircraft types such as the Hercules C130K and Tornado F3 are in the process of drawing down and crew numbers are temporarily in excess of requirement. These changes are reflected in the figures. However, action is taken to ensure that current operations are not affected.

Aircraft type	*Required*	*Actual*
Royal Navy:		
Lynx Mk 3/8	133	124
Merlin Mk 1	189	174
Sea King Mk 5	68	65
Sea King Mk 7	46	43
Army Air Corps:		
Apache AH Mk 1	100	80
Lynx Mk 7/9	100	106
Gazelle Mk 1	34	34
Dauphin N3 AH Mk 1	7	6
Bell 212	24	24
SAAVN	46	41
Royal Air Force:		
Hercules C130J	201	191
Hercules C130K	178	168
VC10	146	124
TriStar	103	98
C17A	91	81
HS125	17	16
BAe146	10	7
Tornado GR4	267	248
Typhoon	67	60
Tornado F3	32	50
Nimrod MR2	320	273
Nimrod R1	119	103
Sentinel R1	35	24
E3D	114	94
KingAir	32	27
Dominie	51	40
Tutor EFT	35	47
Tutor	15	21
Tucano	56	54
Hawk	102	89
Puma	127	129
Chinook	262	222
Merlin	159	130
Squirrel	20	19
SeaKing	140	132
Griffin	62	61
Augusta 109	5	5
Reaper	34	34
Islander	8	8
Navy and RAF:		
Joint Force Harrier	66	66

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost per flying hour of a *(a)* Tornado and *(b)* Typhoon jet. [284989]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Quentin Davies to Nick Harvey:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of the 13 July 2009 (Official Report, column 27W), asking for the most recent estimate of the cost per flying hour of a (a) Tornado and (b) Typhoon-jet. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The total cost per funded flying hour is provided in the table below.

Aircraft	Cost (K) Financial Year 2009-10
Tornado F3	45K
Tornado GR4	28K
Typhoon	90K

This includes forward and depth servicing, fuel costs, crew costs, training costs and the cost of capital charge and depreciation. The Typhoon cost per flying hour reflects the smaller numbers of aircraft currently in the fleet and their relatively short period in service. This is expected to reduce significantly over the in-service life of the aircraft.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual average flying hours for each helicopter type in the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force were in each month of (A) 2008 and (B) 2009 to date. [279960]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister for the Armed Forces on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 44W.

Between November 2006 and April 2009, we have increased flying hours for helicopters in Afghanistan by 84 per cent.

The following tables give the total planned and actual flying hours, including training as well as operations, for each helicopter type by month from January 2008 to May 2009:

Army Air Corps

	Apache		*Augusta*		*Gazelle*		*Lynx Mk7/9*	
	Planned	*Actual*	*Planned*	*Actual*	*Planned*	*Actual*	*Planned*	*Actual*
2008								
January	1,119	861	80	67	1,186	706	1,152	1,341
February	1,259	1,270	90	68	1,334	937	1,296	1,685
March	1,259	1,096	90	89	1,334	968	1,296	1,581
April	1,152	1,085	80	100	875	1,007	1,655	1,543
May	1,058	1,110	90	73	984	1,092	1,428	1,184
June	1,152	1,180	90	94	984	1,325	1,428	1,381
July	1,199	1,195	90	155	984	1,340	1,428	1,465
August	1,246	1,231	60	83	656	1,046	1,057	885
September	1,199	1,459	100	122	1,094	1,104	1,552	1,529
October	1,293	1,171	90	104	984	1,070	1,778	1,578
November	1,340	1,067	80	61	875	726	1,655	1,707
December	920	947	60	66	656	442	1,407	1,022
2009								
January	1,249	1,112	80	46	875	440	1,655	1,293
February	1,202	1,217	90	56	984	514	1,778	1,343
March	1,390	1,657	90	72	984	564	1,778	1,880
April	1,320	940	80	100	495	565	1,559	1,532
May	1,151	936	90	49	549	647	1,376	802

Royal Navy

	Lynx Mk3		*Lynx Mk8*		*Merlin Mk1*	
	Planned	*Actual*	*Planned*	*Actual*	*Planned*	*Actual*
2008						
January	555	537	555	421	387	332
February	555	658	555	513	387	280
March	555	447	555	490	366	142
April	200	439	200	548	199	295
May	555	469	555	463	334	232
June	555	588	555	541	334	214
July	555	658	555	432	334	189
August	200	198	200	164	198	38
September	560	619	560	570	334	283
October	555	600	555	403	334	396
November	555	609	555	343	334	150
December	200	429	200	287	198	142
2009						
January	334	207	555	456	856	439
February	334	205	555	339	1,006	484
March	203	177	555	395	950	631
April	342	153	190	377	600	513
May	517	485	517	388	980	603

	Sea King Mk4/6		*Sea King Mk5*		*Sea King Mk7*	
	Planned	*Actual*	*Planned*	*Actual*	*Planned*	*Actual*
2008						
January	387	332	441	323	909	991
February	387	280	441	401	1,023	992
March	366	142	439	298	1,023	917
April	199	295	228	366	895	877
May	334	232	382	373	1,007	1,084
June	334	214	382	318	1,007	1,099
July	334	189	382	361	1,007	1,085
August	198	38	228	310	671	585
September	334	283	382	362	1,118	1,143
October	334	396	382	365	1,007	1,121
November	334	150	382	359	895	1,038
December	198	142	382	304	671	793

	Sea King Mk4/6		Sea King Mk5		Sea King Mk7	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
2009						
January	334	144	383	388	1,118	1,122
February	334	207	382	412	1,007	887
March	334	205	382	366	783	1,105
April	203	177	243	334	1,155	832
May	342	153	408	460	1,267	1,068

	Royal Air Force							
	Chinook		Merlin Mk 3/3a		Puma		Sea King Mk 3/3a	
	Planned[1]	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
2008								
January	1,268	1,182	503	401	963	748	900	820
February	1,300	1,120	473	440	1,084	582	900	820
March	1,300	1,130	590	519	1,084	647	900	820
April	1,344	1,404	559	595	1,012	793	791	790
May	1,336	1,223	531	518	1,101	813	791	790
June	1,365	1,289	569	551	1,051	676	791	790
July	1,422	1,471	600	560	1,051	781	791	790
August	1,292	1,329	651	467	784	643	791	790
September	1,394	1,333	649	604	1,140	725	791	790
October	1,372	1,432	719	680	1051	799	791	790
November	1,336	1,168	711	498	962	762	791	790
December	1,132	847	515	462	784	516	791	790
2009								
January	1,306	1,079	665	555	962	708	791	790
February	1,306	1,267	649	524	1,051	677	791	790
March	1,307	1,539	732	638	1,051	926	791	790
April	1,303	1,353	744	611	885	569	851	760
May	1,310	1,183	744	579	886	801	851	855

It is normal for there to be considerable variation between monthly "planned" and "actual" flying hours. "Planned" hours are based on the total amount of flying that could be supported by the Platform Project Teams for a given aircraft type and are not broken down by individual airframe. There is no requirement to hold data on average flying hours. The figures are agreed in Joint Business Agreements (JBAs) between Front Line Commands (FLCs) and the Defence Equipment and Support organisation, and are forecast up to a year ahead. The month by month Profile is to enable forward resource planning within the overall total for the year, not a definitive prediction of requirements, which will vary during the year.

"Actual" hours are the total of all hours flown for training and on operations.

The reasons why actual hours may be less than planned include aircraft unavailability through routine maintenance, running repairs, essential upgrades and modification programmes; air crew unavailability through recuperation, absence on training courses, and leave; changes in training schedules; adverse weather; or cancellation of tasking. Taskings on operations clearly depend on mission requirements at any given time, which are difficult to predict several months ahead.

Flying hours required for training are managed within this framework by the FLCs but priority is given to operations.

"Planned" flying hours not consumed may be carried forward into subsequent months. Hours flown on operations in excess of the year's JBA total flying hours may be funded by the reserve.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of equipping UK military helicopters with air-to-air refuelling capabilities. [288202]

Mr. Quentin Davies: While we keep our helicopter capabilities under review, there is currently no requirement to equip our helicopters with air-to-air refuelling capabilities.

NATO Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on UK membership of the NATO Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence. [286946]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The United Kingdom is fully supportive of this Estonian-hosted Cyber Defence initiative and its endeavours in this important area. However, given the need to co-ordinate Cyber Defence with a number of other Government Departments and allies, the MOD's preferred means of support is by participation in specific mutually beneficial workstreams rather than attaching personnel permanently to Estonia. The United Kingdom is not formally a sponsoring nation of this Centre of Excellence but this position will be kept under review.

Both the current Head of the MOD Defence Security and Assurance Service and his predecessor, as well as other senior officers, have visited the Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, participated in its conferences, and provided additional assistance to its development over the past two years.

Navy: Drug Seizures

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what drug seizures were made by Royal Navy vessels since 1997; where the seizures took place; what the value of each seizure was; and if he will make a statement. [271390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Bill Rammell to Nick Harvey:

In my predecessor's written answer, on 12 May 2009, (Official Report, column 753W), it was undertaken to write to you regarding your request for a list of the drug seizures made by Royal Naval vessels since 1997; where the seizures took place; and what the value of each seizure was. In the course of this research, US officials have been consulted, who have kindly shared information from their own very detailed records.

As you will recognise, disrupting illegal trafficking of weapons and narcotics is among the many important tasks we ask our Armed Forces to conduct. The Royal Navy conducts Flag State Verification procedures on Gulf Region Shipping and has also provided significant support to US counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean. Further disruption operations are conducted whenever opportunities arise during the Royal Navy's standing patrol tasks, including within UK territorial waters, in support of operations led by the Serious Organised Crime Agency. These operations have contributed to the seizure of large quantities of illegal narcotics which otherwise might have ended up on UK, US and European streets. A comprehensive list of seizures since 1997 is set out below. This information updates previous estimates and draws on additional information provided by US law enforcement officials.

Year	*Month*	*Unit*	*Location*	*Quantity*	*Est value (£)*
1997	Apr	HMS York	Home Waters	4 tonnes cannabis	11.5 million
	June	HMS Edinburgh	Home Waters	3 tonnes cannabis	8.6 million
1998	June	HMS Monmouth	Home Waters	2 tonnes cannabis	8 million
1999	Mar	HMS Marlborough	Caribbean	0.5 tonnes (assessed) jettisoned	20 million
	May	HMS Marlborough	Caribbean	4.7 tonnes	188 million
	May	HMS Marlborough	Caribbean	4.6 tonnes	184 million
	Aug	HMS Northumberland	Caribbean	0.45 tonnes (assessed) jettisoned	18 million
	Oct	HMS Northumberland	Caribbean	0.85 tonnes (assessed) jettisoned	34 million
	Nov	HMS Northumberland	Caribbean	2.12 tonnes; 7 Kgs of heroin	85 million
2000	Jun	HMS Manchester	Caribbean	0.85 tonnes (assessed) jettisoned	34 million
2001	Sep	HMS Coventry	Belize	1200 Kgs cocaine	48 million
2002	Jul	HMS Newcastle	Caribbean	100 bales marijuana	note 2
	Jul	HMS Newcastle	Caribbean	23 bales cocaine	note 2
	Sep	HMS Grafton	Caribbean	21 bales marijuana	note 2
	Oct	HMS Grafton	Caribbean	750 Kg cocaine	30 million
	Nov	HMS Grafton	Caribbean	7 bales marijuana (5 bales lost)	note 2
2003	May	HMS Cumberland	Home Waters	3800 Kgs cocaine	152 million
	Jun	HMS Iron Duke	Caribbean	131 bales/3275Kg cocaine	131 million
	Sep	RFA Wave Knight	Caribbean	116lbs marijuana	152,000
	Oct	HMS Manchester	Caribbean	1052 Kgs cocaine	42 million
2004	Jan	RFA Wave Knight	Caribbean	650Kgs cocaine	26 million
	Nov	RFA Wave Ruler	Caribbean	1.8 tonnes cocaine	72 million
2005	Jan	RFA Wave Ruler	Caribbean	1.8 tonnes cocaine	72 million
	Jan	RFA Wave Ruler	Caribbean	1.7 tonnes cocaine	68 million
	Mar	RFA Wave Knight	Caribbean	1.5 tonnes (assessed) cocaine jettisoned by smugglers	40 million
	Feb	RFA Wave Ruler	Caribbean	0.93 tonnes cocaine	37 million
	May	HMS Liverpool/RFA Wave Knight	Caribbean	400 lbs cannabis; 0.998 tonnes cocaine; further 0.3 tonnes (assessed) jettisoned by smugglers	53 million

Year	Month	Unit	Location	Quantity	Est value (£)
	Jun	HMS Liverpool	Caribbean	850 lbs cannabis; 0.3 tonnes (assessed) cocaine jettisoned by smugglers.	13 million
	Jul	RFA Wave Ruler	Caribbean	3.0 tonnes (assessed) cocaine jettisoned by smugglers	120 million
	Sep	HMS Cumberland	Caribbean	1.5 tonnes (assessed) cocaine jettisoned by smugglers	60 million
	Oct	HMS Cumberland/RFA Wave Knight	Caribbean	1.756 tonnes cocaine	70 million
2006	Feb	HMS Southampton/RFA Grey Rover	Caribbean	2.223 tonnes cocaine; a further 2.0 tonnes (assessed) jettisoned by smugglers.	169 million
	Sep	RFA Wave Ruler	Caribbean	2.5 tonnes cocaine	100 million
	Oct	RFA Wave Ruler	Caribbean	2.789 tonnes cocaine	112 million
	Oct	HMS Argyll/RFA Gold Rover	Atlantic (West Africa)	1.5 tonnes cocaine	60 million
	Nov	HMS Argyll/RFA Fort Austin 849 NAS	East Atlantic	1.33 tonnes cocaine	53 million
	Nov	RFA Wave Ruler	Caribbean	4.0 tonnes cocaine	160 million
	Nov	RFA Wave Ruler	Caribbean	2.04 tonnes cocaine	82 million
	Dec	HMS Lancaster	W Africa	3.5 tonnes (assessed) cocaine jettisoned by smugglers	140 million
		HMS Iron Duke	East Atlantic		
2007	May	HMS Ocean	Caribbean	12 bales cocaine	note 2
	Jun	HMS Ocean	Caribbean	329 Kgs cocaine; 20 Kgs heroin	14 million
	Oct	HMS Portland/RFA Wave Knight	Caribbean	3.3 tonnes (assessed) cocaine jettisoned by smugglers	132 million
	Dec	RFA Largs Bay	Caribbean	1.125 tonnes cocaine	45 million
2008	Mar	HMS Edinburgh	Middle East	7 tonnes hashish	20 million
	Apr	HMS Montrose	Middle East Waters	6-10 tonnes hashish (assessed) jettisoned by smugglers.	17 million-29 million
	Mar	HMS Edinburgh	Middle East-Waters	3.5 tonnes hashish	10 million
	Apr	HMS Montrose	Middle East Waters	10 tonnes hashish	29 million
	Apr	HMS Chatham	Middle East Waters	6 tonnes hashish	17 million
	Jun	HMS Iron Duke	Caribbean	1.125 tonnes cocaine	45 million
	Jul	HMS Iron Duke	Caribbean	1.2 tonnes (assessed) cocaine jettisoned by smugglers	48 million
	Jul	HMS Iron Duke	Caribbean	2477 coca field plants from helicopter survey.	n/a
	Sep	HMS Argyll RFA/Fort Austin	Home Waters	100 kg cocaine	4 million
	Oct	HMS Northumberland	Middle East	20 Kg Hashish; 1000 Kg (assessed) jettisoned	2.9 million
	Dec	HMS Portland	Middle East	1.4 tonnes hashish	4 million
2009	Feb	HMS Richmond	Middle East Waters	80-90 bales (approx 2000kg) of hashish jettisoned by smugglers	5.7 million
	Apr	HMS Portland	Middle East	27 bales (each of 31 Kgs) hashish (837 Kgs)	2.4 million

Notes:
1. SOCA estimates, as at June 2009, of UK street values have been applied to all seizures.
2. Where only the number of bales is known/estimated, but not their weight, no street value can be estimated retrospectively.

The results from forensic analysis of the many seizures in the Caribbean, provided to us by the American Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (South), have enabled us to update many of our previous estimates of the size of these seizures. Our previous answers were drawn from figures often estimated by the UK vessel at the time of the interdiction; subsequent investigations by law enforcement officials would usually have been completed after the UK vessel had left the vicinity and thus not reflected in the initial UK estimate. For interdictions when cargoes were jettisoned by the traffickers we have continued to provide the sizes assessed by the UK crew before the contraband was lost.

The table also includes a small number of additional interdictions that have not previously been reported. In some cases these omissions are due to different approaches by individual UK ships in recording an incident as a 'seizure' or as an 'interdiction' (which may have resulted in a jettison). In others cases the reliance upon disparate ships' records may have resulted in a small number of accidental omissions as our historic responses were consolidated. The positive outcome is that the Royal Navy has had an even greater impact on narcotics trafficking than previously reported.

It is very difficult to estimate street value of the illegal drugs seized or destroyed in these operations. The price varies greatly depending on a number of factors including supply and demand, the intended destination of the product as well as the purity of the drugs themselves when they reach their market. Not all of the

seized drugs would have been intended for the UK, however for simplicity the estimated values in the table are based on the assumption that the product would have reached the UK with street values of £40,000 per kilogram of cocaine, of £45,000 per kilogram of heroin and of £2,880 per kilogram of cannabis.

In agreement with the Serious Organised Crime Agency these valuations have been applied retrospectively across the entire historical record; thus detailing estimated values of seizures as if they had reached UK streets in 2009. We have done this because there is no reliable record of street values year on year since 1997, particularly prior to the Agency's creation in 2006. Where only the number and not size of bales seized were recorded, we have not attempted to assign a street value.

The successes of these counter narcotics operations are considerable and to ensure that a full and accurate picture is maintained in future, I have put in place revised record-keeping policies and established a more centralised reporting mechanism which will be updated where possible with US post-forensic results.

I hope you will find this information useful.

I am copying this letter to other MPs who have asked similar questions in the past.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proposals the Government intend to make at the next NATO summit on *(a)* nuclear sharing, *(b)* nuclear first-strike and *(c)* the reliance by NATO members on nuclear weapons as a guarantee for their security; and if he will make a statement. [287910]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Declaration on Alliance Security that was agreed in April at the NATO summit in Strasbourg/Kehl makes clear that

"Deterrence, based on an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional capabilities, remains a core element of (the Alliance's) overall strategy".

This provides the basis of discussions between Allies on a revised Strategic Concept for NATO, which is due to be agreed at next year's summit meeting. The UK will play a full part in these discussions.

Warships: Wrecks

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1141W, on HMS Victory, whether his Department plans to enter into a salvage agreement with Odyssey Marine Exploration. [288467]

Bill Rammell: The MOD has no current plans to enter into a salvage agreement with Odyssey Marine Exploration. Discussions on the future management of the wreck site continue with other Government Departments and English Heritage.

White Phosphorus

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Fife North East, on 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 48-49W, on white phosphorus, in which theatres of operation UK forces have used white phosphorus in the last 10 years; and whether his Department has taken steps to establish the long-term health effects of such usage on people exposed to the munitions. [278712]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last five years, white phosphorus munitions have been used by UK forces in both the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres of operation. Information covering the last 10 years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

White phosphorus munitions are only used by UK forces to protect troops on operations by producing a smoke screen to provide cover in accordance with the Third Protocol of the UN Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Certain Conventional Weapons, ratified by the UK in 1995, when it became illegal to use white phosphorus as a primary incendiary weapon under UK law. Training of UK forces in the use of white phosphorus emphasises that it should only be used for its intended purpose as an obscurant and not as an anti-personnel weapon. White phosphorus is always used in accordance with UK Rules of Engagement and UK forces will do their utmost to avoid civilian casualties, whatever weapons are being deployed.

The Ministry of Defence has not carried out any work on possible long-term health effects resulting from exposure to white phosphorous.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers Licence

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make an assessment of the merits of introducing a permanent increase in the level of the Air Travel Organisers Licence protection contribution. [287274]

Chris Mole: A written ministerial statement laid in the House on 16 July 2009 announced that the Secretary of State for Transport had approved the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) recommendation to increase the Air Travel Organisers Licence (ATOL) Protection Contribution (APC) to £2.50 per passenger, with effect from 1 October 2009. The CAA intend to review the level of the APC before the Air Travel Trust Fund deficit has been repaid, projected to be by the end of March 2012.

Automatic Train Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of the high-speed passenger network operates with automatic train protection. [289191]

Chris Mole: Automatic Train Protection (ATP) is currently provided on part of the Great Western Mainline, on High Speed One, Heathrow Express and part of the Chiltern route out of Marylebone (although the last two routes are not high speed). The Department for Transport has published on its website the deployment plan for the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS), which includes ATP. The Department's ERTMS deployment plan can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/165234/349552/ukertmsplan.pdf

In the meantime, the Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS)—a form of intermittent ATP—has been installed where appropriate across the entire rail network, and has resulted in a 85 per cent. fall in risk from Signals Passed at Danger (SPADs).

Aviation

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to extend the scope of financial protection for air passengers. [287275]

Paul Clark: As set out in the consumer white paper 'A Better Deal for Consumers: Delivering Real Help Now and Change for the Future' published on 2 July 2009, the Department for Transport intends to consult on the reform of the Air Travel Organisers Licence (ATOL) scheme in the autumn, with the aim of providing greater clarity for consumers about which holidays are covered by ATOL. There are no plans to extend financial protection to all air passengers. The Government rejected this option in 2005 as disproportionate to the risks involved and this remains our position.

Bus Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many guided bus schemes have been introduced in each year since 2000. [289190]

Mr. Khan: The following transport schemes which incorporate some element of guided busway have opened since 2000:

2001: A64 York Road/A63 Selby Road section of Leeds Superbus project

2002: Manchester Road Quality Bus Initiative in Bradford

2003: Crawley Fastway

Bus Services: Concessions

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the concessionary bus travel scheme on levels of bus usage by older people; and if he will make a statement. [288441]

Mr. Khan: The table shows that the number of bus passenger journeys in England increased by 6.5 per cent. in the year following the introduction of free local concessionary fares in April 2006 and by 3.2 per cent. in the year following the introduction of the national concession in April 2008. However, these statistics count journeys made by all passengers, whether or not they are eligible for the free travel concession:

Bus passenger journeys: England, 2000-01 to 2008-09

	Local bus journeys (million)	*Year-on-year percentage change*
2000-01	3,842	—
2001-02	3,881	1.0
2002-03	3,964	2.1
2003-04	4,087	3.1
2004-05	4,140	1.3
2005-06	4,196	1.3
2006-07	4,470	6.5
2007-08	4,530	1.3
2008-09 (provisional)	4,674	3.2

Source:
Bus and Light Rail Statistics: Q1 2009

The Department for Transport has commissioned research from the Institute of Transport Studies (ITS), which will consider the impact of the national and local concessionary travel schemes on overall usage of bus services. The research is due to be published early next year.

Bus Services: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 92 of Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654, for how many years his Department plans to allocate £2.5 billion a year in support of bus services. [289225]

Mr. Khan: Based on current assumptions and projections central and local government support for bus services is expected to be around £2.5 billion this year and over the next two financial years. Decisions on funding for bus services from the years from 2012-13 will be made when departmental budgets are allocated as part of normal Government-wide processes.

Car Clubs: Environment Protection

Colin Challen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the environmental benefits of car clubs. [288070]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport endorses car clubs and sponsors Carplus, an organisation which promotes car clubs nationally.

Carplus publish an annual survey produced in conjunction with the Transport Research Laboratory which shows the environmental benefits of car clubs. The most recent, for 2008-09, was published in April this year. This can be found on their website at:

www.carplus.org.uk

Car Clubs: Greater London

Colin Challen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his policy is on the expansion of the car clubs infrastructure in London as promoted by Transport for London; and if he will make a statement. [288069]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport believes that car clubs have an important role to play where they are likely to be well used, such as London.

It is, however, a matter for Transport for London to make a statement specifically about the car clubs infrastructure in London.

Cycling: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 92 of Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654, for how many years his Department plans to make £60 million per annum available for cycling. [289223]

Mr. Khan: Cycling England's current three-year budget of £140 million is allocated as follows:

£20 million in 2008-09;

£60 million in 2009-10; and

£60 million in 2010-11.

Decisions on funding for cycling for the years from 2011-12 will be made when the Department for Transport's overall budget is allocated as part of normal Government-wide processes.

Cycling: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department allocated for cycle safety training in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* Southampton for each of the last five years. [288894]

Mr. Khan: We have provided grants for National Standard/Bikeability cycle training to a number of local highway authorities in Hampshire since 2008-09. All bids were met in full. No bids for grant from Hampshire authorities were received prior to the 2008-09 bidding round. Details of the grants awarded are set out in the following table:

Local authority cycle training grants

£

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Southampton city council	—	—	—	120,000.00
Hampshire county council	—	—	100,000.00	200,000.00
Portsmouth city council	—	—	—	91,400.00

In addition to the above funding the Wavell School in Hampshire (Farnborough) received a School Sports Partnership cycle training grant from the Department of £12,000.00 in 2006-07.

Cycling: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in Morecambe and Lunesdale in each of the last three years. [288361]

Mr. Khan: Lancaster with Morecambe is one of the Department for Transport's cycle demonstration towns. We provided funding of £1,311,775.00 for the period 2005-08. We have extended their funding for 2009-11 as set out in the table:

Lancaster with Morecambe	£
2005-08 (1 November 2005-31 March 2008)	1,311,775
2008-09	500,000
2009-10	500,000
2010-11	500,000
Total	2,899,200

In addition we funded a cycle training grant bid in full from Lancaster city council for the cycle demonstration town area of £15,000.00 for 2009-10.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288905]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has paid 82.82 per cent. of valid invoices received in June 2009 within 10 days measured against the total number of 18,490 valid invoices received.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281012]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport can estimate the carbon emissions arising from air transport for the central Department and four of its agencies (DVLA, DSA, HA, VCA) for 2006-07 and 2007-08. These amount to 1,015.1 tonnes of CO_2 in 2006-07 and 999.4 tonnes in 2007-08. This equates to 0.071 tonnes per FTE member of staff in 2006-07 and 0.070 in 2007-08.

In addition the Department can report 2007-08 figures for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of 345.8 tonnes of CO_2 and an aggregate figure across the five agencies of 0.081 tonnes per FTE member of staff.

The Department anticipates being able to report estimates for all agencies from 2008-09.

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287806]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold the information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, where the information is available, it has been set out in the following table.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Department for Transport Central						
Number of contracts	33	20	11	9	1	74
Estimated value (£)	3,997,619	5,737,100	1,326,748	4,048,384	80,000	15,189,851
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency						
Number of contracts	71	58	61	55	6	251
Estimated value (£)	6,720,251	4,227,811	3,712,081	2,528,622	197,450	17,386,215

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[1]	Total
Driving Standards Agency						
Number of contracts	3	9	6	7	7	32
Estimated value (£)	268,053	750,582	871,101	256,733	13,107,769	15,254,179
Vehicle Certification Agency						
Number of contracts	1	0	0	0	0	1
Estimated value (£)	388,330	0	0	0	0	388,330
Total						
Number of contracts	108	87	78	70	14	350
Estimated value (£)	11,374,253	10,715,493	15,909,930	6,033,799	13,385,159	58,210,576

[1] To June 2009.

Notes:

1. The table contains the information that is available centrally for contracts that were formally tendered or contracts that were let as a call-off or mini-competition under a framework agreement within the main procurement units. It largely excludes local or low value procurement activity or purchases, and information that is not held centrally.
2. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Government Car and Despatch Agency and the Maritime and Coast Guard Agency do not keep records centrally and the information would be available only at disproportionate costs.
3. The Highways Agency (HA) keeps records indicating which of its suppliers are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), but it does not record which of these are small enterprises of fewer than 50 employees.

Departmental Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 427W, on carbon sequestration: finance, how much was available in total in accumulated underspends from prior years as at 28 June 2009; and by how much his Department underspent on each project in each of the last five years. [288574]

Chris Mole: "Public Expenditure 2008-09: Provisional Outturn" (Cm 7606) sets out the Department for Transport's End Year Flexibility (EYF) entitlements resulting from underspends in 2008-09 and previous years. These are shown in the following table:

	£000
Resource:	
Admin	66,896
Programme	572,841
Total Resource:	640,737
Of which near cash	262,704
Capital	148,378

Budget allocations are generally made at a programme level, rather than to individual projects, allowing managers to offset and balance the normal increases and reductions in spending in-year on those individual projects. Similarly, programme level budgets may be adjusted during the year to reflect emerging opportunities and pressures. This means that it is not possible to produce a project-by-project breakdown of annual underspends.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* external contractors and *(b)* other non-departmental staff were employed by his Department in London in each of the last five financial years; and at what cost such staff were employed in each such year. [279315]

Chris Mole: The number of *(a)* external contractors and *(b)* other non-departmental staff employed by the Department for Transport in London in each of the last five financial years is set out in table. The cost of employing these staff in each year could be provided only at disproportionate cost:

	External contractors	*Other non-departmental staff*[1]
2004-05	81	106
2005-06	137	162
2006-07	123	215
2007-08	154	218
2008-09	107	240

[1] Consultants, agency staff, non-civil servants, and fee paid staff

The figures exclude *(a)* the Government Car and Despatch Agency who could collect the data only at disproportionate cost and *(b)* other non-departmental staff employed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, which that agency was not able to provide.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay is of (i) male and (ii) female employees. [286628]

Chris Mole: The latest available published figures showing the percentage of male and female employees in the Department for Transport with their associated median salaries are contained in the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey statistics published by the Office for National Statistics (Annex A). It is not possible to determine an hourly rate on these salaries because the conditioned hours of staff may vary due to work location.

Departmental Pay

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median consolidated salary of full-time equivalent civil servants working in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies outside London is. [283686]

Chris Mole: The mean consolidated salary of full-time equivalent civil servants working in the Department for Transport outside of London is £23,287. The mean consolidated salary of full-time equivalent civil servants working in the Department for Transport agencies outside of London is £22,982.

The median consolidated salary of full-time equivalent civil servants working in the Department for Transport outside of London is £19,953. The median consolidated salary of full-time equivalent civil servants working in the Department for Transport agencies outside of London is £19,953.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285317]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not made any changes to its purchasing policy in relation to *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery in the past six months. Existing policies aim to deliver value for money using collaborative procurement deals where available.

Departmental Public Appointments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport to which organisations the Secretary of State makes appointments. [283995]

Chris Mole: Ministers for the Department for Transport make appointments to a range of organisations including non-departmental public bodies, such as the Commission for Integrated Transport, public corporations such as the Civil Aviation Authority and trust ports such as Dover.

Ministers also make appointments to the British Transport Police Authority, Cycling England, Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, Northern Lighthouse Board, Office of Rail Regulation, Passenger Focus, Railway Heritage Committee, and the Renewable Fuels Agency. The Secretary of State for Transport has powers to appoint some board members to other trust ports in England and Wales the most significant of which are London, Tyne, Harwich and Milford Haven.

A fully comprehensive list is not held centrally in the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* ministerial cars and drivers, *(b)* taxis, *(c)* train travel, *(d)* the use of helicopters, *(e)* airline tickets and *(f)* chartered aeroplanes in each year since 1997. [289065]

Chris Mole: The Government Car and Despatch Agency is responsible for providing ministerial cars and drivers. Information for years 2000-01 to 2002-03 is as follows:

	2000-01		2001-02		Post general election 2001		2002-03	
	Number of cars	*Annual contracted value (£)*	*Number of cars*	*Annual contracted value (£)*	*Number of cars*	*Annual contracted value (£)*	*Number of cars*	*Annual contracted value (£)*
Cabinet Office[1]	12	722,200	13	811,000	13	816,700	8	440,800
ODPM[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	333,600
DCMS	4	214,900	4	222,000	4	222,400	4	230,900
DETR[3]	8	462,700	9	464,200	—	—	—	—
DTLR/DfT[3]	8	488,000	8	462,600	7	351,200	6	317,000
DRD	2	94,500	2	96,800	1	50,000	2	92200
DfS[3]	5	246,100	5	253,400	—	—	—	—
DTI	5	289,000	6	303,900	6	313,900	6	321,700
FCO	5	256,500	5	283,800	6	315,800	5	258,000
Department of Health	5	307,200	6	336,600	7	369,500	6	325,500
HM Treasury	5	263,900	5	271,200	5	271,500	5	285,800
Home Office	5	260,000	6	288,800	6	332,400	7	399,900
Lord Chancellor's Department	5	165,800	3	170,400	4	223,600	4	233,200
MAFF[3]	5	210,700	4	208,200	—	—	—	—
MOD[4]	5	53,000	1	50,500	1	54,500	1	63,000
Northern Ireland Office	5	250,000	5	247,300	3	247,300	5	257,500
Privy Council Office	5	170,900	2	113,800	2	113,800	2	120,800
Scotland Office	5	96,500	2	100,800	2	98,400	2	100,400
Wales Office	5	121,300	2	122,900	2	122,900	2	127*00
DEFRA[3]	—	—	—	—	5	268,000	5	285,900
DTLR/DfT[3]	—	—	—	—	7	373,500	3	173,700
DWP[3]	—	—	—	—	6	315,900	6	328,600
Total	99	4,497,700	96	4,606,200	87	4,861,300	85	4,695,300

[1] Cabinet Office figures include cars for the Prime Minister's Office, the Leader of the House of Lords, the Chief Whips in both Chambers and the Minister without Portfolio.
[2] Takes into account Machinery of Government changes.
[3] DETR, DSS and MAFF were reorganised after the 2001 general election.
[4] The Government Car Service provides a car and driver for the Secretary of State for Defence only. MOD provides its other Ministers with transport.

Information for 2003-04 is as follows:

Department	2003-04 Number of cars	2003-04 Annual contracted value (£)
Cabinet Office	9	552,200
DCA	3	188,200
DCMS	4	235,600
DEFRA	5	281,400
DfES	7	382,100
DFID	3	147,300
DfT	4	232,200
DTI	5	275,500
DWP	6	339,400
FCO	4	214,500
DH	6	422,300
HMT	5	292,200
Home Office	7	408,900
Law Officers	2	106,400
NIO	5	362,600
ODPM	7	394,300
Privy Council	1	56,000
Scotland Office	1	49,200
Wales Office	3	140,700
Total	87	5,081,000

Notes:
1. Cabinet Office figures prior to the Machinery of Government changes include cars for the Prime Minister's Office, the Leader of the House of Lords, the Chief Whips in both Chambers and the Minister without Portfolio. After the changes the figures exclude the Government Chief Whip for the House of Lords.
2. The Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) became the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) following Machinery of Government changes in June 2003.
3. The Government Car Service no longer provided services to the Ministry of Defence.

Information for 2004-05 is as follows:

Department	2004-05 Number of cars	2004-05 Annual contracted value (£)
Cabinet Office[1]	8	487,400
ODPM	6	366,800
DCMS	4	255,000
DfES	7	399,200
DFID	2	119,800
DTI	5	286,300
FCO	4	231,700
Department of Health	6	382,200
HM Treasury	5	303,300
Home Office	7	386,900
DCA	4	248,300
Law Officers	2	113,100
MOD[2]	0	0
Northern Ireland Office	5	373,700
Privy Council Office	3	195,400
Scotland Office[3,4]	1	56,700
Wales Office[3]	1	66,400
DEFRA	5	294,700
DfT	4	239,200
DWP	6	357,500
Total	85	5,163,600

[1] Cabinet Office figures include cars for the Prime Minister's Office, the Leader of the House of Lords, the Chief Whips in both Chambers and the Minister without Portfolio.
[2] No Government Car Service (GCS) cars or drivers were provided to the Ministry of Defence during 2003-04 or 2004-05.
[3] The right hon. Alistair Darling MP was both Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland. All his GCS costs were met by the Department for Transport. The right hon. Peter Hain MP was both Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales. All his GCS costs were met by the Northern Ireland Office.
[4] The GCS car and driver provided to the Scotland Office was shared by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, David Cairns MP, and the Advocate-General, Dr. Lynda Clark QC.

Information on costs for ministerial cars and drivers for 2005-06 and 2006-07 was published in a written ministerial statement on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 109-11WS; for 2007-08 in a written ministerial statement on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 116-18WS; and for 2008-09 in a written ministerial statement on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80WS.

Information for earlier years is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Additional information to answer parts *(b)* to *(f)* could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people successfully applied for a provisional driving licence for motorcycles only in each year since 1997. [288276]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 20 July 2009]*: The information requested is not held. Provisional driving licences are not issued with motorcycle entitlement only. Since 1 February 2002, all provisional licences automatically include motorcycle entitlement. Prior to this date, drivers who wanted provisional motorcycle entitlement had to request that it was included on their licence; it was then limited to two years.

Driving: Training

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent providing training courses on road safety offered to drivers who would otherwise be fined for speeding; and if he will make a statement. [288378]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is not responsible for the funding of courses offered to drivers as an alternative to a fixed penalty for a speeding offence. Speed awareness courses are run by the police and designed to be self-funding with the client fee covering the costs involved.

East Coast Railway Line

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 93W, on the east

Coast Railway Line, what information his Department holds on the operating surplus made by Intercity services in each of the last 10 years during which British Rail operated those services; if he will commission research to establish the proportion of that surplus which was attributable to the Intercity services run on the East Coast Main Line; and if he will make a statement. [287815]

Chris Mole: Further to my answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 94W, the Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 93W, on East Coast Railway line, if he will set a target for the surplus of income over operating costs to be met in relation to services on the East Coast Main Line during the period that those services are in public sector management; and if he will make a statement. [287865]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport will be considering ways of incentivising the East Coast Main Line company to operate efficiently.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department plans to begin the pre-qualification process for invitations to tender for the Inter-City East Coast franchise. [289205]

Chris Mole: In the event that a state company takes on responsibility for the inter-city east coast services later this year, the Department for Transport will consult on a new franchise specification with a view to issuing an invitation to tender in the summer of 2010.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of proposed public ownership of East Coast Main Line services on open access operators on this route. [289206]

Chris Mole: The operation of the East Coast Main Line franchise under public ownership should have no impact on open access operators on the route.

While the East Coast Main Line franchise is under public ownership, it will abide by the same industry schemes, mechanisms and regulatory regimes as are currently applicable under the National Express operated franchise. These same regimes are generally applicable to open access operators.

East Coast Railway Line: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether funds have been allocated from *(a)* the current rail budget for Control Period 4 and (ii) other transport budgets in respect of the cost of (i) the public company set up to run services on the East Coast Main Line and (ii) re-letting the Inter-City East Coast franchise. [289199]

Chris Mole: The Government will seek to recover the costs of setting up the public company to run services on the East Coast Main Line and the costs of re-letting the Inter-City East Coast Franchise from the performance bond in the National Express East Coast franchise, and as such, no funds have currently been allocated from the Control Period 4 rail budget or other transport budgets.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the annual cost to the public purse of running National Express East Coast rail services under *(a)* a management contract with a private operator and *(b)* a Government-owned company set up by his Department. [289200]

Chris Mole: Due to timescale and procurement issues, the Government concluded that running services on the east coast main line under a management contract with a private sector operator was not a practical option. Work is in hand on developing a costed business plan for the publically owned company that has been created by the Department for Transport to take over the operation of services on the east coast main line as and when National Express East Coast cease to operate those services.

Eurostar

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1162W, on high speed trains, if he will make it his policy to sell Eurostar UK by competitive auction. [288056]

Chris Mole: Negotiations are well under way with our international partners to facilitate the development of the Eurostar partnership by merging the UK, French and Belgian operations into a single incorporated UK-based company.

The aim is to create a Eurostar that is financially stable, can develop its services for the benefit of passengers, can meet the challenge of competition for international rail passengers from 2010, and is free from future Government support.

The Government will retain the ability to sell their shareholding in the new business by competitive auction at a future date.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 June 2009, on Eurostar, by what means his Department intends to demonstrate value for money for the taxpayer by negotiating the incorporation of Eurostar UK into a single company in which the Government have a minority stake; what expressions of interest in Eurostar UK have been received; what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the provision of new services to Amsterdam and Cologne of the establishment of a single Eurostar company; and if he will make a statement. [288057]

Chris Mole: Deutsche Bahn indicated to the Government their general interest in Eurostar UK Ltd. (EUKL), but this did not result in a formal offer for the company.

The assessment of value has been based on a comparison between endeavouring to sell EUKL as an undertaking separate to its current successful partnership, and the benefits of an incorporation deal.

The Government believe that a sale of EUKL as a separate entity would be of uncertain value and considerable risk. In contrast incorporation offers an opportunity to shape the provision of Eurostar's cross-Channel rail services to the benefit of passengers, while creating a tradable shareholding in a future business that is more stable and certain than EUKL on its own.

Separately the Government remain keen to encourage competition on cross-Channel rail passenger routes to the benefit of the High Speed 1 business. We aim to sell a concession for High Speed 1 as soon as market conditions allow and the concessionaire will be incentivised to promote competition on the line—to Paris, Brussels and beyond. The newly incorporated Eurostar will be in a position to compete with any future competitors on a fair and equal basis.

Fisheries: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps have been taken since 2000 to reduce the numbers of *(a)* fishermen and *(b)* other persons killed at sea. [289189]

Paul Clark: Since 2000 the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), the Department for Transport and the Seafish Industry Authority, working in partnership, have:

Introduced Codes of Safety for Fishing Vessels of 15m to 24m in length, and under 15m in length;

Published 25 Merchant Shipping Notices (MSN) and Marine Guidance Notes (MGN) exclusively for the fishing industry, and 92 MSNs and MGNs intended for both merchant and fishing fleets;

Introduced a system of Risk Assessment for fishing vessels, so that skippers and fishermen can review their own operations and develop effective solutions to the risks faced;

Introduced Small Fishing Vessel Safety Guidance booklet to assist in their Risk Assessment process;

Ensuring a robust regime for all Fishing Vessels undergoing their renewal surveys and mid-term safety inspections by MCA surveyors;

Introduced a Prepare yourself for Survey booklet to assist fishermen in preparing their vessel for survey and for ongoing assessment of its condition by them;

Introduced a programme of inspection of small Fishing Vessels by local Coastguard Officers, who are able to deploy their local knowledge and the high regard in which the CG is held, to improve relations with local fishermen;

Further developed this programme of inspection with the use of surveyors on larger under 15m vessels and introduced, initially as a trial and now expected to be formalised dedicated inspection teams whereby trained inspectors can use higher technical skills and local knowledge to enhance safety of vessels and safety culture of fishermen;

Opened new Fishing Vessel Survey Offices in Brixham and Newlyn so that surveyors can be close at hand to large concentrations of Fishing Vessels;

Employed a skipper to conduct on board visits to vessels in Scotland to discuss safety with the crews;

Seafish has developed new standards for the hull construction and equipment of new Fishing Vessels under 24m;

New vessels are unable to Register as Fishing Vessels unless they are being built, surveyed and certificated to the Seafish Construction Standards. Vessels built prior to 2001 must also be surveyed by Seafish against the standards who then provide a report to MCA who then decide on the basis of this report whether the vessel can be registered;

Enhanced the mandatory training requirements for basic safety training in Sea Survival, Fire Fighting, First Aid, Health and Safety for all fishermen, focused in particular to ensure that young entrants to the industry receive sufficient basic safety training and experienced fishermen receive Safety Awareness training;

Developed new courses for skippers of smaller vessels in Navigation and Engine Room Watchkeeping and Stability Awareness, which lead to a Skippers Certificate;

Obtained grants from the EU Financial Instrument for Fisheries to allow the free provision of basic safety training in Sea Survival, Fire Fighting, First Aid, Health and Safety and Safety Awareness from 2001 to 2007;

Is providing funds from Seafish and DFT to provide free training in the Navigation and Engine Room Watchkeeping and Stability Awareness (between July 2008 and March 2009 the funding provided was £536,271); and

Conducted numerous safety campaigns with fishermen.

Further details of safety initiatives affecting other seafarers can be found in Annual Report and Accounts of the MCA submitted to Parliament each year and placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer Adjournment. [288906]

Mr. Khan: At present, I have no plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer Adjournment. However, my plans for visits have not been finalised yet.

Great North Eastern Railway: Connex

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many members of staff within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Strategic Rail Authority were assigned to duties related to ensuring the continuity of rail services following the surrender of franchises by (i) GNER and (ii) Connex. [283038]

Chris Mole: Although the GNER franchise was not surrendered, but converted into a management contract, there were three people employed by the Department for Transport who led on this process. However, others in the Department, including specialists in the finance and legal teams, would have contributed to the work.

The Department does not hold information in relation to the number of staff within the Strategic Rail Authority who worked on ensuring the continuity of rail services when the Connex franchise was surrendered. The Strategic Rail Authority would have been solely responsible for this.

Helicopters: Safety

Mr. Doran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment the Civil Aviation Authority has made of the safety implications of the wearing of wrist watch personal location beacons by passengers on helicopters serving the North Sea oil and gas industry *(a)* during the initial proof and concept trials carried out by British Petroleum and *(b)* after those trials. [288066]

Paul Clark: The Civil Aviation Authority did not make a specific assessment of the safety implications of wearing wrist watch personal locator beacons. This is because such beacons are not part of an aircraft's approved equipment and are treated in the same way as any other personal portable electronic device, such as mobile telephones, which have been the subject of a safety assessment. Operators remain responsible for ensuring that passengers are aware of and comply with the restrictions on their use.

Mr. Doran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the Civil Aviation Authority received reports on the potential effects on helicopter communications systems of the use of wrist watch personal locator beacons by passengers on helicopters serving the North Sea oil and gas industry; and what steps the authority took in response to those reports. [288067]

Paul Clark: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) started to receive occasional reports concerning interference with frequency 121.5 Mhz, the international civil distress frequency, in 2003. Reports were also received regarding breakthrough on frequencies adjacent to 121.5 Mhz.

In January 2009 the CAA held a meeting with helicopter operators and other stakeholders to discuss the concerns about the potential effects of inadvertent transmissions. These include radio interference on the emergency frequency, interference with aircraft systems, interference with other beacons, and the generation of false alarms. As a result the CAA established a working group to examine the issues in depth, and work by this group continues.

Highways Agency

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 73 of Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654, what estimate he has made of the savings to be made from new efficiencies in the Highways Agency in 2010-11. [289233]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency's 2007 comprehensive spending review settlement covering the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 includes a target to deliver value for money gains of £144 million by the end of that period. As announced in the November 2008 pre-Budget report, the Highways Agency is also committed to working to identify a further £150 million efficiency savings by 31 March 2011.

Inter-City East Coast Franchise: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of letting the Inter-City East Coast franchise to *(a)* GNER in 2005 and *(b)* National Express East Coast in 2007. [289207]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 619W.

Lighting: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has made available to local authorities through private finance initiative credits for signed street lighting contracts in each year since 2000. [289212]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows the amount of PFI credits allocated to local authority street lighting PFI projects in the financial year that each contract was signed:

Financial year	*PFI credits allocated (million)*
2001-02	18.6
2002-03	0
2003-04	166.8
2004-05	0
2005-06	101.8
2006-07	149.9
2007-08	94.9
2008-09	0

A Highway Maintenance PFI contract signed in Portsmouth in 2003 and worth £121 million PFI credits also includes the local authority's entire street lighting stock. This is not included in the above table.

Lorries: Roads

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which strategic routes have dedicated heavy goods vehicle lanes. [289198]

Chris Mole: There are no dedicated heavy goods vehicle (HGV) lanes on the Highways Agency's strategic road network. However, crawler or climbing lanes for slower vehicles, such as HGVs, are in operation on many parts of the network, including:

M4 Eastbound Junctions 19-18
M5 Northbound Junctions 20-19
M5 Northbound Junctions 18-17
M5 Southbound Junctions 19-20
M27 North and Southbound Junctions 11-12
M3 Northbound Junctions 9-8
M62 Westbound Junctions 25-24
A1(M) Northbound Junctions 60-61
A1 (M) Southbound Junctions 61-63

M25

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much of the budget allocated to the M25 private finance initiative project has not been spent to date. [289201]

Chris Mole: The M25 Design Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) contract awarded by the Highways Agency in May 2009 is worth a total of £6.2 billion. These costs will be incurred over the 30-year lifetime of the project.

During contract negotiations, the Government expressed a willingness to co-fund if necessary a proportion of the capital spending by the project consortium. In the event, no co-funding was necessary as all of the required funds were raised by the private sector.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 85 of Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654, what incentives his Department plans to put in place to increase take-up of low-carbon vehicles. [289235]

Mr. Khan: On 1 July, the Secretary of State for Transport announced a new £30 million Green Bus Fund from which bus companies and local authorities in England can compete over the next two years for funds to help them buy new low carbon buses.

In addition, changes to Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) have been announced whereby, from 1 April 2009, an additional 6p per kilometre will be payable for all eligible kilometres operated by low carbon emission buses in England.

All of this is in addition to our plans for electric vehicles and vans.

Motorways: Exhaust Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the costs of *(a)* congestion and *(b)* pollution resulting from traffic on English motorways; and if he will make a statement. [287895]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Department for Transport uses valuations to assess changes, either to the costs of congestion over time, or for particular interventions. Valuations are therefore in terms of comparisons with a base year or with regard to a scenario without a scheme or proposal.

The Eddington study, published in 2006, made use of analysis from the Department's National Transport Model. This looked at the costs of additional road congestion as it is predicted to increase over time, rather than the absolute costs of congestion. It estimated that the increase in time lost in England due to road congestion between 2003 and 2025 for all travellers including business and freight would be worth £23 to £24 billion by 2025 in 2002 prices.

Because the impacts of pollution are often locally specific, an assessment of pollution resulting from the whole motorway network would be very complex and so is not undertaken. When individual proposals are assessed, detailed analysis is undertaken.

With regard to CO_2 produced in the motorway network, changes to CO_2 emissions over time, and as a result of schemes are produced as set out in the Department's Road Transport Forecasts 2008, and the Active Traffic Management study. Some of this evidence will include valuations of the CO_2 changes.

National Express: East Coast Railway Line

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of each report on the due diligence process carried out by his Department on the financial viability of the east coast bid in the course of the franchising process. [289204]

Chris Mole: The National Express pre-qualification application was compliant in accordance with Treasury procurement guidelines. National Express Group committed, as part of its bid, a £40 million loan facility that was sufficient to maintain its contractual liquidity requirements, given its bid revenue projections, over the franchise term. Its bid was considered affordable.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has engaged consultants to advise on the status of the cross-default clauses in the National Express east coast franchise. [289222]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is taking extensive legal advice on the status of the cross-default clauses in the National Express east coast franchise.

Parking

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what regulatory provisions apply to the operation of public car parks operated by private companies. [284285]

Mr. Khan: The management of privately-owned car parks must be carried out in accordance with the general legislation applying to businesses, including consumer legislation and employment legislation.

Passenger Ships

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether alcohol will be allowed to be served in designated smoking cabins when the forthcoming smoking bans on cruise ships and passenger ferries come into force. [287943]

Paul Clark: Legislation on when and where alcohol may be served on cruise ships and passenger ferries will not be affected by the draft "Merchant Shipping (Prohibition of Smoking on Ships) Regulations" which are currently the subject of a public consultation exercise.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of resources available to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to enable enforcement of the proposed prohibition on smoking on ships and ferries. [288417]

Paul Clark: The deployment of Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) resources is considered as part of the regular discussions between the Agency and the Department for Transport on all aspects on MCA business.

Public Expenditure

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much of his Department's budget is linked to objectives of promoting health and well-being. [289208]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport's annual report and accounts for 2008-09, published on 16 July 2009, sets out the Department's budgets by Departmental

Strategic Objective (DSO) (annex A, table A2 page 218). Spend on promoting health and well-being is predominantly included within DSO 3 ("contribute to better safety, security and health") and DSO 5 ("improve quality of life and to promote a healthy natural environment").

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much he plans to allocate to each of the schemes referred to in "Building Britain's Future", Cm 7654, which are not directly related to transport. [289234]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has provided £350 million towards the £1.5 billion additional investment over the next two years to deliver 20,000 additional energy efficient, affordable homes to rent or buy. It is not contributing to any other schemes referred to in "Building Britain's Future" that are not directly related to transport.

Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what percentage of rail routes slam-door carriages have been removed since 2000. [289196]

Chris Mole: The withdrawal from all routes of Mark 1 design slam-door carriages, which were the subject of the 10-Year Plan for Transport, was completed in November 2005, apart from two units on the Lymington Branch which will be retired shortly.

Other slam-door designs, such as Mark 2s and 3s, remain in service but these were not the subject of the 10-Year Plan for Transport as they are fitted with central door locking, which prevents the doors from being opened while the train is in motion.

Railways: Electrification

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 769W, on rail: electrification, when Transport for London indicated to his Department that there was little likelihood of it funding and bearing the risks of the electrification scheme. [288059]

Chris Mole: Transport for London (TfL) wrote to the Department for Transport on 18 March 2009 to indicate that it does not wish to provide the funding to meet the balance of the Gospel Oak to Barking electrification scheme costs over and above the offer by the Secretary of State for Transport to TfL of a contribution of a capital sum of up to £25 million.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answers of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 769W and 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 539W, on rail: electrification, whether the offer made in January 2009 remains open. [288068]

Chris Mole: The offer was conditional on Transport for London taking forward the project, including working up a business case, finding the balance of the cost and bearing all risks. Transport for London wrote to us on 18 March 2009 to advise us that it was not willing to take the project forward on this basis.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 11 of "Building Britain's Future", Cm 7654, what estimate his Department has made of the cost of electrification per mile of railway line on the *(a)* Midland main line and *(b)* Great Western line. [289226]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has been carrying out detailed work on electrification and expects to make an announcement, including details of costs, shortly.

Railways: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what contingency measures he has in place to address any potential shortfall in his Department's budget as a result of rail franchise defaults in rail Control Period Four, 2009-14. [288187]

Chris Mole: If the Government are required to take rail franchises into the public sector on a temporary basis, they will ensure that sufficient funds are available to secure the continuation of rail services should the revenue from the fare box not be sufficient to meet the running costs. The transaction costs incurred in transferring franchises to the public sector in such circumstances are usually met from the franchise's performance bond.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much of the rail budget for Control Period 4 is unallocated and available. [289209]

Chris Mole: The Government set out the funds they have allocated to specific rail programmes in the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" which was published in July 2007. Funding for any other programmes or projects that are not contained in that White Paper will be made available as necessary.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for which smaller rail schemes funding in Control Period 4 is available. [289220]

Chris Mole: The Government set out their strategy for Control Period 4 (CP4) in their White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", which was published in July 2007. The rail schemes that are being delivered under that strategy are set out in the Office of Rail Regulation's determination of Network Rail's income for CP4. This is available on the Office of Rail Regulation's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 52 of "Building Britain's Future", Cm 7654 and the written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS, on franchise rail services, how much has been allocated to programmes related to *(a)* Reading Station, *(b)* Thameslink, *(c)* Birmingham New Street and *(d)* Kings Cross rail schemes during Control Period 4. [289221]

Chris Mole: Work on enhancement projects during Control Period 4 is undertaken by Network Rail in accordance with the ORR Determination.

In their determination relating to enhancements for control Period 4, ORR specified the four projects for which information is requested without allocating specific values to each project. ORR stated in its determination that:

"Although we have estimated the costs of delivering individual projects when determining how much revenue Network Rail needs in total, Network Rail is free to budget for individual schemes as it sees fit."

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the evidence submitted by his Department to the Transport Select Committee's inquiry into "Delivering a Sustainable railway: a 30-year strategy for the railways", HC 219 (2007-08), how much his Department plans to spend in Control Period 4 *(a)* on improvements to medium-sized stations, *(b)* to facilitate strategic freight network infrastructure, *(c)* on the Network Rail Discretionary Fund and *(d)* on the delivery of 1,300 extra carriages. [289224]

Chris Mole: These projects are to be financed and delivered by Network Rail and the Rolling Stock Leasing Companies. The Government have set out the funding of over £10 billion that it intends to make available for the Railway during Control Period 4 in its White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway".

Railways: Franchises

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 294W, on railways: franchises, how much revenue support is available to each train operating company in each year of its franchise. [289232]

Chris Mole: The amount of revenue support that is payable to franchised rail operators is determined by the contracts that those operators have with the Government. The Department for Transport makes internal forecasts for amounts payable under the revenue sharing provisions and funding is available to ensure that it can honour its obligations under those contracts.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of the rail network has had the train protection and warning system installed. [289197]

Chris Mole: 100 per cent. of the train protection and warning system has been installed across the entire rail network as required by the Railway Safety Regulations 1999 and as set out by the Government's 10-Year Plan for Transport.

This programme of work has resulted in a 85 per cent. fall in risk from signals passed at danger.

Railways: South East

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 178W, on railways: South East, what his most recent estimate is of the additional costs likely to be incurred during the mobilisation phase of the project; how much his Department has allocated for expenditure on those additional costs; and when he expects to be able to make a final estimate of those additional costs. [289227]

Chris Mole: The total cost of the mobilisation phase of the South Central franchise project is not yet known, given that this phase only commenced on 8 June 2009 and runs until the franchise commences on 20 September 2009. The estimated external costs for this phase of the project are £180,000.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of road accidents involving *(a)* cyclists, *(b)* pedestrians and *(c)* motorcyclists. [288452]

Paul Clark: Measures currently under way include providing better infrastructure, funding cycle and child pedestrian training, improved training and testing for motorists, including motorcyclists, and encouraging these groups to make themselves conspicuous and, in the case of cyclists, by wearing a safety helmet.

Other initiatives such as anti-drink-drive and speeding campaigns and the provision of 20 mph zones can also contribute to the safety of these groups.

The effect of such measures are reflected in the 2008 road casualty statistics, which recorded a fall in the numbers of deaths of pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists by 11 per cent., 15 per cent. and 16 per cent. respectively.

Earlier this year we consulted on proposals for a new road safety strategy for the period beyond 2010. The consultation closed this month and we will be issuing a new strategy later this year.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the size of the backlog of road maintenance for strategic roads; and what his estimate is of the cost of clearing the backlog. [288575]

Chris Mole: There is no backlog of road maintenance on the strategic road network in England. The network is maintained by applying whole life cost principles, and takes account of the fact that it is not practical or sustainable to maintain the whole network in an as new condition. The condition of the strategic road network is monitored on a regular basis and an annual performance target is set in the Highways Agency Business Plan. This target has been met since it was introduced in 2004-05 in the Highways Agency's Business Plan.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on emergency repairs to the strategic road network in each year since 2000. [289211]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency does not separately record or report the cost of emergency repairs to the strategic road network. However, the annual accounts for the HA have reported the following in terms of expenditure on maintenance.

	£ million
2008-09	914
2007-08	879
2006-07	850
2005-06	852
2004-05	732
2003-04	726
2002-03	760
2001-02	711
2000-01	736

The expenditure figures are for maintenance on the strategic road network managed and maintained by the Highways Agency. This includes renewal of the road surface and repairs to structures, as well as routine maintenance such as gully clearing, white lining, cleaning and winter maintenance. Costs excluded are those associated with our PFI contracts and our traffic and incident management service.

Expenditure figures have been adjusted to account for spend relating to roads trunked or detrunked in the financial year.

Roads: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department considers signalled junctions with pedestrian facilities that do not meet the 2005 Department for Transport safety guidelines to be unsafe. [288045]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport (DfT) issues good practice guidance to local highway authorities on pedestrian facilities at signal-controlled junctions, which is contained in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 5/05. The document is on the internet at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/tal/signsandsignals/pedestrianfacilities/

and has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The relevant highway authority is responsible for the design, implementation and any subsequent monitoring of new crossings—including the consideration of safety issues. It is for them to decide if it is appropriate to follow DfT guidelines, depending on the circumstances of each case.

Slough-Windsor Railway Line

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had on the upgrade and expansion of the Windsor and Eton Riverside commuter rail line to take 10-carriage trains. [288722]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is working with the train operator and Network Rail to extend platforms on the south-western network to increase capacity on suburban routes, including the Windsor and Eton Riverside line, to enable the operation of 10-carriage trains.

South Central Franchise

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 298W, on Southern: standards, (1) and the Written Ministerial Statement of 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 32-34WS, on the South Central franchise, what *(a)* enhancements and *(b)* expenditure the Government have agreed to fund as part of the South Central franchise award; [289229]

(2) whether the Government expect Southern Railways to deliver any specific *(a)* enhancements and *(b)* investments during its operation of the South Central franchise. [289231]

Chris Mole: Under the South Central franchise agreement a number of investments and enhancements will be delivered by the franchisee over the next five years and 10 months. The minimum enhancements required by Government were set out in the invitation to tender dated 3 November 2008. In many areas GoVia has committed to exceed the minimum specified enhancements. In other areas it has committed to additional outputs that were not specified.

The Department for Transport has agreed to purchase an option offered by the franchisee to refurbish an additional 27 stations. This is in addition to funding the installation of ticket gates at 14 south London stations announced earlier this year.

Enhancements and investments included in the franchise agreement include:

14 per cent. additional a.m. peak vehicles arrivals into London terminal stations;

24 per cent. additional a.m. peak vehicles arrivals into Brighton;

New late evening and weekend services on routes in south London and on the south coast, and some services on Boxing Day;

Improved station staffing in the London area;

120 additional ticket vending machines;

Smartcards across the franchise from 2012;

1,122 additional car park spaces;

1,500 additional secure cycle parking spaces;

Additional gating schemes at 22 stations (in additional to the 14 already being sponsored by the DfT);

Station deep clean at all south central managed stations;

34 stations to benefit from refurbishment;

CCTV on all trains and all stations;

Rolling stock refurbishment;

30 stations to have station travel plans with a £1.25 million implementation budget;

Information provision improvements on trains and at stations including help points at 40 additional stations.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 298W, on Southern: standards, what targets Southern Railways

has set for *(a)* trains, *(b)* stations and *(c)* customer service in the (i) south London, (ii) Sussex and coast and (iii) Gatwick Express service group of its franchise. [289230]

Chris Mole: GoVia, as part of the South Central franchise agreement, has committed to achieve the following customer satisfaction scores for 2010 and 2014 as measured by the National Passenger Survey:

NPS targets	*Stations*	*Trains*	*Percentage Customer service*
2010			
Sussex and coast	73	75	76
South London	67	62	66
Gatwick Express[1]	n/a	86	81
2014			
Sussex and coast	81	80	81
South London	76	65	73
Gatwick Express[1]	n/a	88	85

[1] Gatwick Express refers to Gatwick to London Victoria non-stop services only.

Targets within the franchise agreement are set on a year by year basis and are measured as the average of the two NPS surveys per year. No targets are set for Gatwick Express stations as Network Rail manages both stations at which Gatwick Express calls.

Strategic Investment Fund

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 49 of "Building Britain's Future", Cm 7654, how much his Department has contributed to the Strategic Investment Fund. [289188]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not made any contribution to the Strategic Investment Fund.

Suburban Development Research

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 19 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1424W, on suburban development research, whether the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's SOLUTIONS project has *(a)* reached its conclusions and *(b)* published its recommendations; and how much the programme has received from the public purse. [288256]

Mr. Khan: The Sustainability of Land Use and Transport in Outer Neighbourhoods (SOLUTIONS) project has finished case studies of London and the Wider South East Regions and of the Tyne and Wear City Region and is awaiting feedback from our non-academic partners before reaching final conclusions.

The project has not yet published its final recommendations but has posted draft reports about the project and case studies on the website www.regionalvisions.ac.uk. The final version of the reports will be published on the website and we will provide a copy for the Libraries of the House.

The programme of research over a period of five years has received £1.75 million from Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and funding from the Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government. The expected contribution is expected be approximately £120,000 between the two Departments.

Transport Innovation Fund

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1445-46W, on the Transport Innovation Fund, and with reference to his Department's publication, "Supporting the development of TIF packages", published on 4 March 2009, how much funding his Department intends to allocate to the Transport Innovation Fund in each year to 2018-19. [288190]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The following table shows the total value in each year of allocations of support to individual projects that have already been made from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF). Decisions on the total of TIF funding will be taken as any further projects come up for approval, and for the years from 2011-12 decisions will be made when the Department for Transport's overall budget is allocated as part of Government-wide processes:

	£ million
2007-08	120
2008-09	106
2009-10	356
2010-11	291
2011-12	622
2012-13	1,250
2013-14	1,313
2014-15	1,142
2015-16	800
2016-17	0
2017-18	0
2018-19	0

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 103W, on the Transport Innovation Fund, how much funding has been allocated to each of the projects named in the answer; and over what timescale in each case. [288572]

Mr. Khan: The following table sets out the total funding allocated by year from the Transport Innovation Fund to each of the projects:

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*£ million Total*
Rail freight schemes										
Gospel Oak/Barking	—	18.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18.5

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	£ million Total
Humber ports	—	1.0	3.0	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	6.0
Peterborough/Nuneaton	—	20.0	30.0	30.0	—	—	—	—	—	80.0
Southampton/ Birmingham	—	15.0	27.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	42.8
Olive Mount Chord	—	0.8	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.7
Total rail freight schemes	—	55.3	61.7	32.0	—	—	—	—	—	149.0
Highways Agency traffic management schemes										
Birmingham Box (gross cost)	—	40.7	76.3	31.6	—	—	—	—	—	148.6
A14 (gross cost)	—	10.0	66.8	11.9	—	—	—	—	—	88.7
HA contribution to schemes	—	—	-20.6	-4.9	—	—	—	—	—	-25.5
Net TIF cost of HA schemes	—	50.7	122.5	38.6	—	—	—	—	—	211.8
Crossrail (DFT grant)	120.0	—	172.0	220.0	622.0	1,250.0	1,343.0	1,142.0	800.0	5,639.0

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1445W, on the Transport Innovation Fund, how much of the Government's contribution to Crossrail will be supported by the Transport Innovation Fund; and from which stream. [289228]

Mr. Khan: All of the Government's grant contribution to the cost of Crossrail will be supported by the Transport Innovation Fund in recognition of its significant contribution to national economic productivity.

Transport: Public Expenditure

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Statement made by the Secretary of State on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 335, on transport infrastructure, what his most recent estimate is of levels of spending on transport in the current three year period. [288573]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport's Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09 (HC 454) sets out, in Appendix A, the outturn for spending in 2008-09 and existing plans within departmental expenditure limits (DEL) and annually managed expenditure (AME) for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The following table repeats the total figures shown in that Appendix:

	2008-09 Outturn	2009-10 Plans	£0,000 2010-11 Plans
Resource			
DEL	5,518	6,398	6,371
AME	3,729	4,265	4,493
Total resource budgets	9,247	10,663	10,864
Capital			
DEL	7,183	8,314	7,412
AME	0	0	0
Total capital budgets	7,183	8,314	7,412

Planned expenditure in-year for 2009-10 and 2010-11 may vary depending, in particular, on decisions made on the take-up of end year flexibility from previous years.

Transport: Radioactive Materials

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many radioactive material movements within the UK there were by each mode of transport in each year since 1997; and how much waste was transported in each such year. [288422]

Paul Clark: The regulations for the transport of radioactive material require that the Secretary of State be notified of certain shipments of radioactive material. These shipments usually involve particularly large amounts of radioactivity and will include shipments of high level waste and irradiated nuclear fuel (often referred to as waste).

In addition, this Department sponsors periodic surveys into the radiological impact of the normal transport of radioactive material in the UK. These surveys involve collecting data on the number and nature of shipments of radioactive material during a particular year. The reports on these surveys have been placed in the House Libraries and are available via the Department for Transport website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/dgt1/road/guidance/guidance/guidance7class/theradiologicalimpactofthetr1178

The latest reports in this series were produced in: 2009 (sea transport, Ref. HPA-RPD-050), 2005 (road/rail, Ref. NRPB-W66) and 2003 (air, Ref, NRPB W39).

The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) is the security regulator for the UK's civil nuclear industry. It is responsible for approving security arrangements within the industry and enforcing compliance. For data specific to the transportation of civil nuclear material falling under the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003, you may also wish to view the OCNS annual reports entitled "The state of security in the civil nuclear industry and the effectiveness of security regulation" via the HSE website at the following address:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/ocns/publications.htm

Transport: Wakefield

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much local transport grant his Department has allocated to Wakefield metropolitan and district council in each year since its creation. [288660]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has allocated the following capital funding to Wakefield metropolitan district council (MDC) under the local transport plan system. This funding is not ring-fenced and Wakefield MDC has discretion to spend the allocations in line with its priorities. Funding for Integrated Transport reflects agreement within West Yorkshire on appropriate allocations between the district councils and the Integrated Transport Authority:

£ million

	Integrated transport block	*Highways maintenance*	*Total local transport funding*
2009-10	3.695	3.011	6.706
2008-09	3.564	3.004	6.568
2007-08	3.300	2.924	6.224
2006-07	3.279	3.399	6.678
2005-06	3.087	3.252	6.339
2004-05	2.801	3.639	6.440
2003-04	2.806	4.190	6.996
2002-03	2.886	3.762	6.648
2001-02	3.679	3.968	7.648
2000-01	—	4.608	4.608
Pre LTP funding			
1999-2000	2.882	—	2.882
1998-99	2.490	—	2.490

Note:
Information on funding for Wakefield from before 1998-99 is not available.

In addition to the above allocations £30.066 million has been provided to Wakefield MDC in the past three years for major projects:

£ million

	Project	*Funding*
2009-10	Hemsworth to A1 Link Road	6.381
2008-09	Hemsworth to A1 Link Road	14.654
	Glasshoughton Coalfields Link Road	2.977
2007-08	Hemsworth to A1 Link Road	2.519
	Glasshoughton Coalfields Link Road	3.535

Wakefield MDC receives a general revenue allocation on transport through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

Travel

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what recent estimate his Department has made of the comparative journey times from city centre to city centre between *(a)* London and Paris, *(b)* London and Brussels, *(c)* London and Amsterdam and *(d)* London and Cologne when travelling by (i) air and (ii) rail; [284548]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the relationship between journey times and the proportion of journeys made by rail for *(a)* inter-city journeys within England, *(b)* inter-city journeys between England and Scotland, *(c)* inter-city journeys between London and continental Europe and *(d)* inter-city journeys between UK cities other than London and continental Europe. [284549]

Paul Clark: Journey time is only one of the factors that people consider when they are making a choice about how to travel. Other factors include reliability, frequency and price. The Department for Transport has not carried out a detailed assessment of comparative journey times by rail and air. However the evidence does point to passengers making rail their first choice when it can provide a fast and convenient service.

For example, passengers on short-haul trips to European destinations are already increasingly turning to rail where that is an attractive option. Flights to Paris have fallen by over 20 per cent. since 2000, and flights to Brussels by over one third. Increasing the speed of trains within the UK can also have benefits. The journey time between Manchester and London has decreased from nearly three hours in 2007 to around two hours now. The number of rail passengers between Manchester and London increased by 64 per cent. between 2003 and 2008 from 2.1 million to 3.3 million per annum and over the same time period the number of air passengers has decreased from 1.9 million to 1.4 million, a 30 per cent. decrease.

On 15 January 2009 the Government announced that they were setting up a company, High Speed 2, to consider the case for new high speed rail services from London to Scotland.

UK Innovation Fund

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 51 of "Building Britain's Future", Cm 7654, how much his Department plans to contribute to the UK Innovation Fund in each of the next 10 years. [289203]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has no plans, at this time, to contribute to the UK Innovation Fund.

Waterloo Station

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects platforms 21 to 24 at Waterloo station to receive domestic rail services; and if he will make a statement. [289090]

Chris Mole: Capacity at Waterloo will be increased by lengthening platforms thereby allowing longer trains, carrying more people.

We are working with Network Rail to extend platforms at Waterloo station and across the whole south western network to increase capacity on some suburban routes from eight to 10-carriage trains by 2014.

As part of this, we are investigating how Waterloo and Waterloo International Terminal platforms 20 to 24 can be used to help increase capacity on the network. Work has been carried out on platform 20 and option

development work is now progressing on other platforms and enhancing the tracks outside the station to support the increase in capacity. We are continuing to work with South West Trains to provide the additional carriages for longer trains.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that fertiliser supplied to Afghanistan from his Department's budget is not misappropriated by the Taliban for use in weapon production. [289005]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID), the stabilisation Aid Fund and USAID jointly funded the governor of Helmand's wheat seed distribution programme ($11 million in 2008-09). The fertiliser was distributed through a USAID contractor who tracked recipients through a post-distribution monitoring structure. Military and civilian planners in Helmand assessed that the risk of the distributed fertiliser being used in bomb making was low.

This year's counter narcotic plan will distribute low nitrogen content fertilisers, so it will be difficult to use in weapons construction. The distribution and use of fertiliser will be monitored.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on aid to Afghanistan in 2008-09; and what proportion of such aid was delivered directly in Helmand province.[1] [289143]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £143 million of support to Afghanistan in 2008-09 through its bilateral programme. Of this, we spent £21.9 million on growth, livelihoods and governance programmes directly in Helmand province.

DFID publishes expenditure in its Annual Report and the Statistics in International Development publication. These are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to the agricultural sector in each of the bilateral country programmes in sub-Saharan Africa in each of the last five years. [287268]

Mr. Thomas: The total amounts that Department for International Development (DFID) has spent on projects and programmes in the agriculture sector through its bilateral programme in sub-Saharan Africa in the last five years are set out in table 1. Table 2 sets out the amounts that DFID has spent on food aid and food security programmes in sub-Saharan Africa over the same period. In addition to this, DFID also provides funds to national Governments through general budget support. Last year (2008-09) we estimate that £15.6 million of DFID's bilateral budget support was spent on the agriculture sector in Africa.

DFID's White Paper, published on 6 July, sets out our vision for a doubling of agricultural production in Africa over the next 20 years.

Table 1: DFID bilateral spending on agriculture programmes in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

£000

Recipient country	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Botswana	122	0	33	0	0
Burkina Faso	26	0	0	0	0
DRC	0	0	0	0	698
Ethiopia	1,931	344	23	13,490	4,204
Gambia	0	18	0	0	0
Ghana	3,199	4,632	1,945	3,098	2,723
Kenya	1,510	1,049	1,421	472	110
Lesotho	283	364	306	150	155
Liberia	0	0	0	0	0
Madagascar	33	22	18	16	0
Malawi	3,292	646	2,517	2,529	2,547
Mozambique	207	270	491	331	427
Namibia	470	596	280	0	0
Nigeria	2,125	3,681	2,609	1,835	1,039
Rwanda	396	282	1,995	1,394	1,090
SADC	0	50	100	0	0
Sierra Leone	0	0	17	66	79
Somalia	0	0	500	0	735
South Africa	705	599	463	292	239
SSA regional	807	192	110	279	166
Sudan	0	0	0	0	3,211
Swaziland	126	0	89	1	0
Tanzania	74	4	80	164	224
Uganda	1,358	264	64	90	396
Zambia	142	45	55	59	31
Zimbabwe	3	0	0	25	2,747
Sub-total	15,703	12,574	12,227	26,151	20,693

Table 2: DFID bilateral spending on food aid and food security programmes in SSA

£000

Recipient country	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Burundi	0	0	2,640	0	0
Chad	0	0	524	0	0
Eritrea	0	4		243	0
Ethiopia	59	386	464	182	20,704
Guinea	0	0	0	195	40
Kenya	3	0	0	215	449
Lesotho	336	594	607	671	686
Liberia	0	163	124	0	0
Malawi	4,014	730	867	177	0
Niger	8	0	0	183	39
South Africa	0	526	1,139	1,326	0
SSA regional	300	16	0	0	0
Sudan	1,670	740	936	747	0
Swaziland	0	0	0	1,722	798
Uganda	0	0	2,000	9,500	8,000
Zambia	209	4,370	569	447	831
Sub-total	6,587	7,499	8,701	15,368	31,201

1. *[Official Report, 12 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 2MC.]*

Africa: Poverty

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his G8 counterparts on progress towards meeting the target of doubling funding for the alleviating of poverty in Africa between 2005 and 2010; and on what dates these discussions were held. [285692]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State discussed this issue when he met counterparts from Germany, France and the United States at the World Bank annual meetings, held in Washington in April on 25-26 April. Further to this, I attended the G8 Development Ministers meeting in Rome on 11-12 June, where these issues were also discussed. Ministers and officials have regular conversations on this subject with counterparts.

The G8, at its summit in Italy, agreed a renewed commitment to development and to meeting its aid commitments including those for Africa. A mechanism for achieving greater accountability and transparency of G8 promises including an interim accountability framework was also agreed. In addition, the Prime Minister secured agreement for an international assessment of what is needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals, to take place in 2010.

CDC

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will direct CDC to cease conducting business through each of its subsidiaries located in off-shore financial centres. [288181]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: CDC will in future only commit capital to new funds and direct investments in jurisdictions implementing the international tax standard and in developing countries they are aiming to help.

Children's Rights

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has had from UNICEF on its Promise Me campaign on children's rights in respect of climate change and HIV/AIDS. [287538]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has not to date received representations from UNICEF on this campaign.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287401]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have not met with Mr. McBride in the course of my ministerial duties since his resignation on 11 April 2009.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287331]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) resource accounts were published with the annual departmental report on the 16 July 2009. Copies are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288911]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development paid 90 per cent. of correctly rendered invoices within 10 days of receipt in June 2009.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [287069]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to improving the work/life balance of its staff, and provides a wide range of flexible work pattern options.

On joining DFID, and at any subsequent time, all staff have the option to request to join our Flexible Working Hours Scheme (FWHS). Agreement to this is made by line managers, taking into account the operating needs of their unit. Options include home and remote working; term-time working; reduced hours; compressed hours; and flexible start and finish times.

We do not retain a central register of staff who have asked to join our FWHS, nor of all those who are working under those arrangements, but as at 30 June 2009, 145 (i.e. 8.6 per cent.) of our Home Civil Service (HCS) staff were working reduced hours.

DFID does not hold central records of those on job share employment contracts. Similarly, there are no central records of employees who work from home for more than four hours per week. To provide this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287003]

Mr. Michael Foster: The number of contracts let by the Department for International Development (DFID) to suppliers with fewer than 50 members of staff could not be made available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 250W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288995]

Mr. Michael Foster: All Department for International Development desktop and laptop computers use a standard PC build that includes Internet Explorer 7.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of the (i) male and (ii) female employees in his Department was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287519]

Mr. Michael Foster: Civil service statistics are collected by ONS from the annual civil service employment survey. The latest published statistics are for 31 March 2008.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cst0109.pdf

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what he estimates the cost to his Department of the rebranding of his Department's overseas aid will be; from which line in his Department's budget the cost will be paid; what the cost was of designing the new UKaid logo; which company designed it; if he will place in the Library a copy of the design contract; and what names other than UKaid were considered for the rebranding; [285338]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each logo which was considered during the redesign process for rebranding his Department's overseas aid; on which *(a)* items, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* vehicles and *(d)* other places the new logo will be placed; what he estimates the cost of printing (i) stationery, (ii) business cards and (iii) other items with the new logo will be; and if he will make a statement. [285339]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: 'UKaid' was developed through a process of research and testing with the UK public. From this research a range of designs were tested, of which 'UKaid' was the preferred option. It would be inappropriate to make public copies of unsuccessful designs.

We anticipate spending approximately £130,000 on re-branding our overseas aid, which will come from DFID's central communications budget. Of this, just over £98,000 was spent on developing, designing and testing the logo to ensure that it was meaningful to the UK public. It was commissioned via the Government's Central Office of Information (COI), following best practice and ensuring optimal value for money. As COI are the Government's procurement specialists no design contract was required.

In order to minimise the additional costs, and to ensure that the logo is introduced sensitively and appropriately, 'UKaid' will be phased in both in the UK and in the countries where we work. Within the UK the 'UKaid' logo will be used on a range of public communications, as well as DFID's website. Electronic templates will be updated at no extra cost; the logo will be incorporated into products as they are due to be replaced or replenished.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288746]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development spent the following sums using the Royal Mail in the last two years:

2007-08: £31,084

2008-09: £28,000

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287142]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) current procurement processes now meet or partially meet the majority of the Glover Report recommendations. We have introduced a new Commercial Strategy which encourages the use of outcome based specifications, and our contract award details are published online. DFID's Innovation Procurement Plan will be finalised this year. We are on track to meet the other recommendations through the strategic reforms we are bringing in as part of DFID's Procurement Improvement Plan.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on *(a)* the effect of the operation of vulture funds on standards of living in the developing world and *(b)* the extent to which UK businesses participate in such funds. [288014]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development has received regular representations from members of the public and non-governmental organisations on the harmful impacts of 'vulture funds'. These representations usually stress that 'vulture funds' divert much-needed resources away from developing countries and exploit debt relief that was provided with the aim of relieving poverty. They also express concern at the use of UK courts to pursue legal claims. A survey by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in 2008 reported that 10 businesses based in the UK and UK overseas territories had brought legal action on debts owed by heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC), although creditors may litigate for a variety of reasons.

The UK Government have already taken a range of actions to reduce the extent of the problem of 'vulture funds'. In addition, I am pleased that today my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has launched a consultation on legislation that would restrict the proportion of past HIPC debts that a creditor could reclaim under UK laws. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/

Developing Countries: Health Services

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the introduction of a currency transaction levy to raise funds for health initiatives in the least developed countries. [287544]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has received representations about the currency transaction levy (CTL) in relation to the work of the High Level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems from NGOs in various meetings at official level. The Taskforce Secretariat, of which the United Kingdom is a member, has received 33 campaign e-mails about CTL to date. It has also received two written submissions about CTL in response to its public consultation exercise. In addition, the Prime Minister has received three letters about the CTL.

The Prime Minister co-chairs the taskforce together with World Bank President Robert Zoellick. The taskforce aims to mobilise additional resources for health systems strengthening in the poorest countries in the world through the use of innovative financing mechanisms. The Taskforce report is available at:

http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/en/taskforce

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer Adjournment. [288912]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I will next be visiting the Department's joint headquarters in Glasgow on Friday.

Iran: Afghanistan

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his Iranian counterpart on support for Afghan refugees in Iran. [288578]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Secretary of State for International Development has not had any recent discussions with the Iranian Government about support for Afghan refugees in Iran.

The Department for International Development has contributed £19 million to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva to address refugee issues worldwide including in Afghanistan and Iran.

Maldives: Housing

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department intends to take to support the President of the Maldives in the delivery of additional social housing. [287783]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since 2005-06 the Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided any bilateral overseas development assistance to the Maldives.

DFID continues to provide support indirectly to the Maldives through its contribution to the European Community (EC). The EC's country strategy in the Maldives focuses on institutional capacity building, support to social sectors and the environment. DFID is also an important stakeholder and funder to international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Their main focus in the Maldives is policy and institutional reform. We have encouraged these institutions to engage constructively with the Maldivian Government.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* agriculture and *(b)* food security in each of the last three years in (i) bilateral expenditure, (ii) multilateral contributions and (iii) research; and how much it intends to allocate to each such category in each of the next three years. [287294]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following table sets out the Department for International Development's (DFID) spending on agriculture and food security for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08. Comparable figures are not yet available for 2008-09.

The Prime Minister announced the Government's commitment to spend £1.1 billion on agriculture and food security over the period 2009-10 to 2011-12. Programming of this expenditure is not yet finalised.

DFID agriculture and food security spending

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bilateral			
Agriculture	83	95	77
Fisheries	4	6	2
Rural development	26	25	49
Sub total	114	126	128
Food security	18	19	36
Total agriculture and food security	132	145	164
of which RNR Research	33	26	27
Multilateral			
Agriculture	32	108	93
Fisheries	6	2	6

DFID agriculture and food security spending

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Rural development	20	29	19
of which RNR Research	6	3	6
Sub total	58	138	120
Food security	31	27	19
Total agriculture and food security	89	165	139
Total	221	310	303
of which RNR Research	38	30	32

Notes:
1. Excludes emergency humanitarian food aid and basic nutrition
2. Multilateral sectoral share—latest data available 2007-08
3. Agriculture includes livestock
4. RNR research includes agriculture, fisheries and forestry

Palestinians: EC Aid

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on non-governmental organisations delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza in co-operation with Hamas. [286919]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The issue was most recently discussed at a meeting between Department for International Development and EU officials on 6 May.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the United States Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Aid Control on the provision of emergency licences to USAID-partner organisations to engage social services and civil society in Gaza. [286920]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have not made representations to the United States Department of the Treasury on this issue.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take in respect of UK-based, aid-giving non-governmental organisations which deliver aid with the co-operation of Hamas. [286921]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government expect all partner organisations and agencies to take the utmost care when carrying out their work in Gaza to fulfil their obligations under EU and UK legislation, including in relation to contact with Hamas. We have informed our partners of this position.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is giving to enable aid to reach Gaza. [288359]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £1 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) to co-ordinate the relief items brought into Gaza by the UN and non-governmental organisations, to ensure that aid reaches those in most need. WFP's work includes the provision of transport, logistics and co-ordination of advocacy for improved access. This is part of DFID's almost £50 million overall response to the recent fighting in Gaza.

The UK Government continue to press the Israeli Government to allow full, consistent and unhindered access to Gaza for aid and aid workers, as well as to relax restrictions on the types of goods that are allowed to cross the border.

Senegal: Overseas Aid

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect aid his Department provided to Senegal in 2008. [287024]

Mr. Thomas: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure were published in DFID's Annual Report 2009 which is available from the Commons Library or online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

In financial year 2008-09 the only DFID bilateral aid to Senegal was delivered by not-for-profit organisations through the Civil Society Challenge Fund and amounted to £163,000. Data on DFID's share of multilateral aid to Senegal for 2008-09 are not yet available, but in 2007-08 it is estimated that £9.2 million of DFID's core contributions to multilateral organisations went to Senegal.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka since the end of the conflict in that country; and what steps his Department is taking to support internallydisplaced Tamils. [288582]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 12-13WS. This sets out our assessment of the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka and our efforts to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to meet its pledge of returning internally displaced persons to their homes as soon as possible.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to answer Question 280485, tabled on 12 June 2009, on payments to contractors; and if he will make a statement. [287774]

Mr. Michael Foster: The answer to question 280485 will be given today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on terrorism: finance, what criteria the British Council is using to allocate funding to each *(a)* country and *(b)* project; and how it plans to assess the effectiveness of such expenditure. [262407]

Chris Bryant: The spending profile of the £6 million allocated to the British Council's Reconnect initiative to tackle radicalisation and promote understanding overseas will be £1 million, £2 million and £3 million from 2008-09 to 2010-11 respectively. There is no ring-fenced allocation for each country. Allocations depend on the quality of project proposals submitted for funding, measured by anticipated impact, and the priority accorded to that country. The British Council has a rolling professional evaluation process in place for all its programmes.

British Overseas Territories: Discrimination

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK overseas territories do not have constitutions which prohibit discrimination on the grounds of *(a)* sexual orientation, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* gender. [287993]

Chris Bryant *[holding reply of 20 July 2009]:* Three overseas territories have constitutions with Bills of Rights dating from before 1997, namely Bermuda, Montserrat and Anguilla. Six overseas territories have new constitutions agreed since 1997 (Turks and Caicos Islands, Gibraltar, Falkland Islands, British Virgin Islands and—not yet in force—Cayman Islands, and St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha), each of which has a Bill of Rights.

All of the Bills of Rights have an open-ended non-discrimination provision prohibiting discrimination on grounds of a status listed or other status. It is not therefore necessary to set out every status in the provision. Where existing constitutional provisions fall short of this, we ensure that negotiations on a new constitution result in a Bill of Rights which reflects at a minimum the European convention on human rights and the international covenant on civil and political rights.

Compensation: Foreigners

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has paid in compensatory or consolatory payments to non-UK nationals in each year since 1997. [285282]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep such records of total amounts of compensatory or consolatory payments made to non-UK nationals.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287403]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has never had a meeting with Mr. Damian McBride in or outside his ministerial duties.

Departmental Cybercrime

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last reviewed his Department's policy on recording numbers of attempted attacks against its computer systems. [288179]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office complies with the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security. The relevant requirement states that:

"All ICT (information and Communications technology) systems must have suitable identification and authentication controls to manage the risk of unauthorised access, enable auditing and the correct management of user accounts".

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on advertising its Locate system for British nationals who plan to travel abroad in each year since its inception. [288246]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The promotion of Locate is a feature of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Know Before You Go public information campaign aimed at helping British travellers to stay safe and healthy abroad. It is impossible to calculate the exact spend on advertising Locate because the campaign combines a number of different travel safety messages, and local promotion initiatives have been funded from Posts' devolved budgets. However, we are able to specify that in 2008 the FCO paid £25,000 for Locate's media launch in the UK, and £24,300 for artwork and the development/printing of Locate leaflets and posters, mainly for use by our Posts abroad.

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287139]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been engaging with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) on the Glover report and made the following progress in respect of the recommendations:

We advertise our higher value UK requirements on the FCO website. The portal is being developed by OGC and consideration is being given to advertising on the Supply 2 Gov portal as an interim solution for our UK requirements.

We have been running a pilot of an OGC approved e-tendering system and we expect to meet this recommendation by the deadline.

We already do this for contracts advertised on the FCO website, but using the single portal will be considered in conjunction with the OGC development of the opportunities portal.

We already seek detail of all previous relevant experience, not just that limited to the public sector.

We published our Innovation Procurement Strategy and Implementation Plan on the FCO website on 15 July 2009.

We encourage greater use of outcome-based specifications.

We have altered our supplier adoption processes to clearly identify small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and enable the collection of SME expenditure data.

The OGC will be rolling out guidance to facilitate the implementation of the remaining Glover recommendations and the FCO will seek to adopt this guidance into its policy and processes in the required time scales.

Departmental Training

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on training for *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department in the last 12 months; and what the purpose of each training activity was. [286123]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer by my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Gillian Merron) of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 505W.

In addition to the training detailed in that reply, in the last 12 months £125 has been spent on IT training for my right hon. and noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provision is made to enable students to undertake work experience in his Department; by what means members of the public may obtain information about work experience in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [288728]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) centrally run work experience programmes are aimed at broadening the diversity of our work force.

We currently offer up to 40 students a place every year on the Partner University Placement Scheme, a positive action work experience programme to promote social inclusion and ethnic diversity within the FCO.

The FCO also participates in Cabinet Office diversity internships; taking up to 10 students and recent graduates from the Summer Development Programme (SDP) and the Summer Placement Scheme (SPS). The SDP is an internship for students from a black or minority ethnic background and the SPS is for students with a registered disability.

We are also taking part in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Public Sector Graduate Internships, offering up to 30 places through financial year 2009-10.

Members of the public can find details of our centrally run work experience schemes through the work experience pages of the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/workexperience

Eritrea: International Assistance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek agreement at EU level to withhold EU aid payments to Eritrea if there is no agreed improvement in Eritrea's performance on human rights. [288025]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We remain concerned about the reports of human rights abuses in Eritrea.

The Eritrean Government have requested a discussion of human rights at the next EU Article 8 Political Dialogue meeting in September 2009.

The European Commission is conducting a mid-term review of its European development fund 10 (EDF 10) in October 2009. This assesses the relevance and performance of the current allocation of €122 million against the guidelines set out in the Commission's Eritrea country strategy paper.

We will consult closely with the European Commission in October if there is no improvement in Eritrea's performance on human rights.

Eritrea: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial support his Department has provided to Eritrea in the last 12 months. [288026]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last 12 months, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has provided £107,000 to a female genital mutilation project to support the National Union of Eritrean Women and £95,000 supporting agricultural workers, via the National Federation of Eritrean Workers, to obtain fair pay and working conditions. Both projects are run through the Government of Eritrea but are closely monitored by our embassy in Asmara through, for example, visiting local health clinics where workshops are taking place.

Foreign Relations

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which ambassadors to the UK he has requested to attend the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the last two years; and for what reasons in each case. [288541]

Chris Bryant: Ministers and senior officials regularly meet ambassadors at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and a full list of invitations to meetings would be disproportionately costly to provide.

Gilad Shalit

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to secure the release of Gilad Shalit. [283350]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer July 2009]:* The UK continues to call on Hamas for the immediate, unconditional, and safe release of Corporal Shalit. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear

in his press statement on 25 June 2009 and the message was also reiterated during the EU Foreign Ministers' meeting on 15 June 2009.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer Adjournment. [288920]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer Adjournment.

Hamas

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with aid agencies based in the UK to ensure that aid they provide is not misappropriated by Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [287519]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All the organisations the Department for International Development (DFID) funds must meet their obligations in respect to EU and UK legislation on contact with Hamas. DFID officials are in regular contact with our partners to underline this position.

Holidays Abroad: Death

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens died whilst on holiday in another EU member state in each of the last five years. [248392]

Chris Bryant: Given the volume of information, my predecessor, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Gillian Merron) placed a copy in the Library of the House.

Iran: Diplomatic Service

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many locally employed British Embassy staff in Iran have immunity from jurisdiction under Article 38.1 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961. [287299]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* No locally employed members of staff at British Embassy in Tehran have immunity under Article 38.1 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of conferring diplomatic status on non-Diplomatic Service staff employed by the British Embassy in Iran in accordance with the Diplomatic Service Regulations 2006. [287302]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Staff are appointed under article 7 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Regulations 1961, according to the functions they perform at the mission. In practice, the privileges and immunities staff enjoy stem from the receiving state's recognition that they have been appropriately classified, in line with their functions. The diplomatic service regulations do not apply to locally engaged staff who are employed on local terms and conditions, governed by local law and practice.

Jordan: Asylum

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Jordanian nationals were granted asylum in the UK in 2007-08. [282303]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

One Jordanian national was granted asylum in the UK in the financial year 2007-08.

Languages

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of staff required by his Department who speak each foreign language; how many staff in his Department speak each such language; how many staff in his Department have learnt a language in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [288612]

Chris Bryant: The following table shows the estimate of the number of operational speakers required by language. These figures are drawn from central human resources records which are constantly under review and subject to change at short notice for operational reasons. I am awaiting a report regarding the number of speakers in each language, which I will place in the Library once available.

209 officers have learnt a language in the last 12 months where it was necessary to do so to fulfil the job specification. In addition, a further 73 officers have learnt a language in order to help in-country acclimatisation.

	Number
Albanian	6
Amharic	1
Arabic	40
Azeri	1
Bosnian	6
Bulgarian	6
Burmese	1
Croatian	5
Czech	9
Danish	2
Dari	6
Dutch	6
Estonian	2
Farsi	6
Finnish	2
French	178
Georgian	1
German	35
Greek	5
Hebrew	2
Hungarian	6
Icelandic	2
Indonesian	9
Italian	10
Japanese	20

	Number
Kazakh	1
Korean	5
Latvian	1
Lithuanian	1
Macedonian	5
Mandarin	23
Nepali	4
Norwegian	4
Polish	7
Portuguese for Europe	17
Portuguese for Americas	16
Romanian	3
Russian	50
Serbian	4
Slovak	4
Slovene	2
Spanish for Europe	12
Spanish for Americas	60
Swahili	4
Swedish	6
Tagalog	1
Thai	4
Turkish	11
Ukrainian	6
Urdu	2
Uzbek	1
Vietnamese	5

Lithuania: Sexuality

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Lithuanian Government on the effect of recent changes to Lithuanian law on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in that country. [288820]

Chris Bryant: The Government are disappointed that on 14 July 2009 the Lithuanian Parliament overruled the veto of their outgoing President, Valdas Adamkus, and passed the controversial law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information.

The new law contains a clause which classifies "agitating in favour" of homosexual or bisexual relationships as potentially harmful to the development of minors. Our ambassador to Lithuania, together with EU partners, has expressed our concerns about this law, including in a meeting with President Adamkus on 22 June 2009. Lithuania's incoming President, Dalia Grybauskaite, is obliged to sign the Bill into law.

The Government welcome President Grybauskaite's statement that she disapproves of aspects of the law and will take all legal measures to seek its improvement. We will continue to work with EU partners to ensure that Lithuania satisfies its human rights obligations.

Lord Malloch-Brown: Official Residences

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when Lord Malloch-Brown plans to vacate Flat 2, Admiralty House; and what use is envisaged for the property after it is vacated. [287424]

Chris Bryant: Lord Malloch-Brown intends to vacate his ministerial residence on 27 July 2009.

With regard to the future use of the property, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 770W.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether evidence has been reported to him of war crimes being committed in Gaza by *(a)* the Israeli Defence Force and *(b)* Hamas. [288379]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are several reports in the public domain submitted by various international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on the issue of alleged war crimes committed by both sides during the recent Gaza conflict. The most recent report of 2 July 2009 from Amnesty alleges that breaches of international humanitarian law were committed by both Israel and Hamas.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has continued to state since 12 January 2009, we take seriously all allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law during the Gaza conflict and have consistently stated that they should be properly investigated.

Morocco: Fishery Agreements

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Moroccan fishing zones referred to in the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement are those in the Moroccan Exclusive Economic Zone. [288002]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

The Moroccan fishing zones referred to in the EU Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement are the Atlantic waters of the Moroccan EEZ. They do not cover the Mediterranean waters of Morocco's EEZ.

Palestinians: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take during the next 12 months at the United Nations in respect of recognition by the Palestinian Authority of the State of Israel as a Jewish state; and if he will make a statement. [287521]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We welcome the fact that the Palestinian Authority recognises the state of Israel and is prepared to negotiate a peace deal with it.

The nature of the state of Israel, and the role that religion plays, are matters for Israelis, although we would expect Israel to respect the rights of minorities as undertaken in Israel's declaration of independence and basic laws. We welcome the fact that the Israeli Government have not said that Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state should be a precondition for entering negotiations with the Palestinians.

The UK position is clear that a comprehensive peace should be based on two states, living side by side within secure and agreed borders based on those of 1967, with

Jerusalem as the capital for both states. Such a solution is the only way to do justice to the national aspirations of the Jewish people and of the Palestinians.

The two-state solution was envisioned in UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1850 of 16 December 2008, which the UK supported, and reaffirmed by the UK-led UNSCR 1860 of 8 January 2009. The UK will continue to make this position clear in future UN discussions.

Shanghai World Expo

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to attend the Shanghai World Expo 2010 event. [287021]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are committed to giving full support to Shanghai Expo 2010. Questions of ministerial attendance have not yet been finalised.

Spirit of Humanity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to complete his investigation into the Spirit of Humanity interception; and by what means he plans to communicate his findings to hon. Members. [288870]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this issue with the Israeli Foreign Minister on 1 July 2009. We have also raised this with officials from the Israeli embassy in London and await further clarification.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of humanitarian conditions in the Manik Farm camp in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [287108]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

There are an estimated 284,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Manik Farm camp. The Department for International Development's (DFID) humanitarian experts' latest assessment is that the conditions in the camp remain basic but continue to improve as the priority needs of shelter, food, medicine and immediate access to surgical treatment are gradually met. However, we are increasingly concerned about the lack of freedom of movement for the IDP population and the restrictions put on protection activities, such as ensuring the safety of the IDPs and reuniting children with their families.

I also refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 14 July, *Official Report*; column 12-13WS. This sets out DFID's current position on the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka: International Assistance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the International Monetary Fund on the proposed emergency loan package to the Sri Lankan Government; and if he will make a statement. [288634][1]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka and are also committed to helping Sri Lanka avoid an economic crisis that would impact most on Sri Lanka's poor.

The Chancellor is in close contact with the IMF and with ministerial colleagues, especially the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development.

The International Monetary Fund has not yet presented a programme for Sri Lanka. Once a programme is presented, it will be assessed on its merits and the situation on the ground in Sri Lanka at the time.

Ukraine: Monuments

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the report by Major J. Dart on the monuments and sites significant to United Kingdom military history in the Crimea; and if he will make a statement. [287691]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* I have placed a copy of Major Dart's report in the Library. There have been a number of developments since this report was written in May 2007.

Our embassy in Kyiv, in conjunction with local Sevastopol authorities, has been actively seeking a successful resolution to the long-standing issue of the Cathcart Hill monument. This private monument was built by a local entrepreneur in 1993 supported by public subscription, but has fallen into disrepair due to weathering, vandalism, theft and lack of maintenance by its owner.

Following the efforts of the embassy, the land on which the monument stands and associated historical artefacts have now been transferred to the ownership of the Sevastopol city administration, a prerequisite for the expenditure of Ukrainian state funds. Work is now under way for the official British Crimean War memorial near the village of Dergachi to become the focus for official commemoration with the complex at Cathcart Hill being simplified to become a place for quiet contemplation.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment her Department has made of the health risks to *(a)* a child aged five years and *(b)* an adult aged 30 years from an exposure to 48 fibres of (i) crocidolite and (ii) amosite per millilitre of air in a 12-week period; [288723]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the risk of *(a)* a child aged five years and *(b)* and adult aged 30 years developing mesothelioma as a consequence of exposure to asbestos; [288724]

(3) what assessment she has made of the health risks to *(a)* a child aged five years and (b) an adult aged 30 years from an exposure to 72 fibres of chrysotile per millilitre of air in a 12-week period. [288832]

1. *[Official Report, 9 September 2009, Vol. 496, c. 34-36MC.]*

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested could be produced only at disproportionate cost as it is currently not available or cannot be produced on a sound scientific basis in respect of a five-year-old.

The exposures in the question appear to relate to the "action levels" in the 2002 Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations which are no longer current. The current limit in the 2006 regulations is lower at 0.1 fibres per millilitre of air averaged over a four-hour period. Irrespective of this limit the regulations require exposures to be reduced to the lowest reasonably practicable level below 0.1 fibres per millilitre.

Risk assessment models are available for mesothelioma and asbestos-related lung cancer. These can be used to assess risk for given levels of exposure, exposure durations, types of asbestos, and the age at which exposure occurs—but only within the working age range.

Attendance Allowance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed attendance allowance in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England in (i) 1980, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2001, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2008. [286003]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table:

Attendance allowance—cases in payment

Date	Vale of York parliamentary constituency	England
November 1980	—	—
November 1997	1,300	1,006,300
November 2001	1,500	1,072,600
November 2005	1,960	1,213,340
November 2008	2,370	1,321,380

Notes:
1. The information is not available for 1980.
2. Figures taken from the 100 per cent data. (November 2005 and November 2008) are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for November 1997 and November 2001 are based on 5 per cent. sample caseload data, adjusted to 100 per cent. caseload data and rounded to the nearest 100, and are subject to sampling error.
4. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and 5 per cent. sample

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value of attendance allowance paid to residents from *(a)* the Vale of York and *(b)* England was in (i) 1980, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2001, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2008. [287393]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Expenditure on attendance allowance in (a) the Vale of York and (b) England

Financial year	Vale of York	Cash prices (£ million) England
1980	—	—
1997	3.0	2,073
2001	3.8	2,566
2005	5.3	3,200
2008	7.1	3,929

Notes:
1. Estimates are not available for 1980.
2. Estimates for 1997 and 2001 are based on 5 per cent. sample caseload data, adjusted to 100 per cent. caseload data and to published benefit expenditure.
3. Estimates for 2005 and 2008 are based on the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
4. Estimates for 2008 are based on averaging August and November 2008.
5. Estimates are adjusted to published benefit expenditure.

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data

Carer's Allowance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed carer's allowance in *(a)* St Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [287975]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Number of people who became entitled to Carer's Allowance

	St. Ives parliamentary constituency	Cornwall	England
2004	360	1,790	141,780
2005	390	1,910	146,470
2006	320	1,740	147,120
2007	370	1,670	125,590
2008	350	1,710	143,400

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures exclude some short term flows not captured by the relevant scans.
3. Figures exclude flows where people move out of one area and into another while remaining on the benefit.
4. Figures include people with entitlement but who do not actually receive Carer's Allowance, for example, because of the overlapping benefits rule.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* England were in receipt of carer's allowance on the latest date for which figures are available. [289161]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is provided in the following table.

Number of people in Sunderland and England receiving carer's allowance at November 2008

	Number
Sunderland local authority	3,340
England	417,800

Notes:
1. Excludes those with entitlement but payment has been suspended.
2. Figures rounded to nearest 10.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Carer's Allowance: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency received carer's allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; [287835]

(2) how many people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency *(a)* are entitled to and *(b)* receive carers' benefit. [288444]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

The number of people entitled to or receiving carer's allowance in Morecambe and Lunesdale parliamentary constituency

	Number
Number of people with entitlement	1,810
Number of people receiving carer's allowance	850

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Number of people with entitlement includes those where carer's allowance is not in payment but retain underlying entitlement.
3. Number of people receiving carer's allowance excludes those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.

Source:
Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Complaints

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken for complaints against *(a)* the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to be resolved was in the latest period for which figures are available. [288888]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average length of time for complaints against (a) the Child Support Agency and (b) the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to be solved was in the latest period for which figures areavailable. [288888]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency from 1 November 2008. The information the Commission collates on the average length of time to solve complaints is limited to the percentage of complaints which have been fully resolved or have a resolution plan put in place within 15 working days of receipt of the complaint.

The latest available information shows that in the year to March 2009, 97% of complaints have been fully resolved and/or have a resolution plan in place within 15 working days of receipt.

The information the Commission collates does not allow it to distinguish between complaints addressed to the Child Support Agency and those to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Child Support Agency office in each of the last five years; [280318]

(2) how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years. [280606]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the Hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the then Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions, how many *(a)* directors *(b)* senior managers *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Child Support Agency office in each of the last five years. [280318] and;

How much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years. [280606]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency from 1 November 2008. The available information on the number of directors, senior managers, specialist, delivery managers, executive support and administration people is set out in the attached Table 1. The information provided includes some elements of estimation due to the significant organisational changes since 2005, and in particular within the past year meaning that it is difficult to make like for like comparisons.

Over the period from 2004 to 2009, two separate Department for Work and Pensions schemes for payment of bonuses have operated within the Child Support Agency; a modest special bonus scheme and an individual performance bonus scheme. The guidelines, policy funding and framework for these schemes were set by the Department. Individual performance bonuses are based on annual appraisal markings and are awarded at the end of the operational year. Additional special bonuses can be awarded to an individual outside the annual appraisal system, to recognise and reward an exceptional personal or team achievement.

Table 2 shows the total amount paid to Agency employees as individual performance bonuses for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 only. For the period 2004-05 to 2006-07, we are unable to analyse the total spend by job role and have therefore given information on the total spend in each year. Information on special bonus payments broken down by job role is also not available. The total spend is therefore shown for all employees for all years requested.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Breakdown of Child Support Agency employees by job description

March 2009

Location	Specialist Manager	Delivery Manager	Senior Manager	Director	Grand Total
Birkenhead CSAC	9.54	47.33	2	—	58.87
Dudley CSAC	11.54	53.17	2	—	66.71
Falkirk CSAC	10.54	50.85	4	—	65.39
Hastings CSAC	10.69	43.82	1	—	55.51
Plymouth CSAC	11.96	52.06	2	—	66.02
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Benton Park View	235.05	25.59	29	1	290.64
Other Sites	44.28	111.05	13	1	169.33
Grand Total	333.6	383.87	53	2	772.47
Total All Staff Employed	—	—	—	—	9,014

March 2008

Location	Specialist Manager	Delivery Manager	Senior Manager	Director	Grand Total
Birkenhead CSAC	11.43	46.31	2	—	59.74
Dudley CSAC	15.13	44.48	2	—	61.61
Falkirk CSAC	11.84	55.03	4	—	70.87
Hastings CSAC	15.58	42.07	1	—	58.65
Plymouth CSAC	8.97	52	2	—	62.97
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Benton Park View	256.41	20.76	25	4	306.17
Other Sites	58.68	114.24	11	3	186.92
Grand Total	378.04	374.89	47	7	806.93
Total All Staff Employed	—	—	—	—	9,502

March 2007

Location	Specialist Manager	Delivery Manager	Senior Manager	Director	Grand Total
Birkenhead CSAC	9.75	40.97	2	—	53.82
Dudley CSAC	13.13	49.2	4	—	67.09
Falkirk CSAC	17.43	46.28	2	—	65.71
Hastings CSAC	10.56	26.15	1	—	37.71
Plymouth CSAC	8.96	51.23	2	—	64.05
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Benton Park View	277.38	14.97	25.61	4	321.96
Other Sites	79.76	111.17	14.06	4	208.99
Grand Total	416.97	339.97	50.67	8	819.33
Total All Staff Employed	—	—	—	—	1,1225

March 2006

Location	Specialist Manager	Delivery Manager	Senior Manager	Director	Grand Total
Birkenhead CSAC	9.31	41.86	2	—	53.17
Dudley CSAC	17.4	43 2	1	—	61.6
Falkirk CSAC	24.27	35.6		—	59.87
Hastings CSAC	11.56	29.94		—	41.5
Plymouth CSAC	9.61	49.6	3.94	—	63.15
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Benton Park View	165.08	11.95	15.61	3	195.64
Other Sites	51.84	87.77	10	1	150.61
Grand Total	289.07	299.92	32.55	4	625.54
Total All Staff Employed	—	—	—	—	11,034

March 2005

Location	Specialist Manager	Delivery Manager	Senior Manager	Director	Grand Total
Birkenhead CSAC	1.86	52.98	3	—	58.27
Dudley CSAC	12.86	65.27	1	—	79.89
Falkirk CSAC	12.35	48.57	1	—	64.4

Location	Specialist Manager	Delivery Manager	Senior Manager	Director	Grand Total
		March 2003			
Hastings CSAC	9.85	50.3		—	62.25
Plymouth CSAC	1	60.16	2.5	—	66.1
Newcastle-Upon Tyne Benton Park	212.59	4	13	4	234.24
Other Sites	64.79	92.52	9	—	166.31
Grand Total	315.4	373.8	29.94	4	731.46
Total All Staff Employed	—	—	—	—	9,784

Estimated Executive and Administrative Support

		Number
March 2005	Estimate - Based on Number of Senior Managers	28
March 2006	Estimate - Based on Number of Senior Managers	29
March 2007	Estimate - Based on Number of Senior Managers	33
March 2008	By Organisation Design	35
March 2009	By Organisation Design	37

Notes:

1. The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency (CSA) from the Department for Work and Pensions on 1 November 2009. As a result, information available on the number of managers and support staff working within the CSA for the 2008-09 year is limited as the existing organisational structure underwent significant change.
2. There will be some managers shown as working for the CSA in the 2008-09 year who may have been working entirely within the new services offered by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.
3. Information on the numbers of Executive Support and Administration Staff can not be extracted from CSA data. An estimate of the number of staff deployed in those roles has therefore been provided. This estimate is extrapolated from the number of senior managers in the CSA for 2005 to 2007, and on the organisational design from 2007-08 and 2008-09.
4. The Child Support Agency operates from six main sites with a supporting network of around 100 smaller sites.

Table 2: Child Support Agency Bonus Payments by Job Role

£'000

	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	March 2009
Directors	[1]	[1]	[1]	106	30
Senior Managers	[1]	[1]	[1]	237	185
Delivery Managers	[1]	[1]	[1]	181	84
Specialist Managers	[1]	[1]	[1]	162	108
Executive and Admin Support	[1]	[1]	[1]	13	9
Total special bonus paid (all Staff)	450	559	394	358	563
Total of all Bonus Paid (All Staff)	3,768	3,873	3,734	3,977	2,631

[1] Information on bonuses paid in the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 can not be broken down by job role.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of implementing the child support elements of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000 *(a)* were estimated to be on introduction of the legislation and *(b)* have been. [279116]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of implementing the child support elements of the Child Support Pensions and Social Security Act 2000 *(a)* were estimated to be and *(b)* have been to date. [279116]

The Child Support Agency's Reform Programme was closed by October 2005, and it had spent £539m on implementing the reforms, compared to an estimated cost in the original business case of £608m.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures there are for non-resident parents to appeal against liability orders for child maintenance. [281764]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member, with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. The Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what procedures there are for non-resident parents to appeal against liability orders for child maintenance. [281764]

Liability Orders are currently made in the Magistrates' Court (or Sheriff Court in Scotland). The non-resident parent may appeal such an order to the Administrative Court of Appeal, or Court of Session in Scotland, on the grounds that the decision was wrong in law or the court did not have the jurisdiction to make the decision.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is taking to resolve cases of arrears in the payment of child maintenance. [281840]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is taking to resolve cases of arrears in the payment of child maintenance. [281840]

Collection of maintenance, including arrears, remains a priority for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. In March 2009 alone, the Commission collected and arranged over £100 million in maintenance, almost £14 million of which was arrears, and collected a total of £158 million in child maintenance arrears in the year to the end of March 2009.

The current amount of arrears owed by non-resident parents is the cumulative total of sixteen years of maintenance owed. In order to address these cases, the Commission is continually improving enforcement. In the twelve months to January 2009, the Commission completed 120,970 enforcement actions, including almost 70,000 deduction from earnings orders.

The Commission can already apply to the court for a non-resident parent who wilfully refuses to pay child maintenance to be disqualified from driving or committed to prison. Powers yet to be commenced under the 2008 Act include asking the court to impose a curfew or to disqualify the non-resident parent from holding or obtaining a passport.

The measures proposed in this year's Welfare Reform Bill include the Commission having the ability to remove passports and driving licences administratively, without needing to go through the courts. It is such measures which we will continue to use to take action against those parents who owe arrears to their children.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed recent research on the effectiveness of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and its predecessor agency in recovering child maintenance payments from non-resident parents. [281843]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department has (a) commissioned and (b) reviewed recent research on the effect of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and its predecessor agency on the recovery of child maintenance payments from non-resident parents. [281843]

The Commission publishes a quarterly Summary of Statistics which contains a full range of statistical information assessing the impact of the Child Support Agency on the recovery of child maintenance. The latest copy is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

In addition, in 2007 the Child Support Agency commissioned research to better understand the client experience, and the issues and service that clients believe need to be improved. This research was published in February 2008 as the DWP Research Report: No 471 CSA Client Insight Research 2007. The Agency also commissioned two reports on the use of deduction from earnings orders in the collection of child maintenance; DWP Research Reports 520 and 530.

The Department for Work and Pensions commissioned the Relationship and Separation survey in 2008, DWP Research Report 503, to inform the changes to the system of child maintenance which led to the introduction of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. This report focuses on the number and form of child maintenance arrangements in place, demographic information about the child maintenance population, past and future use of information and support, views on the changes to the child support system and likely behaviour as a result of these.

There have also been extensive reports conducted by DWP in the past on compliance levels, the effects of maintenance direct and international perspectives on child support.

Full details of all the Departments research reports are published online at the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp.

The Commission has begun its own programme of research, measurement and evaluation to provide robust measures of the impact of such services provided by the Commission, on our clients, as well as to understand more about the attitudes, behaviours, service needs and expectations of its current and potential future clients.

We will continue to work on increasing our understanding and knowledge of external research, and programmes are in place internally to provide an ongoing appraisal of the research landscape.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures are in place for obtaining child maintenance payments from a non-resident parent who has no permanent contact address. [288296]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member, with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions, what procedures are in place for obtaining child maintenance payments from a non-resident parent who has no permanent contact address. [288296]

The lack of a permanent address is not necessarily a barrier to the assessment and collection of child maintenance. If a non-resident parent can be contacted by telephone the information needed to carry out a maintenance calculation will be gathered by telephone and a contact address is not needed. If the non-resident parent has an employer correspondence can be sent via the employer. The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has several means which it can use to trace those non-resident parents who are evading their financial responsibilities, including contacting the DVLA, the Prison Location Service and credit reference agencies. The small numbers of cases where the non-resident parent can not be traced are kept under review and the child maintenance liability does not come to an end.

The lack of a permanent address is also not a barrier to the collection of child maintenance in many cases. Where the non-resident parent is in receipt of benefit, a contribution to maintenance can be taken from the benefit without a permanent contact address. Similarly if a non resident parent is in employment, maintenance can be deducted direct from wages. Maintenance can also be paid by direct debit or standing order as well as by cheque or cash.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will take account of tax credits in its calculation of non-resident parents' income from 2011; and if she will make a statement. [28861]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions, whether the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will take account of tax credits in its calculation of non-resident parents' income from 2011; and if she will make a statement. [28861]

Tax Credits will no longer be taken into account in the calculation of non-resident parent's income from 2011 as a consequence of the move from net income to gross income.

The White Paper proposed that tax credits should no longer be included in the calculation of a non-resident parent's gross weekly income. It stated (at paragraph 4.17) "It would not be appropriate for a liability to be based on a combination of tax credits that are currently being received and income from a previous period. Including tax credits from the previous year would complicate, rather than simplify, the way in which maintenance is assessed. Accordingly, and to reduce the complexity of administrative arrangements, we have concluded that tax credits should no longer be included as income."

The Government has committed to move to using information supplied by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), which will make maintenance calculations in the future scheme faster, more accurate and enable a more transparent process. HMRC taxable income information supplied to the Commission will largely derive from employers' end of year PAYE returns and from individual taxpayers' self-assessment returns. Neither data source will include tax credits as they do not form part of taxable income.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is continuing to work with HMRC to decide how to make best use of this information and the outcome of this work will be reflected in a detailed definition of the income measure to be used in the maintenance calculation. This will be included in a set of affirmative regulations, which will be introduced for parliamentary scrutiny in advance of the planned start date of 2011 for the future scheme.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations she has received on the adjustment of child maintenance payments to take account of a reduction in the working hours of a non-resident parent. [28864]

Helen Goodman: Child maintenance assessments are based on the income of a non-resident parent rather than their working hours. I have responded recently to a parliamentary question on this subject raised by the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) in which I confirmed that the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission routinely re-assesses child maintenance liability once a non-resident parent informs them of a reduction in their working hours which has reduced their income.

Cold Weather Payments

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments have been made as a result of temperatures reported by each weather station in each year since such payments were first made; and which weather stations cover each constituency. [27785]

Helen Goodman: Information on the estimated number of cold weather payments made for each weather station in Great Britain in 1999-2000 and each year from 2001-02 has been placed in the Library. (Information for other years is not available).

A list of the weather stations linked to each parliamentary constituency in Great Britain for winter 2008-09 has been placed in the Library.

Council Tax Benefits: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point receive 100 per cent. council tax benefit. [28266]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available in the format requested.

Crisis Loans

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans decision-makers are in post; and how many she expects to be in post by May 2010. [28436]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Crisis Loan decision makers are in post; and how many she expects to be in post by May 2010. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Since January 2009 we have seen increases in Crisis Loan applications and for the past five months they have averaged around 279,000 per month. Therefore, a decision was made to increase the number of Crisis Loan decision makers. We now have 1800 Crisis Loan decision makers taking calls with a further 200 expected to be fully operational by the end of September.

Across Jobcentre Plus we are currently recruiting staff into customer service operational roles to ensure we are able to deal with current increases in workload. We continuously review staffing levels on this basis therefore I am unable to say how many Crisis Loan decision makers are expected to be in post in May 2010.

Crisis Loans Line

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps she is taking to increase the proportion of calls made to the Crisis Loans Line which are answered; and how many calls the line *(a)* received and *(b)* answered in the latest period for which figures are available; [287983]

(2) what steps she is taking to increase the number of telephone calls to the Crisis Loans Line which are answered. [286942]

Helen Goodman: Jobcentre Plus does not have a single Crisis Loan call line. There are 20 Crisis Loan Benefit Delivery Centres nationally, each with their own dedicated 0800 telephone number and we do not have robust statistical information on a national level.

In March 2008 Jobcentre Plus had 900 Crisis Loan decision makers answering telephones and making decisions in the 20 Benefit Delivery Centres that handle applications for Crisis Loans. Crisis Loan applications have more than doubled since October 2006, (taking us to an average of 220,000 applications per month at the end of 2008) and plans were put in place to deploy an extra 700 staff from our Contact Centre Directorate. This work was completed in April 2009 and enabled us to answer more calls first time.

However, we have seen further increases in Crisis Loan applications since January 2009 and for the past five months they have averaged around 279,000 per month. Therefore, a decision was made to increase the number of our Crisis Loan decision makers even further. We now have 1,800 Crisis Loan decision makers taking calls with a further 200 expected to be fully operational by the end of September.

This will enable Jobcentre Plus to answer more calls first time.

Debt: Advisory Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial support her Department provided to debt counselling agencies in the latest year for which figures are available. [283341]

Helen Goodman: My Department does not currently provide financial support to debt counselling agencies. However, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is providing funding of approximately £28 million in 2009-10 for the face-to-face debt advice project.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to publish her Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287295]

Jim Knight: The Department's resource accounts for 2008-09 are due to be laid before the House on Monday 20th July 2009. This will be a typeset version of the account, with a published version being made available by The Stationery Office during August 2009 (exact date yet to be confirmed).

This is the third year in succession that the Department will have laid its resource accounts before the recess.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of employees in her Department are on a flexible working contract. [287106]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows.

Flexible working contracts

At the end of May 2009, 33 per cent. (36,037) of employees in the Department for Work and Pensions were on part-time flexible working contracts.

Flexible contracts are only one of a range of flexible working arrangements including flexible working patterns that are available to DWP employees. DWP also promotes flexibility through home working and job sharing.

Employees are made aware of civil service wide job sharing opportunities through a direct link to the civil service online job-share notice board, hosted on the civil service website.

Departmental Consultants

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on consultants in 2009. [288469]

Jim Knight: The Department has spent £9.7 million on management consultants in the three months from January to March 2009, the latest period for which validated figures are available. This represents a 49 per cent. reduction on the equivalent period in 2008.

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts let by her Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287809]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which of the planned databases that will be managed by her Department or one of its agencies and which will hold personal information on members of the public are expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement; [286149]

(2) what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each of her

Department's and its agency's databases expected to become operational in the next five years; what estimate she has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if she will make a statement. [286500]

Jim Knight: The Department intends that one new database (known as CAMLite) will become operational during this period. CAMLite will enable improvements in the delivery of services so that customer requirements can be handled more effectively and efficiently, and it will record every contact with a customer. When fully operational, CAMLite is expected to hold details of around 7 million customers.

The categories of personal information that the database is expected to contain will comply with the Department's formal registration under the Data Protection Act.

Following the publication of the cross-Government data handling review in June 2008, privacy impact assessments are conducted where new IT systems hold significant amounts of personal data.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 980W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since November 2008. [289192]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not readily available and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of employees in her Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay is of the (i) male and (ii) female employees. [288627]

Jim Knight: The DWP workforce as at June 2009 is made up of 68 per cent. female and 32 per cent. male. The DWP pays employees an annual salary and does not use an hourly rate. There are seven grades below the senior civil service (SCS) in DWP. Male and female employees in each grade are paid within the same payscale regardless of their gender. An employee's exact position on their payscale will depend upon their personal pay history.

The most recent DWP Equal Pay Audit published in 2008 shows that the average male and female salaries are £19,911 and £19,085 respectively. This information does not include SCS salaries.

Departmental Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the official engagements of Ministers in her Department were between *(a)* 1 and 31 March, *(b)* 1 and 30 April and *(c)* 1 and 31 May 2009. [279570]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* I am depositing a table of information in the Library.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288741]

Jim Knight: The last two financial years of DWP spending with Royal Mail Group is given in the table.

	£
2008-09	184,857,504
2007-08	189,469,725

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress her Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287146]

Jim Knight: The Department has built the requirements of the Glover Report into its Commercial Strategy and a revised version was published in March 2009. The Strategy expressly recognises the specialist expertise that small enterprises can provide and states that DWP will encourage the use of small and medium sized enterprises (SME) in its supply chains. The Strategy has objectives to make it easier for suppliers to compete for contracts and to encourage a diverse supply base, it also commits to monitor the use of these enterprises.

The lead on most of the 12 recommendations of the Glover report is with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC). The Department fully supports all the recommendations and is actively engaged with OGC to facilitate development and adoption of the new procedures and tools required by Glover. The Department's progress in implementing each of the Glover recommendations is that DWP:

(i) advertises key contracts via electronic media and publishes key contract awards electronically, it is on course to do both these things for all contracts via an OGC public sector online portal by 2010 - addressing Glover recommendations 1,2 and 3;

(ii) already flags tendering opportunities thought especially suitable for SMEs during the advertising process - meeting Glover recommendation 4;

(iii) has adopted standard pre-qualification questionnaires—meeting Glover recommendation 5;

(iv) adopts a principle of competitive neutrality so all relevant experience of all bidders is taken into account when selecting tenderers—meeting Glover recommendation 6;

(v) takes a flexible approach to supplier accreditation, where appropriate allowing businesses to refer to other accreditations they already hold—meeting Glover recommendation 7;

(vi) published its Innovation Procurement Plan on 19th May 2009 which meets the requirements of Glover recommendation 8;

(vii) adopts outcome based specifications requiring continuous improvement as a means of driving innovation—meeting Glover recommendation 9;

(viii) will expect prime contractors to make their sub-contracting opportunities accessible through an on-line portal, when made available by OGC, and that they use contract conditions for their contractors in DWP supply chains that are no worse than those DWP has with the prime contractor—addressing Glover recommendations 10 and 11;

(ix) has, since 2002, reported annually the value of DWP contract spend with SMEs—meeting Glover recommendation 12. The value of DWP contracts with SMEs in 2008/9 was £252 million, about 7 per cent. of total commercial spend in that year.

In summary the Department has made good progress in implementing the Glover recommendations. Its action to date means it has already met seven of the recommendations and, working with OGC, is on course to meet the remaining five recommendations to the set timetable.

Departmental Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [274532]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Government

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to improve the usability of the Directgov website. [287203]

Jim Knight: In 2009 Directgov conducted a baseline exercise to benchmark the quality of the website and has put in place a plan for improvement, which is now being implemented as part of the overall web rationalisation and convergence programme.

Directgov is in the process of designing a further continuous user improvement programme for the Directgov website which will start in 2009. The programme of user testing will involve both citizen and expert reviews. Each wave of research will review a number of different user journeys across the site to identify any usability issues. This is an on-going project. Each wave will test different journeys with different user groups in order to continually improve the customer experience.

Strategies are being put in place to monitor search engine optimisation, metrics and customer comments to improve the Directgov service by making it easier for people to find what they want.

Directgov recently improved the design of its homepage based on feedback from a representative sample of customers. The new homepage design is structured in a way that allows customers to quickly find essential Government information on topical issues such as swine flu, and allows customers to easily distinguish main navigation links from secondary and peripheral content.

Directgov has also commissioned a project that looks at the future shape of the website. The project is following a user-centred design approach with frequent rounds of user testing to ensure optimal findability and usability of content.

Employment and Support Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information her Department holds on the proportion of claimants for employment and support allowance (ESA) that *(a)* do not meet work capability assessment qualification criteria for receipt of ESA, *(b)* meet work capability assessment qualifying criteria for the work related activity group and *(c)* meet the criteria for the support group, broken down by type of sickness or impairment; and if she will make a statement. [287902]

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work capability assessments have taken place; and what estimate her Department has made of the number and proportion of customers who have taken the work capability assessment who have been moved onto *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* ESA Work Related Activity Group and *(c)* ESA Support Group in each month since October 2008. [287934]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Detailed information on the work capability assessment for receipt of employment and support allowance is not available at the present time.

Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit for new claims from 27 October 2008. The latest quarterly data available is November 2008. More comprehensive figures are expected to be available when the February 2009 publication is produced in August 2009.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants she expects will be migrated to employment and support allowance in each of the next three years. [288620]

Jonathan Shaw: In the White Paper, we set out our intention to migrate incapacity benefit customers to employment and support allowance between 2010 and 2013, using the Work Capability Assessment. We are currently looking closely at the process of migrating customers to employment and support allowance, to plan for implementation and develop a detailed strategy. We will ensure that the transition runs smoothly, fits within our overall programme and that our plans are flexible enough to adapt to changing economic circumstances as necessary.

Employment Schemes

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in each region have participated in the *(a)* Workstep, *(b)* Work Preparation, *(c)* Employment Zones, *(d)* Progress2Work, *(e)* Work Path and *(f)* New Deal for (i) 50 plus, (ii) disabled people, (iii) partners and (iii) musicians programme more than once in each relevant year since 2001; [268686]

(2) how many people in each region have participated in the *(a)* Workstep, *(b)* Work Preparation, *(c)* Work Path, *(d)* Progress2Work and *(e)* Employment Zones programme in each (i) relevant year since 2001 and (ii) of the last eight quarters; [268687]

(3) how many individuals have been on the *(a)* Work Trial, *(b)* Workstep, *(c)* Work Preparation, *(d)* Work Path, *(e)* Progress2Work and *(f)* Employment Zones

programme more than once in a year by region since their inception. [286689]

Jim Knight: New Deal for Musicians is an integral part of New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 plus. Information on people participating more then once in New Deal for Musicians, New Deal 50 plus, New Deal for Partners and WorkTrial is not collated centrally.

Work Path is not a programme in itself, rather an umbrella name for three employment programmes; Access to Work, Work Preparation and Workstep. As such, the information is not available in the format requested.

Information about Employment Zones is not available by region.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of 18 to 24 year-olds claiming jobseeker's allowance moving towards 12 months are expected to move on to *(a)* a job provided by the Future Jobs Fund, *(b)* support to take an existing job in a key employment sector, *(c)* a work-focused training place and *(d)* a place on the community task force as part of the Government's Young Person's Guarantee. [283564]

Jim Knight: We do not forecast unemployment and are therefore unable to predict numbers of take-up for each element of the Young Person's Guarantee.

When the Young Person's Guarantee is introduced early next year, all 18 to 24-year-olds approaching 12 months unemployment on jobseeker's allowance will be guaranteed an offer of either a job under the Future Jobs Fund, support to take a job in a key employment sector, a work focused training place or a place on a community task force.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions who will provide assistance in relation to *(a)* the Future Jobs Fund, *(b)* support to take an existing job in a key employment sector, *(c)* work-focused training places and *(d)* places on a community task force under the Young Person's Guarantee. [283576]

Jim Knight: The fund will be managed centrally by the Department for Work and Pensions. Advisers in every Government office in England are available to support potential bidders with the process.

In Scotland and Wales, Jobcentre Plus will provide support to potential bidders, in consultation with the devolved Administrations and the Scottish and Welsh Offices.

Jobcentre Plus will play a key role in identifying customer needs and referring customers to the full range of support on offer. For the training element, young people will also be able to go direct to a provider, Nextstep or the Careers Advice Service.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent estimate she has made of the average cost per participant in *(a)* the Future Jobs Fund, *(b)* the Community Task Force, *(c)* training under the Young Person's Guarantee and *(d)* support to obtain an existing job in a key employment sector; [286739]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of *(a)* the likely average cost per participant of the Young Persons' Guarantee in 2009-10, *(b)* the number of young people aged between 18 and 24 years old likely to participate in the Young Persons' Guarantee in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12 and *(c)* the cost of the Young Persons' Guarantee in the next three years; [286740]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost of *(a)* the Community Task Force and *(b)* additional training places provided under the Young Persons' Guarantee in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [286754]

Jim Knight: The estimated average costs are commercially sensitive but will be met within the allocated budget for the Young Person's Guarantee.

The Government do not publish unemployment forecasts. We will, however, meet the terms of the Young Person's Guarantee and all 18 to 24-year-olds will receive an offer of employment, training or community work.

Funding has not been allocated beyond 2010-11.

Funding for the Community Task Force and the Work-Focused Training was announced as part of the Budget settlement for the Young Person's Guarantee funding. The budget for the Young Person's Guarantee is approximately £1.1 billion over 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The budget for the training element of the Young Person's Guarantee is £122 million over 2009-11.

We are unable to estimate the cost of the Community Task Force element as expenditure will depend on the demand for the programme.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how Jobcentre Plus plans to inform 18 to 24-year-old jobseekers of the job guarantee scheme announced on 22 April 2009; and if she will make a statement. [288753]

Jim Knight: All Jobcentre Plus advisers will be made aware of the jobs and training opportunities created by the Young Persons Guarantee in their area. Jobcentre Plus staff will ensure that all eligible customers are made aware of the relevant opportunities. This will be an integral part of the ongoing support given to customers to find work.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means 18 to 24-year-olds who have been unemployed for over 12 months at the time of the introduction of the job guarantee announced on 22 April 2009 will be given access to the scheme; what priority will be accorded to them in relation to 18 to 24-year-olds who become unemployed for over 12 months after the introduction of the scheme; and if she will make a statement. [288754]

Jim Knight: Customers who are already in long-term unemployment need intensive support and this is best delivered out with the Young Person's Guarantee. When the guarantee is introduced young people who have been unemployed for 12 months or more will already be receiving this support through either the Flexible New Deal or other existing programmes.

Employment Schemes: Lone Parents

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents have received a training allowance of up to £400 since September 2007. [275895]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* This training allowance refers to Train to Gain. This is administered by the Learning Skills Council and sits within the stewardship of BIS.

Employment Services

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to help the long-term unemployed return to work. [288362]

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to assist people who have been out of work for over a year; and if she will make a statement. [288589]

Jim Knight: The Department is keen to ensure that everyone who is out of work has the support they need to find a job, and this help increases the longer someone has been unemployed.

The introduction of the flexible new deal in phase 1 areas from October 2009 will establish a new, unified approach for every jobseeker, whatever their age, skills or barriers to work, from the 12-month point of their claim. The flexible new deal will deliver work-focused support, tailored to each individual's needs and local labour market requirements. It is envisaged that we will introduce this scheme in phase 2 areas from October 2010.

Until the flexible new deal is introduced, the new deals will continue to run in phase 2 areas.

The 2009 Budget made an additional £2.8 billion available to DWP, on top of the £1.3 billion funding announced in the pre-Budget report, which will ensure we can continue to maintain our support to jobseekers through the economic downturn, including funding to support the flexible new deal.

£1.1 billion of this will fund the young person's guarantee; from January 2010, all customers aged 18-24 who are approaching 12 months of their claim to jobseeker's allowance will have access to one of the following offers:

A new job created through the Future Jobs Fund;

Support to move into an existing job in a key employment sector;

Work-focused training; or

A work experience placement through the Community Task Force.

Some elements of the guarantee will be available sooner. In October of this year the first jobs created by the Future Jobs Fund will be available, and training to enter key employment sectors will be available in the autumn.

Jobseeker's allowance customers can do unlimited volunteering, and train for up to 16 hours per week, alongside active job search. Jobseekers may also undertake up to two weeks of full-time training in any 12-month period, without jeopardising their benefit entitlements.

Employment: Young People

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to assist young people who are out of work; and if she will make a statement. [288588]

Jim Knight: The Department is committed to giving everyone the support they need to find employment as quickly as possible, whatever their age.

On 6 April 2009, as part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, the Department for Work and Pensions put in place extra support for newly unemployed customers, including information and advice about the latest job search techniques and coaching on how to make the most of transferable skills. Extra help for those who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months was also introduced, including recruitment subsidies, work-focused training, support to become self-employed and opportunities to volunteer.

Because the Government are determined that young people should not be permanently disadvantaged by the economic downturn, from next year, all customers aged 18-24 who are approaching 12 months of their claim to jobseeker's allowance will have access to the Young Person's Guarantee. From January 2010, this group will be given access to either:

A new job created through the future jobs fund;

Support to move into an existing job in a key employment sector;

Work-focused training; or

A work experience placement through the community task force.

Some elements of the guarantee will be available sooner. In October of this year the first jobs created by the future jobs fund will be available. Training to enter key employment sectors will be available in the autumn.

Since last autumn, the Department has also quadrupled the available funding for the rapid response service, which provides advice and support to customers facing redundancy. It has extended local employment partnerships, the adviser discretionary fund and access to work so they are available to customers from the first day of their claim, alongside the support they receive from their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to assist young people with no educational qualifications to enter employment. [284028]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The Department is committed to ensuring that all jobseekers, including young people, have the support they need to overcome their individual barriers to work. People who are unemployed and on jobseeker's allowance can undertake part-time education or training at any point in their claim providing it is for less than 16 hours per week. In some cases, customers can also undertake full-time training, particularly to address basic skills needs, if it is needed in order to gain the necessary skills to enter employment.

Our current Integrated Employment and Skills trials are also testing approaches to ensure that every Jobcentre Plus customer has access to specialist skills services,

including comprehensive skills assessments, to identify work related skills needs and recommend steps to addressing those barriers. The Integrated Employment and Skills service will be available across England in April 2010.

In addition, young people in England who are under the notice of redundancy are now eligible for the additional training support available through the Response to Redundancy programme, funded by the European Social Fund and Train to Gain. Jobseekers who find themselves out of work for six months or more may be eligible for the work-focused training element of the six-month offer of extra support to all jobseekers.

Furthermore, from January 2010 all young people approaching 12 months on jobseeker's allowance will be guaranteed the offer of either a subsidised job, training or meaningful activity. Training delivered under this offer will be tailored to the individual and relevant to the local labour market.

Ethnic Employment Taskforce

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 833-4W, on the Ethnic Employment Taskforce, how much of the expenditure on the research project she expects to be attributable to *(a)* fieldwork, *(b)* analysis of data, *(c)* production of the final report, *(d)* administrative costs, *(e)* staffing costs and *(f)* other costs of each type; and what assessment she has made of the conclusions of the project. [288186]

Jim Knight: Although the internal cost structure of the Department for Work and Pensions research contracts is commercial in confidence, suppliers are chosen through procurement procedures that promote value for money.

The Ministerial Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force will be considering the conclusions of the Racial Discrimination in Recruitment research, which are due to be published in the autumn.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of the statutory obligations upon it in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283469]

Jim Knight: It is estimated that no additional costs have been incurred by the Department as a result of domestic legislation made in the 2008-09 session to date, as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation.

Fetes: Safety

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive provides to the organisers of local fetes. [288281]

Jonathan Shaw: HSE has not produced any specific guidance on local fetes. HSE has published the Events Safety Guide (HSG195) for those organising larger scale musical and similar events. This guidance is not directed at those organising small local fetes where the risk to public safety will be low, although organisers may find some of the advice contained within the guide useful.

Local authorities have enforcement responsibilities at local fetes where there is an employment activity. They may also provide specific advice or guidance at a local level to organisers of fetes.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of *(a)* consultants and advisers to and *(b)* administration of the Financial Assistance Scheme has been in each year since its establishment. [283545]

Angela Eagle: The administration costs for the Financial Assistance Scheme Operational Unit are set out in the following table. The earlier years include one-off set-up costs.

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Administration[1]	[2]1.06	[3]4.730	[3]3.968	2.328	[3]2.283
Consultants and advisers[4]	0	0.034	0.323	0.036	0.206

[1] Excludes overheads such as estates which are met from DWP corporate budgets.
[2] Includes one-off costs for implementation, which were not accounted for separately.
[3] Excludes one-off costs for implementation of the December 2007 announcement and the transfer of the FAS functions to the Board of the Pension Protection Fund which are now accounted for separately—£2.621 million.
[4] Includes the cost of consultants relating to policy development and the transfer of the FAS functions.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the decline in real value has been of Financial Assistance Scheme annuities since 1997; and if she will make a statement; [283645]

(2) what estimate she has made of the average difference between Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) annuities and the expected annuities lost after 1997 by pensioners enrolled in the FAS; and if she will make a statement. [283646]

Angela Eagle: 666 schemes qualify for the Financial Assistance Scheme. Of these, trustees responsible for 446 schemes have bought or expect to buy annuities to cover all or some of scheme members' entitlements. These annuities may include provision for indexation, but detailed information on this is not currently available.

The Financial Assistance Scheme will top up these annuities to 90 per cent. of expected pension at the date of wind-up, subject to an overall limit of £26,000, and regulations currently before Parliament would make provision for this top-up to include indexation on rights accrued after 1997.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment she has made of poverty levels among pensioners receiving Financial Assistance Scheme annuities; and if she will make a statement. [283647]

Angela Eagle: The Financial Assistance Scheme does not provide annuities.

The information requested is not available.

Funeral Payments

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average elapsed between her Department's receipt of an application for a funeral payment and any payment being made in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [288872]

Helen Goodman: The average actual clearance time for funeral payments processed in the financial year to date (April to June 2009) was 13.9 working days.

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all queries using official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data; for example, they do not include claims which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund computer system.

2. The clearance time for an individual funeral payment claim is measured in whole working days from the date the claim is received to the date of the decision, inclusive. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual claim is one day, even if the claim is processed immediately.

3. The average actual clearance time is based on all claims, both those where a payment was made and those which were refused.

4. The average actual clearance time is based on claims processed during April to June 2009, not on claims received then.

5. Once a decision has been taken, any payment is normally made straight away.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many bids from *(a)* private companies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* voluntary sector organisations her Department has received for the Future Jobs Fund; [283570]

(2) how many bids her Department has received to deliver jobs through the Future Jobs Fund. [283574]

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bids for funding from the Future Jobs Fund her Department has received; and when she plans to announce the successful bidders. [287341]

Jim Knight: We will be announcing details of the successful bidders later this summer.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what resources her Department has allocated to each *(a)* regional development agency and *(b)* London local authority through the Future Jobs Fund. [288254]

Jim Knight: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave her on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W.

Future Jobs Fund: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 30 of the Building Britain's Future document, Cm 7654, whether the £1 billion Future Jobs Fund to cover new jobs in areas of high unemployment applies to Wales; and by what mechanisms this fund is to be distributed. [287867]

Jim Knight: Employers in Wales are eligible to apply to the Future Jobs Fund. The definition of an area of high unemployment is one in which the unemployment rate is 1.5 percentage points above the national average. This flexible definition gives organisations the opportunity to develop bids with a narrow focus (such as wards) or a much broader base (such as partnerships of several local authorities).

The Department for Work and Pensions will distribute the fund to successful bidders. The amount paid will depend on the details of the successful bid.

Future Jobs Programme

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans she has to evaluate the effectiveness of the *(a)* Future Jobs Programme and *(b)* Young Person's Guarantee. [288704]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions will assess the implementation and impact of the Young Persons Guarantee, including the Future Jobs Fund. The key aim of the evaluation will be to understand the impact that the package has had on getting customers into sustained work and off benefits. We will monitor delivery against key performance and success measures during the programme and an overall assessment will be conducted at the programme's end.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer Adjournment. [288939]

Yvette Cooper: At present I have no such plans.

Housing Benefit

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will commission research into the effect of local housing allowance on vulnerable tenants who find it difficult to manage their personal finances. [288282]

Helen Goodman: The Department has committed to completing a review of the local housing allowance (LHA) scheme over a two-year period, starting from the commencement of its roll-out in April 2008. The aim of the review is to monitor the impact of the LHA at a national level, against the original LHA policy objectives.

The review will include a qualitative study of tenants and advisers, which will consider the impact of LHA on tenants who find it difficult to manage their finances. Safeguards are in place that enable local authorities to make payments of LHA to the landlord in circumstances where tenants are in arrears or where they are likely to have difficulty in managing their rent payments.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for reassessment for housing benefit from *(a)* council tenants, *(b)* private tenants and *(c)* housing association tenants were made in each quarter in each of the last five years. [288751]

Helen Goodman: The latest available information is in the table. The question asked for numbers of applications for reassessment for housing benefit. The figures supplied relate to the number of changes of circumstances reported by customers and decided by local authorities.

Quarter ending	Local authority tenants	Private tenants	Housing Association tenants
June 2003	327,000	245,000	402,000
September 2003	404,000	279,000	333,000
December 2003	321,000	236,000	272,000
March 2004	485,000	281,000	475,000
June 2004	457,000	346,000	536,000
September 2004	422,000	366,000	408,000
December 2004	338,000	352,000	359,000
March 2005	386,000	316,000	417,000
June 2005	300,000	295,000	469,000
September 2005	251,000	258,000	297,000
December 2005	249,000	228,000	259,000
March 2006	215,000	233,000	511,000
June 2006	213,000	239,000	485,000
September 2006	192,000	228,000	282,000
December 2006	193,000	218,000	242,000
March 2007	144,000	176,000	618,000
June 2007	202,000	267,000	500,000
September 2007	196,000	244,000	293,000
December 2007	179,000	220,000	238,000
March 2008	173,000	224,000	834,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded the figures to the nearest 1,000.
2. Quarterly Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Administration Data Quarterly Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit administration data are supplied to DWP by local authorities and are un-audited.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of applications for reassessment for housing benefit resulted in a reduction in payments in each quarter of the last five years; and what the average *(a)* increase and *(b)* decrease was in reassessed housing benefits claims. [288752]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is not available.

Housing Benefit: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency were in receipt of housing benefit on the latest date for which figures are available. [287995]

Helen Goodman: Housing benefit information is not available at constituency level.

Incapacity Benefit

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* York (i) applied for incapacity benefit, (ii) were required to attend a personal capability assessment, (iii) had their incapacity benefit refused following an assessment and (iv) had their incapacity benefit reinstated following a review or appeal in the latest 12-month period for which information is available. [283108]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information covering Great Britain is provided in the following tables. Information is not available on the number of people who had their incapacity benefit award reinstated following a review or appeal in the last 12 months.

Incapacity benefit applications received June 2008 to May 2009

	Number
Great Britain	385,699
Yorkshire and Humber region	35,111
York Benefit Delivery Centre	3,566

Note:
York Benefit Delivery Centre processes incapacity benefit applications for North Yorkshire area.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information System Programme.

People required to attend a Personal Capability Assessment from June 2008 to May 2009

	Number
Great Britain	456,153
Yorkshire and Humber region	43,292
York	2,464

Notes:
1. Not all applications for incapacity benefit will require a Personal Capability Assessment.
2. The figures given for York include all those postcodes commencing with YO.
Source:
Commercial Employment Provision.

The number of assessments is greater than the number of applications received for the same period. This is because it includes all current incapacity benefit recipients who were required to have an assessment.

Incapacity benefit claims terminated for failing a Personal Capability Assessment/Own Occupation Test between December 2007 and November 2008

	Number
Great Britain	135,000
Yorkshire and Humber region	13,900

Notes:
1. Figures do not include any late notifications and are subject to change.
2. Figures rounded to nearest 100.
3. Figures for York not provided as nil or negligible due to small sampling size.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate five per cent. Samples.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of incapacity benefit are receiving age-related additional payments; how many such recipients experienced a reduction in the monetary value of such additions in April 2009; and what the total monetary value was of the reductions in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2008-09. [286093]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison) on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 866W.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work-focused interviews her Department plans to conduct for recipients of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support

allowance aged between (i) 18 and 24, (ii) 25 and 49 and (iii) 50 and 64 years old in each of the next two years. [288621]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead, (Mrs. May) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 70W.

From October 2009 we plan to provide three work-focused interviews to existing incapacity benefits claimants under the age of 25 in Jobcentre Plus-led Pathways to Work areas. We estimate that there will be 28,000 individuals in this group.

From October 2010 we shall be providing existing incapacity benefit claimants aged 25 to 49 with three work-focused interviews as they migrate to employment and support allowance. Those aged over 50 will receive one work-focused interview, also on migration.

New customers to employment and support allowance from October 2010 will receive quarterly work-focused interviews as well as the six-monthly work-focused interviews that current employment and support allowance customers receive.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance, are recorded as receiving the benefit and not making a job start after having attended (i) one work-focused interview, (ii) two or three work-focused interviews, (iii) between four and six work-focused interviews and (iv) more than six work-focused interviews. [288622]

Jonathan Shaw: This information could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the average cost of conducting a work-focused interview for a claimant of either incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance; and how many work-focused interviews have been undertaken for *(a)* existing incapacity benefit claimants and *(b)* new employment and support allowance claimants in each month of the last three years for which figures are available. [288623]

Jonathan Shaw: The estimated cost of conducting a work-focused interview for a claimant of either incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance within Jobcentre Plus is £35. This does not include the costs of any subsequent work-focused provision that a claimant may be referred to.

Information on the number of work-focused interviews conducted could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Incapacity Benefit: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency received incapacity benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [287836]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Number of people receiving incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance in Morecambe and Lunesdale parliamentary constituency

	Number
November 2008	4,600

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to nearest 10.
2. Data cover quarter ending November 2008.

Source:
Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Income Support Mortgage Interest: Applications

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for income support mortgage interest (ISMI) payments have been made since November 2008; how many such applications were rejected; how many appeals against a rejection *(a)* were made and *(b)* resulted in an award; how many such appeals were not processed within the target time; and how many staff in her Department process ISMI payments. [284492]

Helen Goodman: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many applications for income support mortgage interest (ISMI) payments have been made since November 2008; and how many such applications were rejected; how many appeals against a rejection were made and resulted in an award; how many such appeals were not processed within the target time; and how many staff in the Department process ISMI payments. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus does record the actual number of claims received for ISMI, along with the number of claims awarded, and refused. Please find attached below this information by month, since November 2008.

Jobcentre Plus does not capture the number of claims appealed or awarded on appeal, nor does it have a target time for appeals for ISMI. ISMI is not a separate benefit but rather forms an integral part of IS. The customer may not be eligible to claim ISMI from day one of their claim and as a result that element will be processed later in the life of that claim. This is why we do not capture the clearance time.

Jobcentre Plus holds details of the staff deployed in processing new IS claims and those deployed in IS claims maintenance. Any activity relating to processing ISMI payments will be part of these roles and this lower level of staffing detail is not available.

Income support mortgage interest claims November 2008 - May 2009

	2008		2009					
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	2009	Total
IS claims received (mortgage interest)	2,405	1,852	2,009	2,127	2,242	1,776	1,627	14,038
IS mortgage claim processed	2,279	1,902	2,158	2,075	2,184	1,572	1,408	13,578
IS mortgage claim awarded	1,515	1,339	1,657	1,549	1,718	1,244	1,149	10,171

Income support mortgage interest claims November 2008 - May 2009

	2008		2009					
	Nov	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*2009*	*Total*
IS mortgage claim refused	764	563	501	526	466	328	259	3,407

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information System Programme - extracted on 7 July 2009

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has paid out *(a)* under the provisions of the Pneumoconiosis Act 1979, *(b)* in industrial injuries disablement benefit and *(c)* under the provisions of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 to people with long latency diseases in each of the last five years. [286692]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the monies paid out in each of the last five years under the provisions of the Pneumoconiosis Act 1979 is in the following table.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million, cash)*
2004-05	21
2005-06	25
2006-07	26
2007-08	27
2008-09	32

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest £ million.
Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data

Available information on the monies paid through industrial injuries disablement benefit on long latency diseases is in the following table.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million, cash)*
2004-05	36
2005-06	39
2006-07	40

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest £ million.
2. Industrial injuries disablement benefit expenditure on particular diseases is estimated using annual statistical data. Latest finalised annual statistical data are for 2006-07.
Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 made provision for the introduction of the 2008 Mesothelioma Scheme. This scheme was introduced in October 2008, and expenditure up to March 2009 was £5.5 million.

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data, excludes Northern Ireland payments under this scheme.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus accredited providers there were in each year since 1997. [271722]

Jim Knight: Jobcentre Plus providers undertake accreditation if the value of the contract is greater than £50,000 (the level was initially set at £10,000 for 2005-06).

We do not hold any accreditation information earlier than 2005.

There are two types of accreditation: passed and passed conditionally. Passed means they meet all the criteria for accreditation and passed conditionally means they meet most of the criteria but must review and address issues before undergoing accreditation renewal the following year. The increase in the number of passed conditionally reflects changes in legislation which requires providers to take additional steps to bring current practices in line with the new requirements. The following table sets out the number of providers accredited in each year since June 2005.

	Passed	*Passed conditionally*	*Total*
June 2005 to December 2005	51	0	51
January 2006 to December 2006	436	47	483
January 2007 to December 2007	300	62	362
January 2008 to December 2008	345	99	444
January 2009 to 3 July 2009 (To date)	212	57	269

Source:
Commercial Directorate Solutions.

Accreditation is renewed annually. The renewal date is dependent on the original date of application. The figure for January to 3 July 2009 represents providers whose accreditation date has fallen within these months. Our current list of accredited providers totals 458 and therefore we will be expecting a further 189 providers to seek accreditation renewal in the remaining months of the year, notwithstanding any new applications or contracts being ended. Details of our accredited suppliers are published on Supplying DWP.

To date, there has only been one provider who failed. Upon notification, the provider worked with the DWP and the accreditation contractor addressed the concerns and upon resubmission, they achieved accreditation. The Department when requested will assist providers with guidance to help meet the accreditation requirements.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps Jobcentre Plus has taken to adapt its office space to accommodate increases in demand on its services arising from higher benefit caseloads. [285797]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps Jobcentre Plus has taken to increase its adept office space to accommodate increases in demand on its services

arising from higher benefit caseloads. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has reviewed the existing service delivery arrangements in meeting the challenge of the current economic climate and taking into account the planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years. This review took into account the latest known information on the expected increase in business and customer volumes. This included the capacity for dealing with higher benefit caseloads.

We have embarked on a programme of converting or extending our existing buildings where necessary. In addition, we aim to make our services more accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises. We are supplementing these measures by operating extended opening hours in some locations where the need for this is identified locally. This includes some offices opening to the public on Saturday. We will only acquire new space where all other measures are insufficient.

This programme is primarily focused on those buildings where we provide a face to face service for members of the public but we are also implementing solutions across our network of Benefit Delivery Centres and Contact Centres to ensure they are equipped to meet any capacity challenge.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average annual cost of running a Jobcentre Plus office was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average cost of operating each office function was. [285843]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking what the average annual cost of running a Jobcentre Plus office was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average cost of operating each office function was. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The average annual direct cost of running a customer facing Jobcentre Plus office in 2008/09 was approximately £550k. The actual cost of running each office varies widely dependant on their size and the number of staff employed in the office.

The majority of the direct costs are the salary costs of staff employed in the Jobcentre Plus office. Other costs associated with running the Jobcentre Plus offices such as estates costs, IT costs, payroll and financial services are dealt with nationally and are not included in the direct cost stated above.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 65W, on Jobcentre Plus, which Jobcentre Plus offices were identified as facing capacity pressures; [287986]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 65W, which 18 Jobcentre Plus buildings have already had estates work undertaken to increase capacity; and 151 Jobcentre Plus offices have estates works planned. [287988]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking her, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2009, Official Report, column 65W to: list the Jobcentre Plus offices which were identified as facing capacity pressures, and; list (a) the 18 Jobcentre Plus buildings which have already had estates work undertaken to increase capacity and (b) the 151 Jobcentre Plus offices for which estates works are planned. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our response to the current capacity pressure within Jobcentre Plus is progressing on a daily basis. The latest available information has been placed in the Library.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 65W, on Jobcentre Plus, how much her Department has spent on converting or extending existing Jobcentre Plus offices where necessary; and what the total expected cost is of making all necessary conversions and expansions to Jobcentre Plus to cope with capacity pressures. [287987]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question, pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 65W, on Jobcentre Plus, how much her Department has spent on converting or extending existing Jobcentre Plus offices where necessary, and what the total expected cost is of making all necessary conversions and expansions to Jobcentre Plus to cope with capacity pressures. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus are continuously reviewing existing service delivery arrangements in order to meet the challenge of the current economic climate and the planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years. The latest reviews have taken account of the most up to date information on the expected increases in business and customer volumes.

In the light of the unprecedented customer demand we have secured the required funding to convert or extend our existing buildings where necessary. In addition, we aim to make our services accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach facilities, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises. We are supplementing these measures by operating extended opening hours in some locations where the need for this is identified locally. This includes some offices opening to the public on Saturday. We will therefore only acquire new space where all other measures are insufficient.

As at 30 June 2009, estates work had been undertaken and completed on 18 of our buildings at a cost of £1m, increasing our capacity to deliver additional customer service to the public. Estates work is planned on a further 151 buildings. This work is currently at an early stage and therefore the costs are not fully known.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 65W, on Jobcentre Plus, if she will place in the Library a copy of each review conducted by Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Directors of their existing service delivery arrangements in meeting the challenge of the current economic climate and taking into account the planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years, taking into account the latest known information on

the expected increase in business and customer volumes. [287989]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 July 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2009, Official Report, column 65W, on Jobcentre Plus, if she will place in the Library copies of the reviews conducted by Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Directors of their existing service delivery arrangements in meeting the challenge of the current economic climate and taking into account the planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years, taking into account the latest known information on the expected increase in business and customer volumes. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The outputs from the review of existing service delivery arrangements conducted by Customer Services Directors were products produced purely for internal planning purposes and not in a format appropriate for lodging in the House library. When the proposals identified by the Customer Services Directors have been reviewed and approved, we will be able to provide detail of all sites where we will be implementing solutions to meet the current capacity challenge.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 65W, on Jobcentre Plus, which Jobcentre Plus offices are operating *(a)* extended opening hours and *(b)* Saturday openings. [287990]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2009 Official Report column 65W on Jobcentre Plus if she will list the Jobcentre Plus offices which are operating (a) extended opening hours and (b) Saturday openings. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The most recent list of Jobcentre Plus offices which are operating extended service hours and/or operating on Saturdays, along with details of our normal hours of business and the areas involved in the extended opening hours pilot have been placed in the Library.

Our normal hours of business vary across the different services that we provide, predominantly on the basis of customer demand. Typically Jobcentres had been open from 9am to 5pm, except Wednesdays where we opened at 10am to allow for staff training and communications—a practice not uncommon in customer-facing organisations.

We have been keeping that position under constant review since November 2008 in the light of rising workloads and taken a number of steps in response. Specifically we have:

asked existing staff to work additional hours to allow us to provide extended service hours;

ensured that all new recruits are on an 8am to 8pm contract to allow greater flexibility in our service hours;

suspended the Wednesday late opening hour; and

commenced a structured pilot of extended opening hours across our key service lines.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Maidenhead of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 63-4W, on Jobcentre Plus, what the locations are of *(a)* the 18 buildings that have already been modified and *(b)* the 151 buildings her Department is planning to modify; how much has been spent on the 18 Jobcentre Plus buildings that have already been modified to increase capacity; and if she will estimate the cost of modifying 151 Jobcentre Plus buildings to increase capacity. [288483]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking her, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2009, Official Report, column 63-4W, to list the locations of (a) the 18 buildings that have already been modified and (b) the 151 buildings her Department is planning to modify; how much has been spent on the 18 Jobcentre Plus buildings that have already been modified to increase capacity; and for an estimate of the cost of modifying 151 Jobcentre Plus buildings to increase capacity. This is something which falls with the responsibilities to me as Acting Chief Executive.

As at 30 June 2009, estates work had been undertaken and completed on 18 of our buildings at a cost of £1m, increasing our capacity to deliver additional customer service to the public. Our response to the current capacity pressure within Jobcentre Plus is progressing on a daily basis. The latest available information has been placed in the Library.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to monitor the accuracy of benefits and compliance advice given to Jobcentre Plus customers by Jobcentre staff; and if she will make a statement. [288737]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what mechanisms are in place to monitor the accuracy of benefits and compliance advice given to Jobcentre Plus customers by Jobcentre staff. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All Jobcentre Plus staff are extensively trained to provide accurate advice to customers. If customers in receipt of benefits administered by Jobcentre Plus have an enquiry about their benefit, they are asked to contact either the Benefit Enquiry Line, the Benefit Delivery Centre handling their claim or their local Jobcentre Plus office. Customers in receipt of work-focussed benefits have regular and close contact with Jobcentre Plus to ensure their benefits are, and continue to be, paid accurately and that they are aware and reminded of their responsibilities during the lifetime of their claim. For example, customers who want to claim Jobseeker's Allowance will discuss and agree with a personal adviser realistic and achievable job goals and appropriate steps to offer the best chance of finding work. The information is recorded in the Jobseeker's Agreement, which provides a record of the advice given and forms the basis of future discussions every time someone attends the Jobcentre Plus office.

As part of Jobcentre Plus' Customer Service Target, we check the accuracy of information given to customers via a Mystery Shopping programme. The Mystery Shoppers, working on behalf of Jobcentre Plus, pose a range of scenarios to our staff both in person and via telephone calls to test this knowledge. The scenarios cover a wide range of Jobcentre Plus services including benefits

advice. These checks include ensuring that the information provided on our websites is accurate and up to date.

We also have a Quality Assurance Framework in place within Jobcentres to monitor and assess the quality of service given to our customers. It sets out the standards and skills individuals are expected to demonstrate when dealing with customers and explains the procedures to follow to achieve them. The Quality Assurance Framework is supplemented by a rigorous monitoring and checking regime which scrutinises the accuracy of a sample of claims on a monthly basis.

Jobcentre Plus: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff were employed in (i) benefit delivery centres and (ii) customer-facing jobcentres operated by Jobcentre Plus in each constituency in Essex in (A) each year since 2001 and (B) each of the last 24 months. [286423]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) permanent, (b) temporary and (c) agency staff were employed in (i) benefit delivery centres and (ii) customer-facing jobcentres operated by Jobcentre Plus in each constituency in Essex in (A) each year since 2001 and (B) each of the last 24 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Available information is shown in the tables attached at Annex A and B.

Information has been provided on how many staff we have employed in total in our Essex Jobcentres and Basildon Benefit Delivery Centre from December 2007 to June 2009. We have not used any agency staff in Essex between December 2007 and June 2009.

I am unable to provide the information you have requested from 2001 onwards as we do not hold it for this period. I am also unable to provide you with details for each constituency in Essex as we do not record information for these specific locations.

We have ongoing plans to recruit further staff for our Jobcentres in Southend, Rayleigh, Canvey Island, Basildon, Brentwood, Grays and Harlow and for our Benefit Delivery Centre in Basildon. In addition to the staff employed in our Jobcentres and Basildon Benefit Delivery Centre, we also employ a number of specialist staff who help support our customers within the Office of the District Manager for Jobcentre Plus in Essex.

Neil Bretnell, District Manager for Essex, will be happy to talk to you further if you have any further questions. Neil can be contacted on 01245 214242, by post at Government Buildings, Beeches Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2RT or by email at:

Neil.Bretnell@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A: number of staff employed in customer services directorate/Essex jobcentres from December 2007 to June 2009

	Fixed term	Permanent	Temporary	Total
December 2007	0	587.17	0	587.17
January 2008	0	586.83	0	586.83
February 2008	0	579.17	0	579.17
March 2008	3.64	580.3	0	583.94
April 2008	4.64	583.58	0	588.22
May 2008	4.64	578.95	0	583.59
June 2008	4.64	578.51	9.79	592.94
July 2008	19.66	579.86	14.96	612.58
August 2008	28.24	580.5	19.06	627.8
September 2008	27.58	582.73	14	624.31
October 2008	28.58	580.01	17	625.59
November 2008	23.58	577.33	19.6	622.73
December 2008	19	585.18	21.6	625.78
January 2009	12	609.58	26.63	627.21
February 2009	9	606.22	24.63	639.85
March 2009	7	612.99	28.03	648.02
April 2009	6	626.56	23.03	655.59
May 2009	28	628.26	22.03	678.29
June 2009	133.78	632	19	784.78

Note:
Figures are whole time equivalents, not actual staff in post.
Source:
Datawire.

Annex B: number of staff employed in Basildon benefit delivery centre from December 2007 to June 2009

	Fixed term	Permanent	Temporary	Total
December 2007	1	437.23	3	441.23
January 2008	1	436.08	3	440.08
February 2008	1	424.66	3	428.66
March 2008	0	435.68	1	436.68
April 2008	0	431.14	1	432.14
May 2008	0	415.47	1	416.47
June 2008	0	411.33	1	412.33
July 2008	10	405.48	10.98	426.46
August 2008	12.91	410.64	4.98	429.53
September 2008	11.91	410.83	3.98	425.92
October 2008	13.91	417.83	0	431.74

Annex B: number of staff employed in Basildon benefit delivery centre from December 2007 to June 2009

	Fixed term	Permanent	Temporary	Total
November 2008	19.87	411.42	1	432.29
December 2008	19.45	415.19	1	435.64
January 2009	19.43	424.43	1	444.86
February 2009	11.52	427.4	1	439.92
March 2009	27.61	507.91	1	536.52
April 2009	37.72	493.48	1	532.2
May 2009	71.75	893.65	0	965.4
June 2009	73.37	888.9	0	962.27

Note:
Figures are whole time equivalents, not actual staff in post.
Source:
Dataview

Jobcentre Plus: Finance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding Jobcentre Plus has been given to deal with the increased numbers of unemployed people in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [280587]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking how much funding Jobcentre Plus has been given to deal with the increased numbers of unemployed people in the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The funding announced in both the November 2008 pre-budget report and Budget 2009, means that Jobcentre Plus budgets have increased by approximately £2.032m over 2009/10 and 2010/11 compared with original plans. The remainder of the funding to the Department will go towards other areas which are affected by the recession, such as employment programmes and funding to local authorities for the administration of Housing Benefit.

Jobcentre Plus: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* benefit delivery centres and *(b)* customer-facing jobcentres were operated by Jobcentre Plus in each London borough in each of the last 24 months. [275518]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) benefit delivery centres and; (b) customer-facing jobcentres were operated by Jobcentre Plus in each London borough in each of the last 24 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Tables showing the number of offices in which benefits were processed, and the number of Jobcentres, in each London Borough from July 2007 to June 2009 have been placed in the Library.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff were employed in (i) benefit delivery centres and (ii) customer-facing jobcentres operated by Jobcentre Plus in each London borough in (A) each year since 2002 and (B) each of the last 24 months; [276546]

(2) when she plans to answer Question 276546, on Jobcentre Plus, tabled on 15 May 2009. [285015]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 May 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) permanent (b) temporary and (c) agency staff were employed in (i) benefit delivery centres and (ii) customer-facing jobcentres operated by Jobcentre Plus in each London borough in (A) each year since 2002 and (B) each of the last 24 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Tables giving an estimate of Benefit Delivery Centre and Jobcentre staffing in each London Borough from December 2007 to April 2009 have been placed in the Library as Annexes 1 to 17.

Jobcentre Plus in London did not employ any agency staff during the period in question.

Jobcentre Plus: Interviews

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department has issued to Jobcentre Plus on the duration of jobseekers' interviews; whether jobseeker interviews are required to be on a one-to-one basis; how frequently jobseekers may be required to sign on; what recent guidance her Department has issued to Jobcentre Plus on caseload management; and if she will place in the Library a copy of this guidance. [271621]

Jim Knight: Jobcentre Plus operations are built around the need to provide the support that people need to help them find work as soon as possible.

The average length of the initial interview is 40 minutes, but the actual time taken will vary depending upon individual customer needs. Everyone making a claim for jobseeker's allowance (JSA) has this one-to-one interview with a personal adviser to assess their circumstances, discuss and set in place a jobseeker's agreement and make sure they have information about and access to the help they need. The interview may be shorter if, for example, some of the information is already held.

Following the initial interview, jobseekers are normally then asked to attend the local office fortnightly for a

jobsearch review. The average time allocation for these contacts is 7.5 minutes, but the actual time taken will vary depending upon customer needs. For those people who do not find work quickly, a review is undertaken at or around 13 weeks. The average length of this review is 20 minutes, but the method of delivery and duration of contact will vary, depending upon individual needs. Further interviews take place if the claim lasts longer and interviews taking place at key points such as six months would be of a longer duration.

Detailed guidance has been issued to Jobcentre Plus staff, particularly in view of the introduction of new services in April. Copies have been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff engaged in *(a)* administering benefits and *(b)* helping jobseekers find employment. [285704]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff engaged in (a) administrating benefits and (b) helping job seekers find employment. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As at May 2009, Jobcentre Plus deployed around 31,300 full-time equivalents in activity relating to benefit processing and around 25,900 full-time equivalents in activity which helps job seekers find employment. These staff make up 43 per cent and 36 per cent respectively of the total Jobcentre Plus staffing. However, there are also over 5,200 full-time equivalents (a further seven per cent of total staffing) undertaking activity as contact centre agents. This activity covers a mix of benefit processing and job broking services.

In addition, there are 8,036 carrying out operational business management and support roles and 1,780 are in supporting functions in National Directorates such as Finance, Planning and HR but we do not attribute them specifically to either benefit processing or job broking.

We are continuously reviewing the levels of staffing within Jobcentre Plus to ensure that we maintain a service to our customers as workloads change.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of *(a)* the number of Jobcentre Plus staff required for the delivery of the jobseeker's regime under the Flexible New Deal and *(b)* the number of Jobcentre Plus staff recruited to deliver the regime in 2009-10. [286743]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking what her most recent estimate is of (a) the number of Jobcentre Plus staff required for the delivery of the jobseeker's regime under the Flexible New Deal and (b) the number of additional Jobcentre Plus staff recruited for this purpose. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive.

Latest figures are for May 2009 and show there are 857 staff working on the Flexible New Deal.

The Jobseeker's Regime and Flexible New Deal programme was developed so that it could be delivered on a cost-neutral basis, that is at no additional cost over and above the cost of delivering the existing New Deal for people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance.

We are continuously reviewing the levels of staffing within Jobcentre Plus to ensure that we can provide an appropriate level of service to our customers as workloads constantly change. This means that numbers of staff on front line activities may be switched to meet workload demands.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of Jobcentre Plus staff required to deliver fortnightly jobsearch reviews as part of jobseeker's allowance; and how many of the additional *(a)* 6,000 staff announced in the Pre-Budget Report and *(b)* 10,000 staff announced in Budget 2009 will undertake fortnightly jobsearch reviews. [286744]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking what estimate she has made of the number of Jobcentre Plus staff necessary to deliver fortnightly job search reviews as part of Jobseeker's Allowance; and how many of the additional (a) 6,000 staff announced in the Pre-Budget Report and (b) 10,000 staff announced in Budget 2009 will undertake fortnightly job search reviews. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive.

As at May 2009, Jobcentre Plus deployed around 31,300 full-time equivalents in activity relating to benefit processing and around 25,900 full-time equivalents in activity which helps job seekers find employment. Following the announcements made in the Pre-budget report and this year's Budget our latest estimates are that Jobcentre Plus will have approximately 6,000 staff delivering fortnightly job search reviews. However, there are also over 5,200 full-time equivalents undertaking activity as contact centre agents. This activity covers a mix of benefit processing and job broking services.

We are continuously reviewing the levels of staffing within Jobcentre Plus to ensure that we can provide an appropriate level of service to our customers as workloads constantly change. This means that numbers of staff on front line activities may be switched to meet workload demands.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff Jobcentre Plus have recruited to deal with the effects of the economic downturn. [288449]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff Jobcentre Plus has recruited to deal with the effects of the economic downturn. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

For the period from November 2008 to June 2009, Jobcentre Plus had recruited around 9,500 full-time equivalents to deal with the increased workloads resulting from the economic downturn. People who have been recruited are employed on a range of customer facing roles, covering benefit processing and job broking services.

Further recruitment is currently ongoing. We are continually reviewing the levels of staffing within Jobcentre Plus to ensure that services to our customers are maintained as workloads change.

Jobcentre Plus: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on *(a)* Jobcentre Plus staff bonuses for staff in each district and *(b)* Pension Service staff bonuses in each month of (i) 2009-10 to date, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2007-08. [256641]

Jim Knight: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vacancies were advertised in the Tamworth Jobcentre in 2008; and for how long on average each such job was advertised. [283848]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the following table.

Number of vacancies advertised in Tamworth Jobcentre

2008	*Notified vacancies*	*Live unfilled vacancies*	*Median duration (days)*
January	431	695	47.3
February	727	629	45.5
March	753	707	54.9
April	876	936	42.0
May	650	576	40.0
June	854	739	40.9
July	665	684	46.5
August	989	814	39.5
September	701	782	39.0
October	811	771	35.9
November	713	604	39.3
December	546	554	50.6

Notes:

1. Interpretation of these data needs to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the nomis website at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp
2. The stocks of unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
3. Data are unrounded.
4. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS vacancy survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
5. Median duration is measured in days and is the median time between notification and closure of vacancies.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will instruct Jobcentre Plus to permit its telephones to be used for calls made for the purpose of applying for a crisis loan. [282617]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if she will instruct Jobcentre Plus to permit its telephones to be used for calls made for the purpose of applying for a crisis loan. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our position on this issue was set out for the Work and Pensions Select Committee in Neil Couling's letter to Terry Rooney dated 9 July 2008. A copy of that letter is attached.

I hope this is helpful.

Letter from Neil Couling:

Early in the New Year, I wrote to you outlining a pilot we were running to allow vulnerable customers to make applications for Social Fund Crisis Loans (SFCLs) using Customer Access Points (CAPs or 'warm phones') in Jobcentres. This follows the Committee's recommendation in its 2006-07 report. We worked with the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union to agree these arrangements. The small pilot ran from 7 January to 28 March this year and we have now completed the evaluation, which I have attached.

Our current procedures mean that customers cannot use warm phones to make SFCL applications. This is because a customer could receive an adverse decision in an unscreened area and so, if aggrieved, could pose a risk to themselves, staff or other customers. This control measure is a key part of our agreement with the PCS on working in unscreened offices. The result is that, at present, some vulnerable customers—who use a face-to-face procedure instead of our normal channel of making a telephone claim from home—are referred to a screened office to receive their decision (be that favourable or adverse).

The main replacement control measures for the pilot, agreed with the PCS, meant that Floor Managers and Customer Care Officers were always aware of calls of this type, and—crucially—that the Decision Maker in the Benefit Delivery Centre would contact the Jobcentre on a dedicated telephone line if the application was about to be refused. This allows the Floor Manager and Customer Care Officers to be in place to offer any further assistance to the customer on receipt of an adverse decision. Given the potential risks, and PCS concerns to such an approach, we agreed to a small pilot which ran in five offices in Northumbria.

During the three month pilot seven customers used the service, compared to two using the existing face-to-face service in the preceding 14 months in the whole Northumbria District. Four were awarded a Crisis Loan and there were no incidents of unacceptable customer behaviour linked to any of these customers.

The qualitative evaluation revealed that Jobcentre staff locally were confident that this service was restricted to appropriately vulnerable customers; that they enjoyed the discretion and flexibility this service provided; and, that it was an improvement in access for those customers who are currently turned away or sent to a screened office for a face-to-face decision.

Whilst this pilot has been encouraging, we do not feel that it provides sufficiently strong evidence to roll out nationally—volumes were low and, as the evaluation report reveals, the effectiveness of the alternative control measures was not properly tested. To ensure that this is a safe and effective approach we intend to pilot the scheme again in London, with the option to roll out nationally if it is successful.

We will consult the Public and Commercial Services Union on this basis. We also need to develop the approach along side

Accessing Jobcentre Customer Services (AJCS), which seeks to enhance services for vulnerable customers, and any changes to the Social Fund. Given these factors, and the full change agenda facing Jobcentre Plus—including the rollout of the Employment and Support Allowance—we are looking to run this large scale pilot as early as is practicable 2009.

I hope this is helpful and that you are encouraged, as we are, by these early findings. I will update you as the pilot progresses and am happy to answer any question that you or the Committee have in the meantime.

Jobcentre Plus: Train

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus *(a)* personal advisers and *(b)* other staff have (i) retrained and (ii) received supplementary training to manage new claims for benefits in the last 12 months. [275549]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the Acting Chief Executive to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus *(a)* personal advisers and *(b)* other staff have (i) retrained and (ii) received supplementary training to manage new claims for benefits in the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Although I am in a position to provide you with the overall amount of training provided to Jobcentre Plus staff to manage new claims for benefits in the last twelve months, current management information systems in place across the Department do not allow me to provide the level of breakdown requested.

I have therefore broken down the information requested to cover learning relating to action for New Jobseekers Interviews, and the three key benefits, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

Over the last twelve months 2,040 Jobcentre Plus members of staff are recorded as having completed learning relating to action for New Jobseekers Interviews. A supplementary refresher event for New Jobseeker Interviews has also been developed and available in Jobcentre Plus since April 2009.

In addition the following numbers of staff have received training over the last twelve months to manage new claims:

113 have received Income Support / Incapacity Benefit training;

2,067 have received JSA Training; and

16,456 have received ESA training.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is provided to Jobcentre Plus staff to assist graduate and highly-skilled jobseekers; and if she will make a statement. [288710]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what training is provided to Jobcentre Plus staff to assist graduate and highly skilled jobseekers. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers receive a full programme of training to support all customers in identifying job goals. This training is designed to deal with all of our individual customers holistically rather than segmented according to background, so learning products do not include specific training aimed at assisting graduate or highly skilled jobseekers to find work. In helping customers to achieve their job goals, Personal Advisors do take into account the customer's circumstances, such as skills and qualifications to direct them to the appropriate resources and support.

As you will be aware, the Government has introduced new help for professional and executive jobseekers and has a cross Government package of support for graduates. Jobcentre Plus advisers have been trained on these offerings and also how best to signpost customers to other sources of help tailored to their needs.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training *(a)* personal advisers, *(b)* decision-makers, *(c)* disability benefit advisers and *(d)* specialist lone parents advisers who are (i) new and (ii) existing Jobcentre Plus employees are required to complete on benefit rules and compliance before starting their positions; whether such people are required to take refresher training in benefit rules and compliance; and what criteria are used to assess their competency. [288756]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking: how many hours of training would-be (a) personal advisers, (b) decision-makers, (c) disability benefit advisers and (d) specialist lone parents advisers who are (i) new and (ii) existing Jobcentre Plus employees are required to complete before starting their positions.

what training (a) personal advisers, (b) decision-makers, (c) disability benefit advisers and (d) specialist lone parents advisers who are (i) new and (ii) existing Jobcentre Plus employees are required to complete on benefit rules and compliance before starting their positions; whether such people are required to take refresher training in benefit rules and compliance; and what criteria are used to assess their competency.

This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

New personal advisers, decision makers, disability benefit advisers and specialist lone parents advisers all undertake 60 hours of induction/foundation learning. In addition to this, personal advisers receive 130 hours of training, disability benefit advisers receive 59 hours of training and specialist lone parent advisers receive 47.5 hours of training before starting their positions. Decision makers receive 65 hours of foundation learning and generic decision making training before starting their position. Dependent upon the business area, decision makers may also be required to complete supplementary training in that particular field of expertise.

With regard to benefit rules and compliance, new Jobcentre Plus personal advisers, disability benefit advisers and specialist lone parent advisers are required to complete two hours of benefit rules and compliance training.

The required training for benefit rules and compliance for decision makers is dependent upon the business areas and decision making responsibilities that they are to undertake. For example, for Jobseeker's Allowance there are 145 hours of benefit rules and compliance learning available from which a decision maker would complete the individual products appropriate to their allocated decision making duties.

The amount of training, including benefit rules and compliance, required for existing Jobcentre Plus employees is dependant upon their existing skills and knowledge. In consultation with line managers, employees would assess their existing skills and knowledge and identify the appropriate training products they would require to take up a change of job role. These training products would be from the same product set as that for new staff.

The need for refresher training on benefit rules and compliance is dependant upon the employee's performance and would be assessed in consultation with their line managers.

Line managers observe personal adviser interviews against a set of behaviour criteria set out in the Jobcentre Plus Quality Assessment Framework to identify any further learning needs. Accuracy and quality checks are carried out on decision makers and these support the line managers in identifying further learning requirements.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people who will have been claiming income-based jobseeker's allowance for *(a)* six months or more, *(b)* 12 months or more, *(c)* 18 months or more and *(d)* 24 months or more in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 on the basis of the assumptions about unemployment made in respect of the 2009 Budget. [277804]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The Department has not estimated the number of people who will have been claiming the income-based component of jobseeker's allowance for different durations.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average number of days between the completion of processing of an application for jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and the first payment of JSA was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [286642]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average number of days between the completion of processing of an application for Jobseeker's Allowance and the first payment of Jobseeker's Allowance was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The current Jobcentre Plus target for the average actual clearance time taken to process Jobseeker's Allowance claims is 11.5 days. This time is calculated across an average of all the claims cleared in any given month looking at the date the customer first contacted Jobcentre Plus or the customer's first day of unemployment, whichever is the later. The end date is the date a formal decision is made on the claim and a notification is issued to the customer on entitlement.

The current year to date achievement is 9.7 days to May 2009. The first payment of Jobseeker's Allowance is issued to the customer as soon as entitlement is decided.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 19 year-old jobseeker's allowance claimants reported having been unemployed for over 12 months on initial application in the latest period for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [287313]

Jim Knight: The information is not available.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 30 April 2009 on statutory adoption pay. [285494]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

My noble Friend, the Minister for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations, responded to the right hon. Member on 16 July.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Barstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bury North of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 270W, on mortgages: Government assistance, how many claims for mortgage relief made with *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support were (i) received, (ii) processed, (iii) awarded and (iv) refused in each jobcentre in each region in (A) January 2008 and (B) January 2009; and if she will make a statement. [264353]

Helen Goodman: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bury North of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 270W, on mortgages: Government assistance, how many claims for mortgage relief made with *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support were (i) received, (ii) processed, (iii) awarded and (iv) refused in each jobcentre in each region in (A) January 2008 and (B) January 2009; and if he will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Claims with a mortgage interest element are received by our Benefit Delivery Centres. I can provide you with data for both January 2008 and January 2009 by Benefit Delivery Centre, but not by Jobcentre as you have requested. Information by Jobcentre in each region could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

For Jobseeker's Allowance, we collect data on claims with a mortgage interest element received and claims processed. Our benefit processing system for Jobseeker's Allowance does not record data about the number of awards and refusals.

For Income Support, we record data about claims with a mortgage interest element received, processed, awarded and refused.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes have been made to the new Jobcentre Plus jobseekers' regime designed as part of the Flexible New Deal since it was first announced. [283565]

Jim Knight: The Government first announced their intention to introduce the Flexible New Deal in the July 2007 Green Paper 'In work, better off: next steps to full employment'[Cm 7130]. Following a period of consultation, the different stages of the Jobseeker's Regime were set out in the December 2007 DWP publication 'Ready for work: full employment in our generation'[Cm 7290].

The Social Security (Flexible New Deal) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No. 480) were laid in March 2009 and the new regime was launched in phase 1 areas from 6 April 2009.

Since April 2009, the Department has also introduced a number of measures to provide extra support to jobseekers in light of the economic downturn in addition to that already provided in the Jobseeker's Regime.

On 6 April 2009, the Department introduced targeted support for the newly unemployed, including support tailored to professionals to enable them to refresh their job search skills.

On the same day, the Department introduced an offer of extra support for customers who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for six months (Stage 3 of the Jobseeker's Regime). This includes access to recruitment subsidies, work-focused training, help to become self-employed and volunteering opportunities.

The Government also recently announced a Young Person's Guarantee: a guaranteed offer of a job, work-focused training or work experience placement for young jobseekers. This will be available from January 2010 to all Jobseeker's Allowance customers aged 18 to 24 who are approaching 12 months of their claim.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what criteria apply for jobseeker's allowance claimants to be fast-tracked to the gateway period of the Flexible New Deal; [287314]

(2) how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants she expects to be fast-tracked to the gateway stage of the Flexible New Deal in each of the next 12 months. [287315]

Jim Knight: As part of the refreshed jobseeker's allowance regime, some jobseekers will be fast-tracked to the supported jobsearch stage (Stage 3) of the regime at the start of their claim. Stage 3 is normally reserved for customers out of work for six months, and comprises more intensive adviser-led support, and access to the new package of support at six months, comprising recruitment subsidies, help to become self-employed, and access to training and volunteering opportunities.

The refreshed jobseeker's allowance regime was launched in Phase One areas in April this year; we expect it to be launched in Phase Two areas in April next year.

Fast-tracking applies to:

Customers with a history of claiming benefit who have spent 22 of the previous 24 months on Jobseeker's Allowance;

18 year olds who have been continuously out of employment, education or training for six months prior to making a claim, or whose period out of employment, education or training and Jobseeker's Allowance claim together reach six months.

Other disadvantaged groups can volunteer for early entry to Stage 3, at adviser discretion and subject to capacity.

We have placed no limit on the number of people fast-tracking will apply to, nor are we subject to limitations about the overall proportion of customers to whom the measures will apply.

New Deal Schemes: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 18 and 24 in Hemsworth constituency have received assistance under the New Deal since 1997; and how many such people have moved into employment. [288786]

Jim Knight: People aged between 18 and 24 can benefit from the New Deal for Young People, which was rolled out nationally from April 1998. In the Hemsworth constituency 2,430 young people entered the New Deal up to February 2009 and 1,640 people went on from the New Deal into work up to November 2008, which is the latest date for which data are available.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

New Deal Schemes: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency have received assistance through New Deal schemes in each year since 1997. [288443]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the following tables:

Time series of starters (individuals), people starting all new deal programmes in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency

	Number of people
1998	320
1999	500
2000	440
2001	460
2002	540
2003	530
2004	550
2005	590
2006	580
2007	820
2008	870
2009	150

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
3. The new deal for young people pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998.
4. The new deal for 25plus programme was introduced in July 1998.
5. The new deal for lone parents programme was introduced in October 1988.
6. The new deal for disabled people was introduced in July 2001.
7. Data on new deal 50plus are available from January 2004 (programme was introduced in April 2000).
8. Data for new deal for partners are available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999).

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate.

Time series of jobs (individuals), people gaining a job for each new deal programme in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency

	Number of people
1998	150
1999	400
2000	370
2001	350
2002	370
2003	440
2004	410
2005	450
2006	380
2007	400
2008	400

Time series of jobs (individuals), people gaining a job for each new deal programme in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency

	Number of people
2009	—

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
3. Jobs gained from April 2006 are identified mainly from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal study.
4. Jobs are allocated to the year that the job was gained.
5. Latest data available are to November 2008.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate.

Nuclear Reactors: Safety

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the implications for nuclear safety regulation of the civil nuclear industry of the comparative inspection effort expended for the performance of inspection per nuclear power reactor set out in the extract from Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities of the Nuclear Energy Agency working group on inspection practices published in annex F of the paper presented to the Health and Safety Executive Board in January 2009, No. HSE/09/13. [287495]

Jonathan Shaw: It is correct that the number of HSE nuclear inspectors per nuclear installation is less than most other countries with active nuclear programmes. This is not a recent development and is a consequence of the goal setting nature of the UK regulatory system with its emphasis on ensuring that nuclear operators understand the hazards of their activities and how to control them, and take full responsibility for nuclear safety on their sites.

Unlike many foreign regulatory authorities referred to in the Nuclear Energy Agency reference, HSE's nuclear inspector resources are not used to develop detailed regulations that prescribe how the nuclear operators should carry out their business. The nuclear installations inspectorate (NII) sets safety goals that are embodied in the licence conditions for each nuclear licensed site and require the operators to make and implement arrangements to meet these goals. UK law holds the nuclear operators responsible for safety. The NII's role is to ensure that they meet this obligation. The law, however, gives the NII the powers to intervene when and where appropriate, and seek further improvements in nuclear safety where reasonably practicable.

The system requires highly experienced and technically qualified nuclear inspectors to operate efficiently and effectively. Government have agreed with HSE interim measures to ensure that the NII has the resources needed to continue to effectively meet current and future regulatory challenges. Furthermore, the Government are proposing, in their recent consultation document on the Restructuring of the Heath and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate, further measures to sustain this capability into the future.

Occupational Pensions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people who have lost part of their pension because the sponsoring employer is insolvent or no longer exists. [283546]

Angela Eagle: The information is not available in the form requested. However, such information as is available is as follows.

The Government estimate that around 130,000 members of schemes with insolvent sponsoring employers will benefit from the Financial Assistance Scheme.

In addition the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) protects members of eligible defined benefit pension schemes whose sponsoring employer experiences a qualifying insolvency event after April 2005. As at 30 June 2009, the PPF had 30,443 transferred members from 101 schemes. A further 193,228 members of 319 schemes remain in the PPF assessment period as of 30 June 2009 some of whom may have lost part of their pension. Since 2005, 32 schemes with 3352 members have wound up outside the PPF; these members would receive more than PPF compensation, but may not receive the full benefits originally promised by their scheme. A further 7,436 schemes were rejected as ineligible for assessment.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customers of Pathways to Work have been awarded Return to Work Credit where no job start had been recorded since the inception of the credit; and what the total monetary value was of those awards in each year for which data are available. [287935]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* 11,200 individuals found work as a result of Provider Led Pathways to Work. Of these 4,500 did not claim the Return to Work Credit, 3,230 claimed the Return to Work Credit and appear on HM Revenue and Customs data. 3,470 claimed Return to Work Credit but are not recorded as having a job on the HM Revenue and Customs database. A further 20 individuals, who had found a job through Workstep did not appear on either the Return to Work Credit or the HM Revenue and Customs database.

137,110 individuals found work as a result of Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work. Of these 54,830 did not claim the Return to Work Credit, 28,530 claimed the Return to Work Credit and appear on HM Revenue and Customs data. 41,770 claimed Return to Work Credit but are not recorded as having a job on the HM Revenue and Customs database. A further 11,980 individuals who had found a job through Workstep or New Deal for Disabled People did not appear on either the Return to Work Credit or the HM Revenue and Customs database.

There are several reasons, for example low earnings or self-employment, why someone in work should not appear on the HM Revenue and Customs database as this only covers those eligible to pay PAYE.

The Return to Work Credit is a payment of £40 a week for up to 52 weeks if earnings are no more than £15,000 a year, gross, and where certain other eligibility conditions are satisfied. It is not possible to give monetary values in the form requested.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria apply in respect of Ofsted inspections of Pathways to Work providers; how many

and what proportion of Pathways to Work providers have not met those criteria in each year since inspections began; and if she will make a statement. [288474]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently working with Ofsted in England, Estyn in Wales and HMIE in Scotland to develop and pilot an inspection model, tailored to their respective inspection frameworks, to give assurance on the quality of Provider Pathways.

Following this process, external inspection of Provider Led Pathways will start from the autumn in England and Wales; and from January 2010 in Scotland.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customers have made starts onto Pathways to Work since the programme's inception; how many have been recorded as making job starts; and how many customers who started jobs remain in employment. [288511]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Official statistics on the number of participants in Pathways to Work are available up to January 2009, these are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/ib_ref_ p2w.asp

Data on starts are available up to January 2009. Data on job entries are available up to October 2008. To allow for comparisons between starts and job entries over the same time period, starts to Pathways are shown up to the end of October 2008. Official statistics use both HMRC data and Return to Work Credit data to calculate how many Pathways customers have moved into employment. Information on job end dates can only be derived for individuals who have a matching employment spell on the HMRC data. Individuals who have started jobs in the six months prior to the end of October 2008 will not have had time to sustain their employment for at least six months. Numbers of individuals who remain in employment for six months on this database are shown in the table.

Number of individuals who started Pathways to Work and subsequently found employment

	Number of individuals	*Of which: are Return to Work credit only starts*	*Of which: are job outcome target job entries*	*Of which: are job outcome target job entries sustained for at least six months*
Provider - Led Pathways starts	101,230	—	—	—
Jobcentre Plus Pathways starts	812,470	—	—	—
Provider - Led Pathways job entries	11,200	3,470	7,720	1,170
Jobcentre Plus Pathways job entries	137,110	42,190	83,360	39,230

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. If a person has started employment more than once in the period, then their most recent employment is counted.

Source:
DWP Jobcentre Plus and Provider-Led databases

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customers who have made job starts under Pathways to Work have remained in employment for spells of *(a)* under 13 weeks, *(b)* between 13 and 26 weeks, *(c)* between 26 and 52 weeks and *(d)* over 53 weeks. [288512]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Official statistics on the number of participants in Pathways to Work are available up to January 2009, these are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/i_ref_p2w.asp

Data on starts are available up to January 2009. Data on job entries are available up to October 2008. The following table shows the duration of jobs for all jobs up to October 2007. This is to allow sufficient time for a customer to have remained in work for 12 months. Official statistics use both HMRC data and Return to Work Credit data to calculate how many Pathways customers have moved into employment. Information on job end dates can only be derived for individuals who have a matching employment spell on the HMRC data. Numbers of individuals who remain in employment on this database are shown in the table.

Number of individuals with job entries in Pathways to Work areas and the employment duration of those which have an HMRC record

Duration in employment	*Provider-led*	*Jobcentre Plus*
Total job entries (up to end of October 2008)	11,200	137,110
Total job entries (up to end of October 2007)	n/a	90,070
Of which:		
Are HMRC-recorded jobs	n/a	51,330
Under 13 weeks	n/a	14,400
13 to 26 weeks	n/a	7,500
26 to 52 weeks	n/a	7,260
52 weeks and over	n/a	22,170

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. If a person has started employment more than once in the period, then their most recent employment is counted.

Source:
DWP Jobcentre Plus and Provider-led databases

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of *(a)* the number of customers which have started Pathways to Work and *(b)* the proportion of Pathways to Work customers who have made recorded job starts in each year for which figures are available. [288518]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Official statistics on the number of participants in Pathways to Work are available up to January 2009, these are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/ib_ref_p2w.asp

Data on starts to Pathways are available up to January 2009. Data on job entries are available up to October

2008. As a result, the numbers who find employment within 91 days of their last contact with Pathways for the years 2008 and 2009 years are not fully complete as not all customers have had time to move into employment. Numbers of individuals who start Pathways and move into employment are shown in the following tables.

Number of individuals who started Pathways to Work and subsequently found employment in Pathfinder-led areas

	Individual Pathfinder-led starts	*Number which find employment within 91 days of last contact with Pathways*	*Proportion of Pathfinder-led starts which entered employment within 91 days of last contact with Pathways (percentage)*
October 2003 to December 2003	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 2004 to December 2004	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 2005 to December 2005	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 2006 to December 2006	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 2007 to December 2007	1,960	650	33.3

Number of individuals who started Pathways to Work and subsequently found employment in Jobcentre Plus areas

	Individual Jobcentre Plus starts	*Number of which found employment within 91 days of last contact with Pathways*	*Proportion of Jobcentre Plus starts which entered employment within 91 days of last contact with Pathways (percentage)*
October 2003 to December 2003	6,160	1,330	21.6
January 2004 to December 2004	72,920	14,490	19.9
January 2005 to December 2005	104,390	17,410	16.7
January 2006 to December 2006	209,020	35,450	17.0
January 2007 to December 2007	301,060	56,490	18.8

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. If a person has started Pathways or employment more than once in each year, then their first spell is counted each year.
3. A person is counted only once in each year, though they may appear in several years. As a result, the total number of individuals which have participated in Pathways since its inception cannot be derived by adding the number of individuals which have participated each year.

Source:
DWP Jobcentre Plus and Provider-led databases

Pension Credit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans her Department has *(a)* to introduce automatic payments of pension credit and *(b)* to automate some parts of the pension credit claim process; what estimate she has made of the number of claimants affected; and what assessment she has made of the effect of such changes on levels of pension credit take-up. [285798]

Angela Eagle: We have no current plans to introduce wholesale automatic payments of pension credit. However, for existing customers moving from a means-tested working age benefit onto pension credit we are proposing to smooth the transition between benefits using the information already held, where it is considered safe to do so.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* new and *(b)* re-assessed pension credit applications were processed in (i) 10 days and fewer, (ii) 11 to 15 days, (iii) 16 to 20 days, (iv) 21 to 25 days and (v) over 25 days in each of the last six quarters; and if she will make a statement. [287320]

Angela Eagle: We are unable to provide the level of detail requested. However the following table details the average actual clearance times (AACT) for pension credit, each year since 2007.

Pension credit clearance times

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*June YTD[1] 2009-10*
Target (days)	[2]AACT 15	AACT 15	AACT 15
Total Processed	280,097	298,075	74,894
AACT (days)	15.6	15	15.7

[1] Year to date.
[2] Actual average clearance time.

Source:
Pension Service Legacy System

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average it took to process a claim for pension credit in each *(a)* region and *(b)* processing centre in each of the last six quarters; and if she will make a statement. [287321]

Angela Eagle: The following table gives the YTD pension credit AACT at the end of each of the last six quarters. The national figures for pension credit are under the heading 'The Pension Service'.

Pension credit claims AACT YTD by quarter

Pension credit claims AACT	*March 2008 YTD*	*June 2008 YTD*	*September 2008 YTD*	*December 2008 YTD*	*March 2009 YTD*	*June 2009 YTD*
The Pension Service	15.64	14.25	14.59	14.55	14.95	15.71
Burnley Pension Centre	13.73	11.51	10.98	11.65	12.87	20.29
Cwmbran Pension Centre	9.3	9.3	9.18	9.16	9.18	10.98
Dundee Pension Centre	13.01	11.94	11.95	13.28	15.5	18.3
Leicester Pension Centre	22.18	16.13	17.92	17.37	15.81	8.85

Pension credit claims AACT YTD by quarter

Pension credit claims AACT	*March 2008 YTD*	*June 2008 YTD*	*September 2008 YTD*	*December 2008 YTD*	*March 2009 YTD*	*June 2009 YTD*
London Pension Centre	14.37	12.45	12.45	12.78	13.09	15.45
Motherwell Pension Centre	14.64	15.4	15.75	15.96	17.11	13.6
Seaham Pension Centre	15.86	11.59	11.65	12.7	12.96	13.49
Stockport Pension Centre	22.94	18.45	19.09	18.39	17.57	13.47
Swansea Pension Centre	14.68	17.32	17.28	15.67	15.49	17.64
Warrington Pension Centre	15.77	16.39	17.64	16.97	17.32	21.53

Source:
MISP (Management Information Systems Program)

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of male claimants of pension credit between 60 and 65 years old in each region of *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [287711]

Angela Eagle: The requested information is in the following table. In Northern Ireland, pension credit administration is a matter for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Pension credit case load: number of claimants who are male and aged 60-64

Government office region	*Number of claimants*
North East	13,630
North West	30,820
Yorkshire and the Humber	20,810
East Midlands	15,090
West Midlands	22,070
East of England	16,680
London	27,240
South East	21,250
South West	16,510
England	184,100
Wales	13,360
Scotland	22,730
Total	220,230

Notes:
1. The case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of claimants of carer's premium to those in receipt of pension credit in each region of *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland; and what proportion of total claims of pension credit this represents in each case. [287712]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table. In Northern Ireland pension credit administration is a matter for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Government office region	*Households in receipt of pension credit with an additional amount for caring*	*Households in receipt of pension credit*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
North East	15,160	157,000	9.66
North West	38,220	359,730	10.62
Yorkshire and The Humber	23,540	261,350	9.01
East Midlands	18,910	195,480	9.67
West Midlands	29,120	278,930	10.44
East of England	21,580	226,880	9.51
London	15,960	294,480	5.42
South East	20,240	286,680	7.06
South West	20,780	226,080	9.19
England	203,500	2,286,610	8.90
Wales	20,060	163,410	12.28
Scotland	29,620	281,030	10.54
Total	253,200	2,731,370	9.27

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
WP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of people entitled to pension credit who have not claimed it in *(a)* St. Ives

constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England in each of the last five years; [287924]

(2) how many people claimed pension credit in *(a)* St. Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [287925]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of eligibility and therefore those who are entitled to pension credit but have not claimed it are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled to but not receiving pension credit are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08".

The number of household recipients of pension credit in St. Ives parliamentary constituency, Cornwall and England are shown in the following table.

As at November each year	*St. Ives*	*Cornwall*	*England*
2004	5,810	27,580	2,200,630
2005	6,060	28,260	2,266,420
2006	6,140	28,740	2,290,810
2007	6,150	28,830	2,287,390
2008	6,170	28,900	2,286,610

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Credit: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Bexleyheath and Crayford were in receipt of pension credit in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [288772]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table:

Household recipients of pension credit in the Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency

2008	*Number*
February	2,750
May	2,750
August	2,750
November	2,770

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Protection Fund: East of England

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the East of England have received Pension Protection Fund payments in each year since the fund's inception; and what the average size of payment was in each year. [285730]

Angela Eagle: The information is not available in the form requested. However, such information as is available is as follows:

455 people in the East of England are currently receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund. Two people from the region were receiving such compensation in May 2007 and 111 people in June 2008.

The national average annual payment of compensation is currently around £3,700; a regional breakdown of this figure is not available.

Pension Service: Internet

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what dates since January 2009 the Pension Service's state pension forecast e-service pages have not had full service available; for how long on each occasion; and if she will make a statement. [287546]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The following table provides details of the occasions since January 2009 when the Pension Service's on-line state pension forecast service (RTPF) has been unavailable together with the duration of that unavailability. With the exception of the period from 30 March 2009 to 5 April 2009 when there was unprecedented demand for the service, downtime is normally as a result of planned maintenance work or the planned introduction of system improvements.

Advanced notification of RTPF downtime from January 2009

Date of downtime	*Time of downtime*
8 January 2009	[1]09.25-11.25
13 January 2009	[1]10.21-11.28
15 January 2009	21.00-01.00
23 January 2009 to 26 January 2009	17:00-07:00
25 February 2009	[1]21:00-21:20
4 March 2009	00:01-06:00
26 March 2009 to 27 March 2009	22:00-01:00
27 March 2009 to 30 March 2009	12:00-07.00
3 April 2009 to 4 April 2009	19:00-01:00
30 March 2009 to 5 April 2009	[1]Intermittent
5 April 2009 to 6 April 2009	11.30-07.00
9 April 2009	[1]Intermittent
1 May 2009	[1]12.33-14.18
1 May 2009 to 2 May 2009	21.00-02.00
5 May 2009	21.00-22.00
6 May 2009	[1]08.37-09.00
8 May 2009	[1]09.33-11.43
16 May 2009	19.00-21.00
22 May 2009	21.00-22.00
22 May 2009 to 26 May 2009	21.00-07.00
30 May 2009	17.00-22.00
1 June 2009	01.30-02.00
6 June 09	19.00-21.00
9 June 2009	01.30-02.00
12 June 2009 to 15 June 2009	17.00-07.00
13 June 2009	18.00-21.00
19 June 2009 to 29 June 2009	12.00-07.00
25 June 2009	21.05-22.00 and 23.15-02.00
26 June 2009 to 27 June 2009	18.00-06.00
30 June 2009	22.00-23.00
2 July 2009	22.00-23.00
4 July 2009	21.00-00.00
8 July 2009	21.00-22.00
9 July 2009	22.00-23.00
14 July 2009	22.00-23.00
16 July 2009	22.00-24.00

Advanced notification of RTPF downtime from January 2009

Date of downtime	*Time of downtime*
21 July 2009	22.00-23.00
28 July 2009	22.00-23.00
29 July 2009	00.01-06.00
1 August 2009 to 3 August 2009	12.00-07.00

[1] Downtime as a result of incidents from January 2009
Source:
The RTPF system

Pensioners

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will publish an update of the data in figure 6.41 on page 293 of the report of the Turner Commission. A new pension settlement for the 21st century, on public expenditure on pensioner benefits as a percentage of GDP, for the period covered by the figure; and if she will publish the same information in the case of each age cohort. [269821]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* Such figures as are available were published in an update to the Pensions Reform Bill Regulatory Impact Assessment in May 2007. They can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/pensions-reform-factsheet.pdf

figure 14, p16. More recent figures, and a breakdown by age cohort, are not available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Notes:

1. Figures are consistent with DWP long-term projections published at Budget 2007.

2. Post-reform figures are consistent with the pensions reform proposals at the time of publication (May 2007) and not necessarily with the Turner Commission report.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of assuming that any income earned from savings for the purposes of pensioners' eligibility for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* council tax benefit is one per cent. higher than the Bank of England base rate (i) beyond and (ii) instead of existing capital disregards. [276774]

Angela Eagle: The following table shows the estimated cost of assuming different illustrative Bank of England rates of around 1 per cent. and 5 per cent. (averaged over a year), with and without the £6,000 capital disregard.

Estimated cost of tariff income set at approximately 1 per cent. higher than Bank of England base rate for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit (2009-10 prices)

Rate applied to income above the disregard	*(i) Cost keeping current disregard (£ million)*	*(ii) Cost removing current disregard (£ million)*
2 per cent.	350	240
6 per cent.	170	110

Notes:
1. These estimates have been calculated using the Policy Simulation Model (PSM) which uses data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). Estimates are subject to sampling and modelling uncertainty.
2. Income taken into account is rounded up to the next £1.
3. In column (i) the interest rate is applied to capital above the capital disregard.
4. Estimates do not include the cost of applying the rules to those in care/nursing homes.
5. Costs have been calculated against the current £6,000 threshold and not against the revised threshold of £10,000 that will apply from November 2009.
6. Costs have been rounded to the nearest £10 million.

Pensions Service: Incentives

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Pensions Service in each of the last five years. [280620]

Angela Eagle: The information available is in the following table

Amount paid in bonuses for 2007-08 and 2008-09

The Pension Service[1]	*Bonuses (£)* 2007-08	*Bonuses (£)* 2008-09
Directors	86,200	[2]
Senior managers	334,404	[2]
Specialist and delivery managers	592,836	313,510
Executive support and administration staff	3,212,325	1,816,466

[1] The Pension Service ceased to exist from 1 April 2008, when it merged with the Disability and Carers Service to form the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS). The figures entered for 2008-09 therefore represent bonuses paid to ex-The Pension Service staff who are now working within PDCS and broadly carrying out the same roles as in 2007-08.
[2] There is not a directly comparable figure for Directors and Senior Managers in the new organisation, whose roles span the whole new agency.
Source:
Resource Management (RM) System—Payroll

Pensions: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the City of York local authority area and *(b)* City of York constituency are in receipt of (i) the basic state pension and (ii) pension credit; and what the average weekly value of pension credit received is in each case. [285754]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table.

	People in receipt of the basic state pension	*Households in receipt of pension credit*	*Average weekly amount of pension credit (£)*
York local authority	36,900	6,680	45.41
City of York parliamentary constituency	18,700	4,350	46.39

Notes:
1. Numbers in receipt of basic state pension rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data and DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample data.

Pilot Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's definition is of *(a)* a pilot and *(b)* a pathfinder programme. [286746]

Jim Knight: The Department has no formal definition for pilots or pathfinders. A pilot is considered to be a feasibility study or activity aimed at testing and evaluating the effectiveness of an initiative on a small scale before considering whether or not to implement it more widely. A pathfinder is an advance part of implementation

when a decision has been made to deploy a project. Pathfinders are generally the initial phase in rolling out initiatives.

Poverty: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency were in relative poverty in each of the last five years. [273373]

Angela Eagle: Poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in relative poverty at Government office region level or for inner or outer London. This means information for Essex and the Castle Point constituency is not available.

Poverty: Parents

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent assessment is of levels of poverty among working parents who are not eligible for tax credits. [282865]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The child tax credit is a single, inclusive system of support for all families with children with an income up to £58,000. Families with a child aged under 16, or a young person aged 16-19 and in qualifying work, education or training, are eligible. Around nine out of 10 families with children are entitled to the child tax credit, there is little or no risk of poverty for families with incomes above the income threshold.

Recruitment: Discrimination

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria applied in the selection of employers by her Department in respect of its recent study into discrimination in recruitment practices. [287770]

Jim Knight: Applications were made to advertised job vacancies. No specific employers or sectors of industry were targeted. Full details of the methodology of the research will be published in the autumn.

Remploy: South Yorkshire

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people who left the employment of Remploy in South Yorkshire in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years who are in permanent employment. [288833]

Jim Knight: The number of people who left the employment of Remploy in South Yorkshire in the last 12 months is 31. In the last five years, 139 people left the employment of Remploy in South Yorkshire.

Remploy has confirmed that it does not collate destination information for former employees, therefore, we are unable to provide information on how many are in permanent employment.

Self-Employed: Government Assistance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how the self employment support available under the six month offer will differ from that offered under the New Deal for Self Employment; [288004]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of people she expects to support into self-employment under the six month offer in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [288005]

(3) whether a last trading period will be available to a person receiving self-employment support as part of the six month offer; [288006]

(4) how much funding has been assigned to the self-employment support to be made available under the six month offer in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [288007]

Jim Knight: The self-employment element of the six month offer was introduced on 6 April 2009 and provides substantial advice and support to enable people to move into self-employment or to start their own business. There is an active programme of intensive support delivered by Business Link in England by Flexible Support for Business in Wales and by Business Gateway and Training for Work in Scotland. Those moving into self-employment will be entitled to a self-employment credit made up of 16 weekly payments of £50 to help with the transition into work and to underpin finances for the first few months of the business.

There is no new deal for the self-employed although both the new deal for young people and the new deal 25-plus include options offering self-employment support. Under flexible new deal providers will also be able to provide self employment support. The new deal and six month offer routes into self employment are broadly similar. Both offer intensive support and advice to those who need it. To ease the transition into sustainable self-employment the new deals give customers an opportunity to undertake a period of test-trading for up to 26 weeks. Test trading enables the customer to begin work while remaining on benefits, whereas under the six month offer the self-employment credit is payable.

We have anticipated the six month offer providing 500,000 opportunities for jobseekers and have made an investment in the offer of £0.5 billion. On current estimates we expect to be able to provide self employment support to 135,000 people.

The offers are voluntary and are therefore demand led. The overall package is designed to be flexible and respond to customer needs. It is also possible that for any individual customer, a mix of offers may be appropriate.

Social Fund

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress her Department has made in its review of the Social Fund since the publication in November 2008 of its consultation document, The Social Fund: a new approach. [281574]

Helen Goodman: The Government's response to the consultation document 'The Social Fund: A New Approach—Response Document' was published on the

Department for Work and Pensions' website in February 2009. A copy has been placed in the Library. It can be downloaded from:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2008/sf-new-approach-response.pdf

We anticipate that a further consultation document focused on the longer-term reform of the Social Fund will be published later this year.

Social Security Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of claims for *(a)* budgeting loans, *(b)* crisis loans, *(c)* community care grants, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance, *(e)* incapacity benefit/employment and support allowance, *(f)* income support and *(g)* pension credit were processed within the target actual average clearance time in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years for which information is available; [286180]

(2) what the average clearance time for claims for *(a)* budgeting loans, *(b)* crisis loans, *(c)* community care grants, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance, *(e)* incapacity benefit/employment and support allowance, *(f)* income support and (g) pension credit was in cases where the claim was longer than the average clearance time in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [286181]

Jim Knight: The Jobcentre Plus target for processing jobseeker's allowance, income support and incapacity benefit claims is an average actual clearance time. Not all cases will be processed within the target for that benefit for a variety of reasons, but a calculation based on the average time taken across all claims processed within any given month is used as a measure of overall performance. As a result the Department's computer systems do not gather data in the way they have been requested.

The average actual clearance time information for budgeting loan, crisis loan and community care grant applications that are processed outside of the standard is not available.

Detailed information on clearance times for receipt of employment and support allowance is not available at the present time.

Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit for new claims from 27 October 2008. The latest quarterly data available are November 2008. More comprehensive figures are expected to be available when the February 2009 publication is produced in August 2009.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what start and end point is used to measure average actual clearance times for benefit claims. [286745]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions administers a wide range of benefits. The clearance performance for some of these is measured in Average Actual Clearance Times (AACT). AACTs are calculated by dividing the total number of working days taken to clear cases by the total number of cases cleared. Details of the start and end point for each such benefit are given in the following table.

Benefit	*Start point*	*End point*
Disability Living Allowance	Date on which a properly completed claim pack is received within a Department for Work and Pensions office	Date on which decision is recorded on the computer system and a notification of the decision is sent to the customer
Attendance Allowance	As above	As above
Carers Allowance	As above	As above
Pension Credit	Date on which all evidence is received to enable a decision to be made	As above
State Pension	Date on which a properly completed claim pack is received within a Department for Work and Pensions office. For telephone claims this is the date on which the customer makes the initial contact	As above
Jobseeker's Allowance	Date on which the customer first contacts Jobcentre Plus or the customer's first day of unemployment, whichever is the later	As above
Income Support	Date on which all evidence is received to enable a decision to be made	As above
Employment and Support Allowance	Date on which the customer first contacts Jobcentre Plus or the customer's first day of sickness, whichever is the later	As above
Incapacity Benefit	Date on which a properly completed claim form is received within a Department for Work and Pensions office	As above

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* new and *(b)* re-assessed council tax benefit claims were processed in (i) 10 days or less, (ii) 11 to 15 days, (iii) 16 to 20 days, (iv) 21 to 25 days, (v) 26 to 30 days, (vi) 31 to 35 days, (vii) 36 to 40 days, (viii) 41 to 45 days and (ix) over 45 days in each (A) region and (B) local authority in each of the last six quarters; [287317]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* new and *(b)* re-assessed housing benefit claims were processed in (i) 10 days and fewer, (ii) 11 to 15 days, (iii) 16 to 20 days, (iv) 21 to 25 days, (v) 26 to 30 days, (vi) 31 to 35 days, (vii) 36 to 40 days, (viii) 41 to 45 days and (ix) over 45 days in each (A) region and (B) local authority in each of the last six quarters. [287318]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is currently not available.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what circumstances benefit claimants become Gateway outstayers. [288489]

Jim Knight: Gateway overstayers are New Deal participants who have not started a mandatory New Deal Option or Intensive Activity Period (IAP) before the end of the maximum period they can remain on a Personal Adviser caseload, which is 16 weeks. This can happen for a number of reasons, including:

The participant has a firm offer of employment which is due to start shortly after the end of Gateway;

The provision of the option/activity the participant was due to take up unexpectedly becomes unavailable;

The participant is shortly due to emigrate to a country outside Great Britain;

The participant has suffered the bereavement of a close member of their family;

The participant is referred to an activity/option, but fails to start/attend.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to monitor the effect of changing the backdating period for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* housing benefit in October 2008; and if she will make a statement. [288758]

Helen Goodman: All benefits are kept under review as part of our continual steps to make sure that everyone is getting all of the help that they are entitled to and we are always working to make our benefits more accessible.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service continues to promote take-up of benefits by pressing forward with data matching to identify those who might be entitled to, but not receiving pension credit, to conduct around 13,000 home visits for vulnerable customers each week, targeted local marketing and media campaigns and ever closer working with partner organisations.

The claims process has been simplified and from November 2008 housing benefit and council tax benefit can be claimed over the phone alongside pension credit without the need to sign a claim form.

We are also taking powers in the current Welfare Reform Bill to explore whether the Department can make better use of the information it already holds to improve the take-up of pension credit.

As with pension credit, there are no specific plans to monitor the effect of the change in the time allowed for customers of pension credit age to claim housing benefit and council tax benefit.

For working age customers, the Government have said that they will review the effect of the changes to the housing benefit and council tax benefit backdating rules for this group at the end of 2009. To do this we will use information from the Single Housing Benefit Extract, the Department's principal source of data for housing benefit and council tax benefit administration. In addition, two further methods will be used to inform a review of the policy at the end of 2009. First, the last half-yearly Omnibus Survey of local authorities contained questions which specifically asked them about the impact of these changes. Second, a survey has been running on the DWP website since 2 March, inviting stakeholders such as welfare rights agencies, local authority associations and housing organisations to submit their assessment of the effect of the new rules. This survey, which was devised with the assistance of key stakeholders and ends on 31 July, also includes a case study section so that respondents can contribute detailed information about the impact on individual cases.

Social Security Benefits: Contracts

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reports have been compiled as a result of inspection and validation of contract compliance of her Department's external contractors working on programmes with benefit recipients. [286697]

Jim Knight: DWP contract managers undertake regular contractor performance reviews to monitor contract compliance. These then inform the preparation of the contractor's Performance Development Plan which sets out any remedial action.

DWP officials also undertake independent monitoring visits to provide assurance that welfare to work contractors have appropriate financial controls and effective systems in place. A report of the findings is produced and forms the basis of an agreed action plan.

The Department works closely with Ofsted in England, and Estyn in Wales, to produce an annual programme of inspection, ensuring all welfare to work contracts delivered by external contractors are inspected over the course of an inspection cycle. Reports from external inspections are in the public domain.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have received their health checks for invalidity benefits in each month since the introduction of the current health checks scheme; how many people were planned to receive such checks but have not; how long it is expected to take to provide checks to such people; and what the cost of doing so will be; [271988]

(2) how many people have come off each type of invalidity benefit in each month since the new system of health checks came into effect; and how many people remain on each benefit. [271989]

Jonathan Shaw: The employment and support allowance was introduced in October 2008 and has replaced incapacity benefits for new customers. Alongside the employment and support allowance we have introduced a new more robust medical assessment—the work capability assessment, which focuses on what people can do, as well as what they cannot. The number of face-to-face medical assessments for all incapacity benefits completed by Atos Healthcare during each month is as follows:

Month	*Assessments*
October 2008	55,487
November 2008	52,352
December 2008	45,904
January 2009	53,050
February 2009	49,453
March 2009	68,051
April 2009	63,315
May 2009	64,106
June 2009	66,575
Total	518,293

The number of medical assessments undertaken was, until recently, below the number of cases coming in for assessment, but action has been taken which will by the summer raise these to a level that will clear the accumulated backlog. No additional payments will be made to clear overdue work capability assessments. The prices paid for assessments remain confidential.

As at November 2008, there were 2,593,010 incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Great Britain and, based on provisional figures, an additional 51,000 claimants of employment and support allowance.

Figures for the number of claimants moving off incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance are only available for November 2008, one month after the work capability assessment was introduced. Figures for the number of claimants moving off employment and support allowance are not yet available but are expected to be released later this summer.

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the effect of the Government's policies on welfare reform on families in Tamworth constituency. [282739]

Jim Knight: The welfare reform programme will allow us to bring about the most radical reform of the welfare state for generations. We remain committed to further reform to reduce welfare dependency and support more people into work, provide greater support and control for disabled people and strengthen parental responsibility.

Since 2001, the Government have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Tamworth will have benefited from these improvements in disability rights. Similarly, families with severely disabled three and four year old children who are unable, or virtually unable to walk will have benefited from the Government's decision to lower the minimum age entitlement to the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance from April 2001, whilst older and less well-off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the national carers strategy. The Welfare Reform Bill currently before Parliament contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs.

There are over 10 million people with a limiting long-term illness, impairment or disability in Great Britain making up 18 per cent. of the population. (Family resources survey 2007-08). The prevalence of disability rises with age; around one in 20 children are disabled, compared to around one in seven working age adults and almost one in two people over state pension age. All of these people would meet the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). The figures can be disaggregated to a regional level which shows that 23 per cent. of adults and 7 per cent. of children in the west midlands are disabled. (Family resources survey 2007-08).

Information on the numbers of customers in Tamworth who are in receipt of disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) is in the following table.

	Tamworth	
November each year	*DLA recipients*	*AA recipients*
2005	4,530	2,120
2006	4,680	2,210
2007	4,880	2,240
2008	4,960	2,320

Note:
Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 1997, although the number of people claiming as unemployed in Tamworth has increased by 58 per cent., the number of long-term unemployed has decreased by 62 per cent. Since 1997 to November 2009 the number of people claiming income support for lone parents in Tamworth has decreased by 28 per cent. to 990.

Our new deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Nationally almost 2.14 million people have been helped into work by the new deals, with over 3,000 in Tamworth alone.

Significant progress has also been made in tackling child poverty. Since 1998-99 the number of children in relative low-income households fell by 500,000 from 3.4 million to 2.9 million on a before housing costs (BHC) basis.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints her Department has received from benefit claimants over lost payment due to fraudulent use of chip and PIN cards in the last 12 months; what estimate she has made of the total monetary value of benefits stolen in this way; and if she will make a statement. [278152]

Helen Goodman: No such complaints have been recorded by the Department in the last 12 months. We would expect customers who were concerned about chip and PIN fraud to contact their account provider rather than the Department.

Social Security Benefits: Mental Health

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people in receipt of incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance had their capability for work assessed as limited by mental ill-health in each year since 1997. [282547]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of people claiming incapacity benefit has fallen in recent years. The number of people claiming for physical conditions has fallen significantly as a result of Government programmes to get more people who are able to work back into suitable employment. The number of people claiming incapacity benefit for mental health conditions has remained broadly unchanged over the last few years.

The Government are developing more action to help those with mental health conditions get back into work including a new Mental Health and Employment strategy due to be published in the autumn and the Perkins review on how we help people with mental health conditions back into work.

We have replaced the old system of incapacity benefits with the more work-focused employment and support allowance to engage with people more actively and to ensure they are aware of opportunities available.

The essential rule for entitlement to either incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance does not depend on an individual's diagnosis or condition, but on the effect that condition, or a combination of conditions, has on each individual's mental and physical function.

Information for employment and support allowance is not yet available. Information for incapacity benefit is provided in the following table.

Proportion of IB claimants with mental and behavioural disorders as main disabling condition, November 1997 to 2008

As at November each year:	*All conditions (Number)*	*Mental and behavioural disorders (Number)*	*Physical and other conditions (Number)*	*Percentage of incapacity benefit claimants with mental and behavioural disorders*
1997	2,837,540	768,850	2,068,600	27.1
1998	2,767,606	805,530	1,962,100	29.1
1999	2,738,130	847,920	1,890,210	32.1
2000	2,764,140	902,590	1,861,550	33.7
2001	2,787,710	952,160	1,835,550	35.2
2002	2,818,480	1,005,750	1,812,730	37.1
2003	2,822,270	1,048,920	1,773,330	38.6
2004	2,814,410	1,082,450	1,731,960	40.1
2005	2,752,900	1,085,920	1,666,980	41.1
2006	2,714,950	1,102,550	1,612,400	42.5
2007	2,683,750	1,115,790	1,567,960	43.6
2008	2,593,010	1,092,110	1,500,900	44.2

Notes:
1. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
2. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants must undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer benefit entitlement.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Percentages are rounded to 1 decimal place.
5. Figures for 1997 and 1998 have been derived by applying 5 per cent. proportions to 100 per cent. WPLS totals.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 5 per cent. and 100 per cent. data.

There is no clear evidence for the increase in mental illness as the main disabling condition. Informed suggestions for the increase are multi-factorial and include:

(i) Better diagnosis—particularly of behavioural conditions such as autism;

(ii) Less stigma—more people are willing to talk about the mental health issues affecting them;

(iii) Better treatment of physical conditions—particularly musculo-skeletal conditions; and

(iv) The changing nature of business—work intensity.

The Government believe that, with the right help and support, many more people with a mental health condition or disability can achieve independent and fulfilling lives, including through employment.

We have successfully introduced the more work-focused employment and support allowance for new customers, engaging with people more actively and ensuring they are aware of support and opportunities available. Pathways to Work, including the condition management programme, is available to everyone receiving incapacity benefits and employment and support allowance in Great Britain. Evidence on its effectiveness for customers with mental health conditions is mainly positive. A study of existing customers found that the employment impact for customers with mental health conditions was higher than for those without.

We have also committed to ensuring that the personalised support delivered through Pathways to Work is as co-ordinated as possible with the increase in mental health treatment provision delivered through the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme in England, and similar programmes in Scotland and Wales.

From December, we will pilot an occupational health helpline for employers, especially small and micro businesses, to help them to manage and support people who have mental health conditions to remain in or return to work.

Social Security Benefits: Standards

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many outstanding claims for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance have there been in each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years; [274990]

(2) what the average actual clearance time for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance claims has been in each month of the last two years for which figures are available; [274991]

(3) for what reasons average actual clearance times (AACTs) for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance exceed her Department's target times; and what steps she is taking to ensure that AACTs targets for each such benefit are met; [275025]

(4) what assessment she has made of her Department's performance in the introduction of employment and support allowance; [275027]

(5) what assessment she has made of her Department's performance in implementing the employment and support allowance; and if she will make a statement. [275550]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking:

how many outstanding claims for (a) incapacity benefit and (b) employment and support allowance have there been in each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years;

what the average actual clearance times for (a) incapacity benefit and (b) employment and support allowance claims have been in each month of the last two years for which figures are available;

for what reasons average actual clearance times (AACTs) for (a) incapacity benefit and (b) employment and support allowance exceed his Department's target times; and what steps he is taking to ensure that AACTs targets for each such benefit are met;

what assessment he has made of his Department's performance in the introduction of the new employment and support allowance; and

what assessment he has made of his Department's performance in implementing the employment and support allowance; and if he will make a statement.

This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The available information about AACTs over the last two years has been placed in the Library. The AACT for Incapacity Benefit is calculated from the date a properly completed claim form is received by Jobcentre Plus to the date a decision is made on the claim. Our benefit processing system calculates the AACTs by taking each claim's clearance time using the dates as described and calculates an average across the volume of claims processed.

The Department also published experimental monthly early estimates for Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits caseload figures on 17 June 2009. Furthermore there will be an independent evaluation report published in summer 2010.

Social Security Benefits: Young People

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will commission research to examine the adequacy of benefit provision for the basic living costs of people under 25 years; and if she will make a statement. [282606]

Jim Knight: I have no plans to commission research. Benefits for people under 25 years are uprated each year in line with prices which ensures that they maintain their value in real terms. Additional provision is available for help with housing costs and for disabled young people. Young families with children will be eligible for child benefit and the working tax credit and child tax credit.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the average weekly payment of the basic state pension for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) 2010, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2030, (iv) 2040 and (v) 2050; and if she will make a statement. [287327]

Angela Eagle: The information is in the following table.

Average weekly amounts of the basic state pension, Great Britain

£

	2010	*2020*	*2030*	*2040*	*2050*
Cash					
Men	93	141	219	346	558
Women	80	127	211	348	563
Real terms (2008-09 prices)					
Men	88	101	119	141	172
Women	76	91	115	142	173

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £1.
2. Forecasts of basic state pension average amounts in 2010-11 are based on the Budget 2009 forecasts. Basic state pension average amounts from 2020-21 onwards are based on the latest published long-term projections which were published Budget 2008.
3. The real terms figures are calculated from the Budget 2008 GDP deflator.

Source:
Budget 2009 forecasts and Budget 2008 long-term projections.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of the 25p age addition; when the size of the addition was last reviewed; how much it would be if it had been uprated in line with *(a)* prices and *(b)* earnings since its introduction; and if she will make a statement. [287682]

Angela Eagle: There are currently 2.7 million people in receipt of 25p age addition. The 25p weekly age addition was introduced in 1971 for those pensioners over the age of 80. This amount has not been uprated by successive governments.

(a) Uprating the 25p age addition by prices since 1971 would make it worth £2.90 in 2009-10.

(b) Uprating the 25p age addition by earnings since 1971 would make it worth £4.91 in 2009-10.

Travelling People: Housing Benefit

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the eligibility of occupants of illegal Traveller sites for housing benefit. [284094]

Helen Goodman: We have not issued any specific guidance on this subject.

Unemployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of the Jobcentre Plus National Workload Projection update for July 2009. [287780]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Unemployment Benefits: Lone Parents

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 11 of the Explanatory Memorandum to the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008, if she will update her estimate of the number of lone parents projected to be on out of work benefits. [278417]

Helen Goodman: The estimates of the number of lone parents projected to be on out of work benefits were based on the best available data and were sensitive to the particular assumptions used. The information necessary to revise these estimates is not available as the latest data do not yet reflect the impact of lone parent obligations on the number of lone parents on out of work benefits.

Unemployment: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to reduce levels of youth unemployment in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [287501]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to giving everyone the support they need to find employment as quickly as possible, whatever their age and wherever they live.

On 6 April 2009, as part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, the Department for Work and Pensions put in place extra support for newly unemployed customers, including information and advice about the latest job search techniques and coaching on how to make the most of transferable skills. Extra help for those who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months was also introduced, including opportunities to volunteer, support to become self-employed, recruitment subsidies and work-focused training.

Since last autumn, the Department has also quadrupled the available funding for the Rapid Response Service, which provides advice and support to customers facing redundancy. It has extended Local Employment Partnerships, the Adviser Discretion Fund and Access to Work so they are available to customers from the first day of their claim, alongside the support they receive from their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser.

The introduction of the flexible new deal across phase 1 areas from October 2009 will give providers the freedom to offer personalised, tailored support to everyone who has been claiming jobseeker's allowance for 12 months, helping them overcome their individual barriers to work. We expect to introduce flexible new deal in phase 2 areas from October 2010.

This will be available to jobseeker's allowance customers of all ages, throughout England, Scotland and Wales, to ensure that everyone has the best possible chance of finding work.

Furthermore, from next year all customers aged 18-24 who are approaching 12 months of their claim to jobseeker's allowance will have access to the young person's guarantee. This will offer the following from January 2010:

1. A new job created through the Future Jobs Fund;
2. Support to move into an existing job in a key employment sector;
3. Work-focused training; or
4. A work experience place through the Community Task Force.

Some elements of the guarantee will be available sooner. In October of this year the first jobs created by the Future Jobs Fund will be available. Training to enter key employment sectors will be available in the autumn.

Unemployment: Young People

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations her Department has received on youth unemployment; and what steps her Department is taking to reduce levels of youth unemployment in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Merseyside and *(d)* Cheshire. [284131]

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations her Department has received on youth unemployment; and what steps her Department is taking to reduce youth unemployment in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire, *(c)* the South of England and *(d)* England. [284444]

Jim Knight: The Department receives representations on youth unemployment from a wide range of people.

The Department is committed to giving everyone the support they need to find employment as quickly as possible, whatever their age.

On 6 April 2009, as part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, the Department for Work and Pensions put in place extra support for newly unemployed customers, including information and advice about the latest job search techniques and coaching on how to make the most of transferable skills. Extra help for those who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months was also introduced, including opportunities to volunteer, support to become self-employed, recruitment subsidies and work-focused training.

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The introduction of the Flexible New Deal across Phase 1 areas from this October will give providers the freedom to offer personalised, tailored support to everyone who has been claiming jobseeker's allowance for twelve months, helping them overcome their individual barriers to work. It is expected that Flexible New Deal will be introduced in Phase 2 areas from October 2010.

This will be available to jobseeker's allowance customers of all ages, throughout England, Scotland and Wales, to ensure that everyone has the best possible chance of finding work.

Furthermore, from next year all customers aged 18-24 who are approaching 12 months of their claim to jobseeker's allowance will have access to the Young Person's Guarantee. This will offer the following from January 2010:

A new job created through the Future Jobs Fund;

Support to move into an existing job in a key employment sector;

Work-focused training; or

A work experience place through the Community Task Force.

Some elements of the guarantee will be available sooner. In October of this year the first jobs created by the Future Jobs Fund will be available. Training to enter key employment sectors will be available in the autumn.

Waste Disposal: Safety

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Health and Safety Executive has assessed the safety of household wheeled refuse containers in relation to deliberate fires. [288270]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive has not assessed the safety of household refuse containers in relation to deliberate fires, and has no current plans to do so.

Work Experience

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will give job centres the discretion to vary the time and day on which a person is required to sign on to allow them to undertake an internship; and if she will make a statement. [288586]

Jim Knight: A customer claiming jobseeker's allowance is normally expected to attend (sign) each fortnight on their benefit week ending date, which is determined by their national insurance number. In circumstances where a customer cannot attend on their normal benefit week ending date, Jobcentres already have the discretion to allocate a different attendance day.

Where a person in receipt of jobseeker's allowance wants to undertake an internship and continue to receive jobseeker's allowance, they must comply with the conditions of entitlement. These conditions require the jobseeker not to be in remunerative work, and to be actively seeking and available for work of at least 40 hours per week. Jobseekers engaged in full-time work experience/internships will not usually be able to satisfy these conditions.

Additionally, jobseekers may be considered to be in remunerative work if the activities they do are for, on average, 16 hours or more per week and equivalent to that being undertaken by a paid employee. In such cases, regardless of whether they receive pay for the work they are doing, they would have no entitlement to jobseeker's allowance.

Changes are underway that will see graduates who have left university this year and are still unemployed after six months, being able to undertake an internship for up to 13 weeks and remain on benefits. This group will move off jobseeker's allowance and onto a training allowance and will not be required to attend every fortnight as a condition of payment.

Work Experience: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work trial placements her Department and its agencies have *(a)* offered to and *(b)* fulfilled for disabled people in each of the last three years. [285801]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Work Trials are available to support the recruitment of employees under Local Employment Partnership arrangements. These are not specific to disabled people. No central records are kept by DWP businesses on when these are used and obtaining such information would be at a disproportionate cost.

Workstep

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Workstep places were available in each region in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2009. [284952]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* The information is in the following table.

The number of contracted Workstep places by region over the last five years, and preliminary allocations for 2009-10

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
East Midlands	711	711	711	714	663	594
North East	435	435	561	560	467	389
London	673	633	576	530	469	394
South East	1,314	1,334	1,280	1,282	1,261	1,227
Yorkshire and Humberside	875	875	907	907	743	667
Wales	851	853	940	940	940	944
West Midlands	616	616	736	693	635	553
Scotland	1,729	1,725	1,882	1,533	1,790	1,734
South West	1,352	1,354	1,431	1,428	1,399	1,331
North West	775	775	907	907	758	721
East	639	637	767	768	712	687
Nationals	3,514	3,559	4,182	3,758	3,701	3,575

Notes:

1. Figures are full-time equivalent rounded to the nearest whole figure.
2. Figures are an average, full-time equivalent for each year shown except the current year.
3. Figures for 2009-10 represent preliminary allocations. Additional places will be awarded to reflect local need and provider performance. Overall number of places will match 2008-09.
4. The 'Nationals' column represents providers who deliver support across the country.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to Question *(a)* 269292 and *(b)* 269293, tabled on 20 April 2009, on the state retirement pension. [281733]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's questions on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 817W.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer Question 283625, tabled on 2 July 2009, on claims for benefits relating to housing. [287734]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 427W.

Young People

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects her Department to achieve its public service agreement target in respect of people aged between 16 and 18 years old who are not in education, employment or training. [284029]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department's public service agreement target is to reduce the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) by 2 percentage points by the end of 2010, from a baseline of 9.6 per cent. at the end of 2004. The figures for 2010 are due to be published in June 2011.

Young Person's Guarantee

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what funding arrangements have been put in place to enable her Department to transfer the Young Persons' Guarantee from a discretionary to mandatory basis; and if she will make a statement; [286626]

(2) if she will estimate the likely cost to her Department of making the Young Persons' Guarantee mandatory. [286741]

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to make the young persons guarantee mandatory. [288008]

Jim Knight: The 2009 Budget made £1.1 billion available to deliver the Future Jobs Fund and Young Person's Guarantee. Together they will create new jobs in areas of high unemployment and provide a guaranteed job, work placement or training place for the minority of young people aged between 18 and 24 who reach 12 months unemployment. From next year young people will be required to accept one of the guaranteed offers. This will be met from within the existing funding and there will be no additional costs.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many places the Government plans to provide under *(a)* the Future Jobs Fund, *(b)* support to take an existing job in a key employment sector, *(c)* work-focused training places and *(d)* places on a community task force to fulfil the Young Person's Guarantee in the period January 2010 to March 2011. [283578]

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* jobs from the Future Jobs Fund, *(b)* training places, *(c)* community task force places and *(d)* offers of support to take an existing job in a key employment sector will be provided in order to deliver the Young Persons' Guarantee in 2009-10; [285144]

(2) how many *(a)* jobs under the Future Jobs Fund, *(b)* training places, *(c)* community task force places and *(d)* offers of support to take an existing job in a key employment sector are required to enable the change in the Young Persons' Guarantee from a voluntary to a mandatory programme. [285145]

Jim Knight: The Future Jobs Fund aims to create 150,000 new jobs. Of this total, at least 100,000 will be created for young people. The remaining 50,000 will be allocated to unemployment hot spots—in these areas all individuals approaching 12 months or more on out of work benefits will be eligible for a Future Jobs Fund job.

We expect the work-focused training offer to support around 80,000 young people, including pre-employment training. The Community Task Force element of the offer will see young people participating in work placements to deliver real help to their community. This element is responsive to demand. In addition, Jobcentre Plus will work with growth sectors to help up to 100,000 young people access existing jobs in key employment sectors.

The Young Persons Guarantee will provide jobs and training opportunities to meet the terms of the guarantee in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

DWP does not forecast unemployment among young people, however, systems are in place to ensure that the Government will deliver on their commitment to provide sufficient jobs, training or community task force places to meet demand when the Young Person's Guarantee becomes mandatory.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what progress the Government Olympic Executive has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287143]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport—reporting to me through the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. GOE procurement will therefore be included in the answer provided by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what level of security clearance is required for applicants for contracts associated with the London 2012 Olympics; and how long on average it has taken each such applicant to obtain that clearance. [285688]

Tessa Jowell: Security clearance is not required from companies at the bidding stage; save for circumstances when the procurement is highly sensitive, for example, where only List X (Government security accreditation) companies could be invited to bid.

At the first stage of the tender process (pre-qualification questionnaire), the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) checks the company registration details, financial status and governance status.

Following procurement, all ODA contractors, as a minimum requirement, must provide the identity of their staff for checking in accordance with 'Basic Check - Annex B' as detailed within the Cabinet Office document Her Majesty's Government's (HMG) Baseline Personnel Security Standards. Clearance time is dependent on each contractor successfully providing the required information and records of such timings are not kept.

TREASURY

Business: Government Assistance

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what support his Department is providing to businesses during the economic downturn. [288436]

Ian Pearson: The Government have introduced a range of measures to support cash flow, credit and investment, to help businesses get through the recession.

This includes HMRC's Business Payment Support Service, which has allowed businesses to spread £3 billion of tax payments over a longer, timetable, and a temporary extension of the time that businesses can claim tax relief for trading losses from one to three years (for losses up to £50,000). Capital allowances have also been increased temporarily, meaning that all firms investing more than £50,000 this year will benefit from higher tax relief. In addition, the small companies rate of corporation tax will not increase this year and the threshold at which empty property becomes liable for business rates has been temporarily increased.

On 14 January 2009 the Business Secretary, Lord Mandelson, announced a package of measures including:

The Working Capital Scheme, which guarantees banks' portfolios of existing loans to businesses with turnover up to £500 million. Over £1 billion of guarantees have now been issued under this scheme;

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, securing up to £1.3 billion of additional bank loans to small firms with a turnover of up to £25 million. Over 3,600 businesses have been offered loans totalling over £364.33 million;

A £75 million Capital for Enterprise Fund (£50 million from Government augmented by £25 million from the banks) to invest in small businesses which need equity; and

A Trade Credit Insurance Scheme to top-up cover if insurers reduce credit limits.

Business: Location

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of companies which relocated their headquarters from the UK to countries outside the United Kingdom in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [287822]

Mr. Timms: The Government are aware of a small number of British companies moving the tax residence of their parent company out of the UK over the last 12 months. Activity appears to have slowed since 2008, with only three groups moving in 2009.

The Government have committed to reforming the way in which the UK taxes foreign corporate profits. From the first of this month, a wide ranging dividend exemption was introduced which enhances the UK's competitive position, allowing companies, including UK headquarters, to bring profits back to the UK tax free.

The Government have also committed to reforming the controlled foreign company regime; these rules are often cited as a key reason for groups relocating. In consultation with business we aim to modernise the rules to enhance the UK's competitive position while protecting the UK tax base.

Child Benefit

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many nationals of each A8 country were receiving child benefit for a child or children living in another EEA member state at the end of June 2009; and in respect of how many such children child benefit was being paid on that date. [288616]

Mr. Timms: Around 7.5 million families are currently claiming child benefit for around 13 million children. Out of that total, at the end of June 2009, there were 25,494 ongoing child benefit awards to A8 nationals recorded as receiving child benefit for 41,740 children living in another EEA member state. These awards are made by virtue of EC social security co-ordinating regulations which the UK has administered since it joined the European Economic Community in 1973.

The estimated breakdown by nationality is as follows.

Country	*Number of awards at 30 June 2009*	*Number of children included in awards*
Czech Republic	158	267
Estonia	16	28
Hungary	69	112
Latvia	252	330
Lithuania	721	1057
Poland	22,805	37,433
Slovakia	1,470	2,508
Slovenia	3	5
Total	25,494	41,740

Child Trust Fund: Yorkshire and the Humber

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* Hemsworth constituency had received child trust fund payments by the latest date for which figures are available. [288661]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for City of York (Hugh Bayley) on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80W.

Consultants

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 983W, on consultants, for

which assignments his Department and its agencies have engaged external consultants in the last 12 months; and what the cost to his Department has been of each such assignment. [289099]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the former Exchequer Secretary (Angela Eagle) on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 983W to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable). The Treasury does not hold a central record of the individual assignments for which external consultants are engaged and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of the contracts awarded through OGCbuying. solutions to *(a)* Drivas Jonas, *(b)* GVA Grimley and *(c)* Lambert Smith Hampton for (i) negotiation of rating assessments and (ii) appeals against valuation assessments. [284931]

Ian Pearson: Buying Solutions does not hold the data requested.

Council Tax: Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a privacy impact assessment was undertaken in relation to the Valuation Office Agency's council tax banding support tool. [288978]

Mr. Timms: No. The tool was developed before privacy impact assessment became mandatory and the project posed no risk to the privacy of an individual.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287903]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has not met Damian McBride since he retired as a special adviser on 11 April 2009.

Departmental Ethnic Minority Staff

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people from ethnic minority backgrounds are employed by his Department. [287946]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury Group reports on staff diversity annually in its departmental report, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House and on the Treasury's website.

Departmental Press

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279427]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following list shows the newspapers and periodicals provided for Treasury Ministers in May 2009 at a cost of £923.39.

The Sun
Financial Times
Daily Telegraph
The Observer
Daily Record
The Economist
The New Statesman
Daily Mail
The Times
The Independent
Evening Standard
The Scotsman
Business Week
Daily Mirror
The Guardian
Daily Express
Herald International
Glasgow Herald
Private Eye

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285319]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury has made no changes to its purchasing policies for office equipment or stationery in the last six months.

Drinking Water

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department spent on water coolers in each of the last six months; [287956]

(2) how much his Department spent on bottled water in each of the last six months. [287952]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For information on spending on bottled water, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the former Exchequer Secretary (Kitty Ussher) on 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 979W. The cost of water coolers for the 2008-09 financial year was £2,224, equating to £185 per calendar month.

Equality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to increase levels of equality for employees in his Department. [287957]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury's Diversity Strategy 2009-11 was launched in the Department on 3 July 2009 and sets out what recent steps have been taken to increase equality, particularly in recruitment, performance management and talent management.

In addition to this work, the Treasury's current equality schemes, available on the Treasury's website, detail how the Department promotes equality of opportunity for all.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 420W, on Equitable Life, and the Oral Statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 377-80, if he will publish the estimate his Department made of the length of time it would take to make compensation payments as recommended by the Ombudsman; and if he will make a statement. [288635]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to delivering justice to the policyholders of Equitable Life and to delivering an ex-gratia payments scheme that corrects the injustices which have been accepted by Government. They accept that speed is of the essence for establishing a payments scheme.

Sir John Chadwick has been commissioned by Government to provide advice on matters arising from its response to the ombudsman's report and findings of maladministration resulting from injustice that the Government have accepted. The Government would of course consider Sir John's advice once it is published and make ex-gratia payments to policyholders as it decides appropriate.

It is important that Sir John progresses with urgency, but that he also provides the right advice, especially in light of the enormous amount of information Sir John must go through.

I have today issued a written ministerial statement updating the House on the progress of Sir John's work. Both the Government and Sir John have committed to providing regular updates on progress.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 858W, on Equitable Life: compensation, when he expects the ex-gratia payment scheme for older people who have lost money with Equitable Life to commence; and if he will make a statement. [288640]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to delivering justice to the policyholders of Equitable Life and to delivering an ex-gratia payments scheme that corrects the injustices which have been accepted by Government.

They have commissioned Sir John Chadwick to review available information and consider a number of issues in relation to determining relative losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders, and their impact. Sir John's work will inform the establishment of an ex-gratia payments scheme.

Sir John is very aware of the need to reach a conclusion on this matter. It is important that he progresses his work with urgency, but that he also provides the right advice, especially in light of the enormous amounts of information that he must go through.

I have today issued a written ministerial statement updating the House on the progress of Sir John's work. Both the Government and Sir John have committed to providing regular updates on progress.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's long-term plans are for the compensation of those identified by the Parliamentary Ombudsman as having lost money with Equitable Life as a result of failure of the regulatory process. [288814]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to delivering justice to the policyholders of Equitable Life and to delivering an ex-gratia payments scheme that corrects the injustices which have been accepted by Government.

They have commissioned Sir John Chadwick to provide advice on matters arising from its response to the ombudsman's report and findings of maladministration resulting from injustice which the Government have accepted. The Government would make careful consideration of Sir John's advice once it is published and make ex-gratia payments to policyholders as it decides appropriate.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance his Department is providing to pensioners in Coventry who have lost money with Equitable Life. [288816]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to delivering justice to the policyholders of Equitable Life and to delivering an ex-gratia payments scheme that corrects the injustices which have been accepted by Government.

They have commissioned Sir John Chadwick to review available information and consider a number of issues in relation to determining relative losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders, and their impact. His work will inform the establishment of an ex-gratia payments scheme.

Both Sir John and the Government are very aware of the need to reach a conclusion on this matter and work is being progressed with expediency, but at this stage it is not possible to identify the nature of specific assistance that will be provided to specific groups of policyholders.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken in respect of those resident in Coventry who have lost money with Equitable Life. [288817]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to delivering justice to the policyholders of Equitable Life and to delivering an ex-gratia payments scheme that corrects the injustices which have been accepted by Government.

They have commissioned Sir John Chadwick to review available information and consider a number of issues in relation to determining relative losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders, and their impact. His work will inform the establishment of an ex-gratia payments scheme.

Both Sir John and the Government are very aware of the need to reach a conclusion on this matter and work is being progressed with expediency, but at this stage it is not possible to identify the nature of specific assistance that will be provided to specific groups of policyholders.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Pensioners

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of pensioners who have lost money in Equitable Life. [288815]

Mr. Byrne: The Government have commissioned Sir John Chadwick to review available information and consider a number of issues in relation to determining relative losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders, and their impact.

Sir John is progressing his work with expediency and today, a written ministerial statement has been published outlining his progress.

On the issue of the number of pensioners who have lost money with Equitable Life, the Government are awaiting their Sir John Chadwick's advice to inform its view on this matter.

EU Grants and Loans: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any change has been made to the overall block grant received by the Welsh Assembly Government as a result of monies received from the EU Convergence Programme in each year from 2007 to date; and whether any such change is likely to be made in each year from 2010-13. [287266]

Mr. Byrne: No change was made to the block grant as a result of monies received from the EU Convergence Programme from 2007 and no changes are expected. Monies received from the EU Convergence Programme are additional to the block grant received by the Welsh Assembly Government from the UK Government.

Financial Action Task Force

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress is being made by the Financial Action Task Force of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in its work on effective due diligence by banks and the ending of secrecy on beneficial ownership of companies and trusts; and if he will make a statement. [288331]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has issued 40+9 recommendations on the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing. These require countries to ensure that banks conduct due diligence on their customers, and that the beneficial ownership information of companies and trusts is collected and accessible to competent authorities. The FATF is currently preparing for its fourth round of assessment of countries against the standards, which will focus on how effectively the measures work in practice.

Financial Services Authority

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps the Financial Services Authority is taking to ensure that UK-regulated banks are compliant with requirements on due diligence to prevent funds from corrupt sources entering the UK; [288332]

(2) what powers the Financial Services Authority has in respect of UK-regulated banks in the event of their failure to carry out effective due diligence on the source of funds in accounts which they administer. [288333]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, a UK-authorised bank is required to undertake enhanced customer due diligence checks, including taking adequate measures to establish the source of wealth and source of funds, where it deals with a politically exposed person. It is also required to undertake enhanced ongoing monitoring. A politically exposed person is an individual who may be more vulnerable to corruption.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is the supervisory authority for banks. It is required to effectively monitor those banks and take the necessary measures to ensure they comply with the Money Laundering Regulations. It meets this obligation by assessing risks in individual firms, and risks that impact across a range of firms within a particular market or industry sector.

The FSA has both criminal and civil sanctions to address breaches of the Money Laundering Regulations. The Money Laundering Regulations add to the range of options available to the FSA under the Financial Services and Markets Act for dealing with anti-money laundering failures.

Financial Services Authority: Manpower

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many permanent staff at the Financial Services Authority *(a)* hot desk and *(b)* do not have permanently allocated desks. [288669]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

Financial Services: Regulation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the tripartite regulatory regime in relation to the regulation of banks. [287945]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Banking regulation is conducted by the Financial Services Authority, the independent financial regulator. As is the case in every developed economy, responsibility for financial stability in the UK is shared between the financial regulator, the central bank and the finance and economics ministry. The Government have recently published "Reforming financial markets" which includes proposals to formalise the structures, and increase the transparency, of co-operation between the FSA, the Bank of England and the Treasury.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken in strengthen the regulation of the financial services sector in the last 12 months. [288818]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: "Reforming financial markets", which sets out the Government's strategy for strengthening the regulation of financial services, including actions taken to date, was published on 8 July.

Fuel: Prices

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has taken steps to identify possible locations for a pilot scheme for reduced fuel prices in island communities. [288783]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 767W.

Government Departments: Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 985W, on Government departments: aviation, whether the Government Air Programme includes flights by *(a)* Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff, *(b)* Ministry of Defence civilian staff, *(c)* members of the armed forces and *(d)* Department for International Development staff. [287289]

Ian Pearson: The Government air programme does include flights by Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development staff. It does not include Ministry of Defence civilian staff or armed forces.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 985W, on Government departments: aviation, what the estimated expenditure on domestic flights is of each year of the Government Air Programme contract. [287290]

Ian Pearson: Historic data suggest that 22 per cent. of the air spend relates to domestic flights. Using the estimated £69.6 million per annum applying to the Government air programme this would equate to an estimated £15.3 million per annum.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 985W, on government departments: aviation, whether the Government Air Programme will encompass domestic and international air travel by officials from *(a)* central government departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies. [289049]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government Air Programme enables domestic and international air travel by officials from central Government Departments, Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Infrastructure UK: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the planned budget is for the new Infrastructure UK advisory body. [288301]

Mr. Byrne: Building Britain's Future announced that Lord Davies of Abersoch would lead the development of Infrastructure UK. He will consider the appropriate terms of reference for Infrastructure UK and will report to the Prime Minister, Chancellor and the First Secretary of State at the pre-Budget report. The resource required for Infrastructure UK will be decided once these details have been considered fully.

Lloyds Banking Group: Islamic Bank of Britain

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with representatives of Lloyds Banking Group on its decision to order the Islamic Bank of Britain to cease processing payments for Interpal. [288313]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Treasury has regular discussions with the banking sector on financial crime and financial sanctions issues. This includes ongoing discussions about the provision of banking services to individuals or entities who are on UK, US or international sanctions lists.

Local Authorities: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether local authority search fees are liable for value added tax. [288977]

Mr. Timms: When a local authority provides a person with access to its registers and databases in order to undertake property searches, that is a statutory activity and so is free of VAT.

However, where a local authority compiles the information it holds and provides that in return for payment, that service is subject to VAT.

Meat: Procurement

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will instruct the Office of Government Commerce to classify halal meat to a category 1 food for the purposes of public procurement; [287721]

(2) what guidance the Office of Government Commerce provides to the public sector on procuring *(a)* pre-stunned and *(b)* non-stunned halal meat. [287724]

Ian Pearson *[holding answers 20 July 2009]:* The purpose of the Food Quality Standards published by the OGC is to provide guidance for suppliers on the general quality of products sought in food procurements undertaken by all public sector authorities. In the Standards, matters relating to food policy have been provided by DEFRA, those related to food safety provided by the Food Standards Agency. The Standards are not to be considered as a series of product specifications but as a guide to the minimum quality criteria that authorities may include in their specifications and will expect the contractor to deliver.

Mandatory requirements, for example around food safety, are contained in legislation rather than in the Standards. There are no mandatory requirements around quality assurance.

The Standards state, however, that contractors should ensure that wherever possible the supply of all raw food should originate from sources participating in recognised national or international assurance schemes or equivalent standards where such schemes exist.

For raw food products (other than fish) contractors should supply to the authority unprocessed commodities, lightly processed foods and drinks, and composite products, produced in accordance with one or more of four categories.

Category 1 denotes food produced in accordance with relevant parts of Standards such as Red Tractor, Food Assurance Scheme or equivalent Standard or, in the case of eggs in their shells, the Lion Quality Mark or equivalent. The procurement of food using alternative schemes shall be subject to prior approval by the authority.

The Standards do not contain specific guidance on Halal foods other than to state that ethnic food products must be sourced, prepared, processed and packed in accordance with the specific requirements of the religious law, where these apply eg Halal or Kosher foods. The assurance schemes in category 1 can be applied to Halal meat as to other products.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Howard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters dated 3 March, 28 May and 15 June 2009 from the right hon. and learned Member for Folkestone and Hythe, with regard to Mr. Bernard Lockett. [287042]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the right hon. and learned Member.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letters sent to him by the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling on 12 November 2008 and 13 February 2009 on behalf of his constituents Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Miller. [288035]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mortgages

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he plans to take further steps in co-operation with the mortgage insurance industry to assist first-time buyers to gain access to mortgage finance; [283904]

(2) if he will take further steps to assist first-time buyers to gain access to mortgage finance; [283905]

(3) which of the banks in which the Government has purchased a shareholding provide mortgage finance for purchases under the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First-time Buyers' Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy schemes. [284698]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's key objective for housing is to ensure everyone has access to a decent home at a price they can afford. The Government remain committed to the delivery of affordable housing, including through both shared equity and shared ownership schemes. Since 1997 the Government have helped more than 110,000 households into low cost homeownership through shared ownership and shared equity.

Decisions concerning whether to engage in lending to support shared equity of shared ownership remain commercial decisions for firms. Where there is public sector investment in financial institutions these stakes will be managed on an arm's length and independent basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the effect on the availability of mortgages of deferring mortgage applications to an underwriter; and if he will make a statement. [288639]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Property

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* proportion and *(b)* monetary value of UK property which is held offshore by investment funds or limited partnerships. [287513]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not available.

Property Unit Trusts

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many authorised property units trusts there are; and what types of property they are allowed to invest in. [287515]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on authorised unit trusts, including those that invest in property, is available from the Financial Services Authority. Details on the types of assets that authorised funds can invest in are also available via the FSA.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of exempting authorised property unit trusts exempt from corporation tax in 2010-11. [287522]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No estimate is available for the amount of corporation tax paid by property unit trusts.

Since April 2008, following extensive consultation with industry, the Government introduced the Property Authorised Investment Fund regime, which enables tax efficient investment for funds that wish to invest predominately in property income generating assets. Subject to certain conditions being met, investors are taxed as if they had owned the underlying assets directly.

Public Bodies: Reviews

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the terms of reference are of his Department's review of public bodies. [288670]

Mr. Byrne: On 3 July 2009 I announced that a review of arm's length bodies would be taken forward as part of the Public Value Programme. Discussions with colleagues

are ongoing to agree the scope of the review. The pre-Budget report will provide a progress report on the Public Value Programme.

Public Expenditure

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what financial transfers are being made from the budget of each other Government department to the Department for Communities and Local Government to fund the housing expenditure announced in the 2009 Draft Legislative Programme; and what programmes in each department are having reductions in their funding to meet that expenditure. [286682]

Mr. Byrne: The departmental contributions towards the housing expenditure announced in the 2009 draft legislative programme will come from a mixture of reprioritisation, efficient programme management and anticipated underspends. Up to £930 million will be contributed from the following sources:

£350 million from the Department for Transport;

£100 million from the Department for Children, Schools and Families;

£90 million from the Home Office;

£50 million from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills;

£340 million of anticipated capital underspends in the Department of Health, Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The remaining £586 million will be provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Public Sector: Hospitality

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on public sector: hospitality, how many visits each customer department booked through the Expotel contract in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what expenditure each customer department incurred in relation to such visits. [269938]

Ian Pearson: As previously stated, Buying solutions only holds summary data for the framework, that is aggregate data for all public sector organisations. Data are not held centrally for the 182 individual public sector bodies that use the framework. Obtaining such a breakdown could be done only at disproportionate cost and I apologise for the delay in responding.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the size of public sector pension liabilities. [270260]

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his most recent estimate is of the service cost of all unfunded public sector pension schemes for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [271171]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 271171, tabled on 24 April 2009, on unfunded public sector pension schemes. [282337]

Mr. Byrne: The total liability of all pay as you go public service occupational pension schemes will be published in the Long Term Public Finance Report later this year and will include the current service costs of these schemes.

Public Services: Finance

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 362W, on public services: finance, if he will publish his Department's 1994 Needs Assessment for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. [288502]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Today I am placing copies of the internal updates to the 1979 Needs Assessments for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland produced by the Treasury in 1994 in the Library of the House.

Real Estate Investments Trusts

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many commercial Real Estate Investments Trusts have been established; and what effect their establishment has had on levels of receipts of the Exchequer. [287512]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Around 20 UK Real Estate Investments Trusts have been established. It is too early to assess the full effect of their establishment on the Exchequer.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases have been processed by the HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley in each of the last four months. [285573]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs processing staff based in Chorley have completed the following work in the last four months (March to June):

Capture of 1,225 SA Tax Returns

(847 in March, 378 in April)

Replied to 1,391 items of Customer Correspondence

(829 in March, 323 in April, 128 in May, 111 in June)

Dealt with 15,940 forms from Employers

(3,473 in March, 2,912 in April, 5,244 in May, 4,311 in June)

Dealt with 8,896 miscellaneous processing items such as worklist entries

(2,022 in March, 2,063 in April, 2,772 in May, 2,039 in June)

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years; [280618]

(2) how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* administration assistants, *(b)* assistant officers, *(c)* officers, *(d)* higher officers, *(e)* senior officers, *(f)* fast stream trainees, *(g)* Grade 7 employees, *(h)* Grade 6

employees and *(i)* senior civil servants in each HM Revenue and Customs office in each of the last five years. [286395]

Mr. Timms: Information on bonuses paid by job role in not available.

In 2007-08 bonus payments were made to top performers and good performers on the pay band range maximum, as they had received a lower consolidated pay award.

In 2008-09 bonuses were paid only to top performers. The amounts paid out by HMRC were as follows:

	Total bonus paid (rounded to nearest £000)		*Staff in post*	
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*April 2008*	*April 2009*
Admin Assistant	1,423,000	467,000	12,640	11,005
Admin Officer	4,500,000	1,736,000	37,187	37,113
Officer	4,764,000	2,421,000	22,164	21,591
Higher Officer	3,013,000	1,830,000	10,501	10,410
Senior Officer	1,603,000	1,096,000	3,919	4,089
Fast Stream	77,000	46,000	617	491
Grade 7	830,000	754,000	2,387	2,556
Grade 6	633,000	653,000	1,153	1,213
Senior Civil Service	2,213,000	2,552,000	393	407
Total	19,056,000	11,555,000	90,961	88,875

Providing details of bonuses paid split by grade and by office could jeopardise staff confidentiality. The small number of staff in some of the local offices means that when the bonus figures are combined with post numbers it is possible to identify individual bonus payments.

We have provided a split of total bonus payments by office for the years above. This detail has been deposited in the Library of the House. For confidentiality reasons, total bonuses for those offices with less than 20 staff have not been included.

HMRC does not hold the required data for earlier years in an easily accessible format and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Scotland

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Public Works Loan Board made with the Scottish Executive in relation to housing debt of those local authorities in Scotland which (a) undertook stock transfer prior to devolution and (b) have undertaken such transfers after devolution. [288976]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government operate similar financial arrangements on stock transfers in Scotland as in England. The policy on stock transfers is a devolved matter. However where stock transfers from local authorities to housing associations give rise to receipts which are insufficient to cover the debt, the Government have made available additional provision to the Scottish Executive to cover the overhanging debt repaid by the relevant Scottish local authorities to the Public Works Loan Board. These arrangements did not exist prior to devolution in either England or Scotland.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority has issued on the level of cash deposit lenders when granting mortgages for those participating in shared ownership schemes. [281697]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Decisions concerning whether and on what terms to engage in lending to support shared ownership remain commercial decisions for firms.

The Government remain committed to the delivery of affordable housing, including through both shared equity and shared ownership schemes.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the merits of introducing *(a)* a loan guarantee scheme and *(b)* direct lending from banks wholly or partly in public ownership for first-time buyers to participate in shared ownership schemes. [284411]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's key objective for housing is to ensure everyone has access to a decent home at a price they can afford. The Government remain committed to the delivery of affordable housing, including through both shared equity and shared ownership schemes. Since 1997 the Government have helped more than 110,000 households into low cost homeownership through shared ownership and shared equity.

Decisions concerning whether to engage in lending to support shared equity of shared ownership remain commercial decisions for firms. Where there is public sector investment in financial institutions these stakes will be managed on an arm's length and independent basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1422W, on the Valuation Office Agency, and to the decision of the Government to publish the ID Card Gateway Reviews, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Gate 4 review of the Valuations Project. [270670]

Ian Pearson: A copy of the review, with appropriate redactions, has been placed in the Library.

VAT: Registration

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications for value added tax registration submitted in the last 12 months took over *(a)* one week, *(b)* two weeks, *(c)* three weeks, *(d)* four weeks, *(e)* five weeks, *(f)* six weeks, *(g)* seven weeks, *(h)* eight weeks, *(i)* nine weeks, *(j)* 10 weeks, *(k)* 11 weeks and *(l)* 12 weeks to clear. [288556]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data at the level of detail requested.

HMRC departmental strategic objective is to process 70 per cent. of applications within 12 days (reduced from 13 days in 2008-09) allowing for 30 per cent. that require further work before they can be processed because they are incomplete or need further risk checks.

In 2008-09 HMRC achieved an overall performance of 74.9 per cent. against the 13-day target and for April and May 2009 72 per cent. and 70.4 per cent. against the 12-day target. HMRC has seen a significant increase in the number of cases requiring further risk checks which take longer to process, and this has impacted on June's performance which is 69.0 per cent.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of postponing the reversion of the rate of value added tax to 17.5 per cent. until after the January 2010 sales period. [288626]

Mr. Timms: The Government recognise that changing the rate at this time will be challenging for some businesses and have considered the representations businesses have made very carefully. The decision to reconfirm the 1 January reversion date that was announced last November has not been taken lightly. We have had to balance the needs of the economy as a whole against the challenges for businesses. Deferring the change by a month, as some have suggested, would have cost a further £800 million.

By confirming the date for the end of the rate change in Finance Bill, businesses have a long lead time over which to plan for the change. HMRC will continue to talk to businesses with a view to identifying satisfactory arrangements for any particularly awkward cases.

Welfare Tax Credit: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [288774]

Mr. Timms: The latest estimates of the average number of families benefiting from child and working tax credits awards, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards Geographical Analyses" for 2007-08. The publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Welfare Tax Credit: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in Hemsworth constituency are receiving *(a)* child and *(b)* working tax credit; and what the average monetary value of tax credits to those households was in the latest period for which figures are available; [288666]

(2) how many families in Hemsworth constituency have received working families tax credit since its inception. [288787]

Mr. Timms: Working families tax credit was replaced by child tax credit and working tax credit in April 2003.

Estimates of the number of recipient families of working families tax credit, by parliamentary constituency, are given in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) quarterly publication 'Working Families' and Disabled Person's Tax Credit Statistics Geographical analyses' for the quarters ended May 2001 to November 2002. The publications are available on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/wftc/wfdptc_geog.htm

The latest information on the number of recipient families of Child and Working Tax Credits, by parliamentary constituency, is given in the HMRC snapshot publication, 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Geographical Analyses April 2009'.

The latest estimates of the average annual entitlements by each parliamentary constituency, based on incomes and final family circumstances, are shown in the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards Geographical Analyses' for 2007-08.

These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Welfare Tax Credit: Overpayments

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were overpaid *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [288773]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

However, estimates of the number of tax credits overpayments by parliamentary constituency, are available in the HMRC publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards Supplement on payments Geographical Analyses" for 2007-08. This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who had their eligibility for tax credits removed as a result of failing to submit a renewal claim by 31 July in the last three years for which figures are available. [287942]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

The following table shows the number of tax credit claims ended and the number restored during each of the last three years.

During year	*Total number of claims ended*	*Total number of claims restored*
2006-07	283,533	121,427
2007-08	433,420	223,165
2008-09	465,305	214,556

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households with children are in receipt of working tax credit in each local authority area. [288334]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of families with children benefiting from working tax credit by country, region and local authority are given in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) finalised awards geographical publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits statistics Finalised annual awards Geographical analyses" for 2007-08. The publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287329]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office resource accounts for 2008-09 have been laid in Parliament on 15 July 2009 in time for the summer recess. The printed and bound version will be made available within four weeks of 15 July 2009.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on offsetting its carbon dioxide emissions in each of the last five years. [287482]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has participated in stage one of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) from 2006 to meet a Prime Ministerial commitment to offset ministerial and official air travel.

GCOF works by requiring individual Government Departments to provide payments to offset relevant emissions.

Payments to GCOF by the NIO, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, and excluding its agencies and NDPBs in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	£
2008-09	6,447.91
2007-08	6,338.83
2006-07	11,384.56
2005-06	0
2004-05	0

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of employees in his Department are on a *(a)* flexible working contract and *(b)* job share employment contract. [287095]

Paul Goggins: Within the Northern Ireland Office staff are expected to work conditioned hours, however there is a considerable amount of flexibility in the way staff are permitted to work. Flexible working time (that is, a flexible start and finish each day) is available to the majority of staff where operational/business needs permit.

In line with The Employment (NI) Order 2002 the Northern Ireland Office has processes in place to allow staff to request flexible working hours to enable them to balance their family and employment responsibilities.

The following table shows the percentage of staff, in the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies, on a flexible working contract (reduced hours, term time full-time and term time part-time) or job share employment contract at 1 June 2009.

	Staff on a flexible working contract
Total number of employees	2,143
Percentage of staff on flexible working contract	12.7
Percentage of staff on job share contract	0.7

Departmental Flags

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* purchasing and *(b)* maintaining flags in each of the last five years. [287486]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, and excluding its agencies and NDPBs has had no expenditure on *(a)* purchasing and *(b)* maintaining flags in each of the last five years.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [287479]

Paul Goggins: Expenditure on furniture in the last five years by the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs is shown in the following table:

	£
2004-05	200,540
2005-06	188,670
2006-07	325,440
2007-08	339,774
2008-09	233,359

The Northern Ireland Office procures furniture across a number of sites which are mainly located in Belfast and London. This furniture is required to facilitate staff in providing a quality service and the expenditure has

been incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Operating Costs

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the running costs associated with his Department's Northern Ireland Information Service in each of the last five years. [286424]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the running costs associated with the Northern Ireland Information Service in each of the last five years.

	Running costs (£)
2008-09	2,264,937
2007-08	1,580,513
2006-07	2,337,542
2005-06	1,771,136
2004-05	2,117,072

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the executive functions of his Department are. [288644]

Paul Goggins: Following the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly on 8 May 2007, the Northern Ireland Office retains responsibility for a range of the reserved and excepted policy matters set out in Schedules 2 and 3 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and for executive functions within these areas.

Departmental Training

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff away days his Department *(a)* held in 2008-09 and *(b)* plans to hold in 2009-10. [287483]

Paul Goggins: In 2008-09 the Department held 15 development events for staff. Two events have taken place in 2009-10. Currently there are no other events planned for 2009 but further events would be organised if there is a business need.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on tickets for *(a)* air and *(b)* rail travel for (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department which were not used in each of the last three years. [280009]

Mr. Woodward: Details of rail and flight costs for 2008-09 are set out in the following tables. Information for earlier years could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Travel costs 2008-09

£

	Rail	*Flight*
Ministers	0	287.87
Special advisers	0	0
Staff	42.00	7,392.22

Where practical, staff in my Department book fully flexible and refundable tickets so as to reduce the cost of travel that is unavoidably cancelled.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his estimate is of the number of uninsured vehicles in Northern Ireland. [287491]

Paul Goggins: I have made no such assessment. Regulations regarding the insurance requirements for vehicles are a matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

Economic Situation

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister on the effects of the recession on Northern Ireland. [287475]

Mr. Woodward: I have regular discussions with the First and Deputy First Minister on a range of issues relating to the economy in Northern Ireland.

Energy Supply

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Executive on the security of energy supply across the border with the Republic of Ireland. [287563]

Paul Goggins: Energy supply in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter and is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Energy supply and security has also been discussed at recent summit meetings of the British-Irish Council, attended by representatives of both the Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

Fire and Ambulance Services

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many fire engines in Northern Ireland were *(a)* damaged and *(b)* taken out of service due to criminal acts in each month of the last five years; and at what cost to the public purse; [287658]

(2) how many ambulances in Northern Ireland were *(a)* damaged and *(b)* taken out of service due to criminal acts in each month of the last five years; and at what cost. [287659]

Paul Goggins: These are matters that are the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Fire Services: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to protect fire service crews in Northern Ireland from attacks whilst on duty. [287608]

Paul Goggins: The safety of fire service crew is the responsibility of the fire and rescue service of Northern Ireland and is a matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288933]

Mr. Woodward: I have no plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Firearms

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints were made against Police Service of Northern Ireland officers relating to their use of firearms in the last five years. [287667]

Paul Goggins: Dealing with such complaints is the operational responsibility of the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. I have asked the chief executive to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Reserve Forces

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Police Federation for Northern Ireland on the full-time police reserve. [287607]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State has met representatives of the Police Federation twice in the last six months to hear directly their views on areas of interest to their members, including their concerns about the continuing programme of phasing out of the Full-Time Reserve. The Federation is also in regular contact with officials, including at the quarterly meetings of the Police Advisory Board for Northern Ireland, at which the future of the FTR has been discussed.

Decisions on the future of the Full-Time Reserve will continue to be made by the Chief Constable in light of his assessment of the security situation and policing needs.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Training

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department plans to spend on *(a)* Irish and *(b)* Ulster Scots lessons for Police Service of Northern Ireland officers in 2009-10. [287655]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Political Directorate: Operating Costs

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the running costs associated with his Department's political directorate in each of the last five years. [286427]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows how much the Political Directorate of the Northern Ireland office has spent in running costs in each of the last five years.

	Running costs (£)
2008-09	11,404,448
2007-08	6,136,998
2006-07	6,852,184
2005-06	7,214,155
2004-05	6,838,692

The Political Directorate provides parliamentary and private office support to Ministers as well as policy support for the Northern Ireland political process and other issues including elections, human rights and public inquiries. In preparation for the completion of devolution, the directorate, which will form the core of the future NIO, has also taken management responsibility for relevant corporate services, hence the increase in expenditure in 2008-09.

Postal Boxes: Vandalism

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many post boxes in Northern Ireland were vandalised in each of the last 12 months. [287587]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The condition of Royal Mail's post boxes is an operational matter which is the direct responsibility of the company's management. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many companies notified his Department of changes in security staff as required by Article 13(1) of Schedule 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each of the last five years. [287675]

Mr. Woodward: The Terrorism Act 2000 provisions fell in 2007 and were replaced by interim arrangements as set out in schedule 6 to the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007. The numbers of companies notifying the Department of changes up to 2007 was as follows:

	Number of companies notifying changes
2004	49
2005	38
2006	51
2007[1]	38

[1] Only to 31 July. Arrangements as set out in the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 came into force on 1 August.

Terrorism

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to reduce the level of criminal activity of loyalist groups which have decommissioned their arms. [287662]

Paul Goggins: I remain committed to seeking further reductions in all criminal activity by providing support to the PSNI and other law enforcement agencies including through the work of the Organised Crime Task Force.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what reports he has received on progress in disbanding the command structures of loyalist paramilitary groups which have recently decommissioned their arms. [287663]

Paul Goggins: The 21st report of the independent monitoring commission stated that the UVF is in the process of downsizing and that most elements in the leadership of the UDA were seeking to downsize their organisation.

Weapons

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had on personal protection weapons. [287617]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI have briefed the Secretary of State and myself on the outcome of the internal review of their policy on personal protection weapons, and we have held meetings with a number of political representatives on foot of requests received.

JUSTICE

Single Parents: Custodial Sentences

10. **Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent consideration he has given to the effects on dependent children of custodial sentences for single parents. [288147]

Maria Eagle: We have a significant programme of work across Government to meet the needs of offenders' children, many of whom are vulnerable, including:

through the Think Family programme, ensuring key services are supporting them; and

our plans to reduce the number of women in prison and provide additional community services, through £15.6 million of new funding.

Employment Tribunals

16. **Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of procedures for the enforcement of employment tribunal awards; and if he will make a statement. [288153]

Bridget Prentice: The tribunals service recently undertook research into the enforcement of employment tribunal awards. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) made a statement on 19 May 2009 announcing the publication of this research and the measures that the Government are taking to improve the enforcement of these awards.

Correspondence

17. **Dr. Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Oxford West and Abingdon on ways of working with non-governmental organisations to publicise the abolition of the offences of sedition and criminal libel in England and Wales. [288154]

Claire Ward: I apologise to the hon. Member for Oxford, West and Abingdon (Dr. Harris) for the delay in replying to his letter of 9 June 2009. He will by now have received from my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) a letter of 16 July 2009 which addresses the issue he raises.

International Criminal Law

18. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the jurisdiction of UK courts over cases involving crimes under international law committed in other countries. [288155]

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the jurisdiction of UK courts over cases involving crimes under international law committed in other countries. [288139]

Claire Ward: The Government receive representations from time to time about the jurisdiction of the UK courts for particular categories of crimes under international law. We have received representations recently about genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We have responded positively to these representations.

Prison Officers

19. **Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of prison officers to prisoners was at HM Prison Wymott and HM Prison Garth in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [288156]

Maria Eagle: As at 31 May 2009, the ratio of prison officers to prisoners at HMP Wymott was 1:5.04. The ratio at HMP Garth was 1:3.4.

This ratio refers to basic prison officer grades only—senior officer and principal officers are not included.

Family Courts

20. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase public confidence in the operation of family courts. [288157]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are making good progress. In April, we changed court rules so that accredited media have the right to attend most family proceedings. We are also developing information pilots which will place anonymised judgments online, and we will be bringing forward legislation in the next session to revise reporting restrictions in the family courts to allow for greater reporting of family proceedings.

Interpretation Services

21. **Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements his Department makes for the provision of legal services to people requiring a sign language interpreter; and if he will make a statement. [288158]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice has a strong commitment to disability equality in the delivery of its services. Courts and tribunals can provide British sign language and other sign language interpreters for hearings and will meet the reasonable costs of these. In addition, where necessary the Legal Services Commission's rules allow (for those clients who are eligible) for sign language interpreter costs to be met from legal aid.

Constitutional Renewal Bill

22. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the Constitutional Renewal Bill; and if he will make a statement. [288159]

Mr. Wills: The Government introduced the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill in the House of Commons on 20 July 2009.

Electoral Reform

23. **Mr. Sanders** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the merits of proposals for reform of the electoral system for general elections. [288160]

Mr. Wills: Last year the Government published a review of voting systems. It considers the experience of the voting systems introduced in the United Kingdom since 1997. It found that there is no definitive evidence that one system is better or worse than another.

The debate over the respective merits of different electoral systems continues and last month, the Prime Minister confirmed that the Government will be setting out proposals for taking this debate forward.

Complaints: Budgets

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget of the Office for Legal Complaints is for 2009-10. [287696]

Bridget Prentice: The Office for Legal Complaints (OLC) was formed on 1 July 2009 and will not be fully operational until 2010 and so financial plans are still in the process of being finalised. The resource budget for the OLC in 2009-10 currently stands at £6 million and capital budget is £0 million. However, these figures will be reviewed for the winter estimates. The OLC is in the process of finalising its business plan, which will provide further clarity over the capital and resource split for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 years. However, the implementation and running costs for the OLC will be recovered through a levy on the legal profession.

Patrick Brendon Smith

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what Oasys categorisation was applied to Patrick Brendon Smith following his release from the sentence imposed by Preston Crown Court in October 2008; [288094]

(2) on what occasions Patrick Brendon Smith breached the terms of his post-release licence following his release from the sentence imposed by Preston Crown Court in October 2008; [288095]

(3) whether a serious case review has been held following the conviction of Patrick Brendon Smith for two offences of grooming. [288097]

Mr. Straw: With regard to the Oasys risk categorisation and any breaches of licence, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not ordinarily, having due regard to relevant legislation, disclose operational details about how it is managing an individual offender. However, there has been extensive public interest in the case. In these circumstances, I can inform the hon. Gentleman of the following:

Oasys categorisation:

Following his release from the sentence imposed by Preston Crown Court in October 2008, the Oasys categorisation for Patrick Smith was 'medium' risk of re-offending and medium risk of serious harm to children and the public. (The risk of serious harm classification was subsequently raised to 'high' when further information about the offender came to light.)

Breach of terms of licence:

In November 2008, the Probation Area then supervising Mr. Smith decided to issue a written warning to him following a breach of the rules of residence in the approved premises in which he was required to reside as a condition of licence. (There were no other breaches of licence prior to his recall to prison following his arrest for the serious further offence.)

Serious further offence review:

A serious further offence review has been undertaken on this case, in line with the requirements of Probation Circular 22/2008. It was completed on 1 July 2009 and has been quality assured by the Public Protection Unit (PPU) in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The Probation Areas involved in the management of the offender will be reporting to the PPU on progress in addressing the learning points from the review by 18 December 2009.

The Government take all cases of serious further offending by offenders under supervision very seriously indeed. I have asked to be kept informed of progress in addressing the concerns which arose in this particular case.

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse has been of each legal action in respect of which proceedings have been completed in which a person subject to a control order has challenged its terms. [285725]

Bridget Prentice: Legal aid funding is available under the Community Legal Service (CLS) administered by the Legal Services Commission (LSC). According to records supplied by the LSC, 24 certificates have been granted to challenge the terms of control orders made under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005. Of these, only nine cases have concluded and the total amounts paid under each certificate is as follows.

£201,416
£7,910
£14,486
£84,434
£6,118
£6,817
£7,642
£11,025
£12,271

These figures include solicitors' costs, counsels' fees, disbursements and VAT, where applicable. Costs in some of these cases may include costs of appeal proceedings up to and including appeals to the House of Lords. Costs of judicial reviews are not included, as these cannot be separately identified.

It is not possible to identify the court costs to Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) as the administrative costs for these proceedings are not recorded separately from the costs of other proceedings.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on how much it costs the state to defend challenges made to the terms of a control order.

Aviation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many convictions there were for endangering the safety of an aircraft in each of the last 10 years; [286776]

(2) how many offenders received a *(a)* fine, *(b)* community penalty and *(c)* custodial sentence upon conviction for endangering the safety of an aircraft in 2008; and what the average (i) fine and (ii) custodial sentence imposed in such cases was. [286777]

Mr. Straw: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for endangering the safety of an aircraft, 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in table 1.

Sentencing statistics for 2008 are not available until later in the year therefore data for 2007 are shown in table 2.

The statistics given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

Table 1: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to the endangerment of aircraft, from 1998 to 2007[1,2]

Statue/offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Statutes—Aviation Security Act 1982:	7	10	8	3	9	1	1	1	0	0
Section 1: Seizing an aircraft in flight by unlawful use of force or threats by person on board the aircraft										
Section 2: Destroying, damaging or endangering safety of aircraft										
Section 3: Other acts of endangering or likely to endanger safety of aircraft										
Section 6: Inducing or assisting in the commission of an offence outside the UK										
Statutes:	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	3	1	6
Air Navigation Order 2000 Articles 63 and 122(6) and schedule 12(C)										
Air Navigation Order 2005 Articles 73 and 148(7) and Schedule 14(C)										
Recklessly or negligently acting in a manner likely to endanger an aircraft or any person therein										

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 2: Offenders sentenced for endangering safety of an aircraft[1], 2007

	Number
Fine[2]	2
Community sentence	1
Suspended sentence	1
Immediate custody[3]	2
Total sentenced	6

[1] Air Navigation Order 2005: Endangering safety of aircraft.
[2] One fine of £100 and one of £150
[3] One immediate custodial sentence of 8.0 months and one of 12.0 months.
Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence, the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences, the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Cannabis: Fines

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines for cannabis possession remained unpaid *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months after issue in each of the last five years. [288428]

Bridget Prentice: Information on paid, part paid and unpaid fines for offences of possessing cannabis is not collected centrally. Information on the enforcement rate of financial penalties imposed by courts is held but cannot identify the originating offence.

It is therefore not possible to establish how many fines remain unpaid over the last five years for cannabis possession.

The overall payment rate for all financial penalties in the financial year to July 2009 is 82 per cent.

Consultants

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Office for Criminal Justice Reform spent on *(a)* external consultants, *(b)* public opinion research and *(c)* communications in the last year for which information is available. [287128]

Mr. Straw: In 2008-09, OCJR spent £14.7 million on external consultants, including specialists working on the development of cross CJS information technology and cross CJS projects, £1.9 million on public opinion research, of which, £1.4 million is for the Witness and Victims Experience Survey (WAVES) of the criminal justice system used to underpin the public service agreement; and £2.3 million on communications including staff costs, the costs of the CJS online website, Inside Justice week and the costs of corporate publications and leaflets.

Crime Act 2002

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value was of defence costs orders arising from cases determined by the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 to date. [286005]

Bridget Prentice: Data are not currently collected on the volume of Recovery of Defence Costs Orders (RDCOs) made in respect of cases under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. This level of information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Legal Services Commission does collect data on the overall number and monetary value of RDCOs made and this detail is set out in the following table.

	Number of RDCOs made	*Value of RDCOs made (£ million)*
2006-07	330	4.2
2007-08	220	6.0

The figures are not yet available for 2008-09.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287330]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice resource accounts have been laid before the House of Commons today. The resource accounts will be made available on the MOJ website shortly after and published within a month.

Departmental Consultants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies spent on consultants in each year since 1997. [285788]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is as follows.

Consultants

The Ministry of Justice was formed on the 9 May 2007. This merger included the former Department of Constitutional Affairs and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). NOMS previously formed part of the Home Office. The following information is fragmented due to Machinery of Government and organisational changes. The Ministry of Justice do not hold data in relation to the National Offender Management (NOMS) for years prior to the Machinery of Government change in 2007-08. For this reason, NOMS consultancy costs, prior to 2007-08 cannot be provided in this answer.

While it appears possible to get detail of consultancy spend for the whole Home Office before the Machinery of Government change on 9 May 2007, it is not possible to get the spend relating to just those sections that are now part of the Ministry of Justice as these figures are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(a) Subject to the above, the Department and its predecessors spent the following amounts on consultancy in each accounting year:

Ministry of Justice (MOJ) 2007-08 to 2008-09

Accounting year	*£ million*
2008-09	[1]53.6
2007-08	56.0

[1] Provisional. This figure was an early estimate and has been extrapolated based on the nine month actual position. The 2008-09 consultancy figure will be finalised following a manual data collection exercise for April 2008 to March 2009. This exercise is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2009, with a target date for availability on 31 October 2009.
Note:
The figures between 2007-08 and 2008-09 are based on spend provided from the Department's systems. These figures do not include the Office of the Public Guardian.

Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA) 2003-04 to 2006-07

Accounting year	£ million
2006-07	10.7
2005-06	15.5
2004-05	10.6
2003-04	9.0

The Lord Chancellors Department (LCD) 1997-08 to 2002-03

Accounting year	£ million
2002-03	5.7
2001-02	6.5

Due to the organisation reshuffle of the former Lord Chancellor's Department, figures prior to 2001-02 are unavailable and can be obtained only via disproportionate costs.

(b) The figures above can be broken down into spend by individual agencies as follows:

Ministry of Justice (MOJ) 2008-09

A breakdown of MOJ consultancy costs by agency[1] for 2008-09 is not yet available. A manual data collection exercise for the period April 2008 to March 2009 is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2009 with a target date for the availability of the full data set on 31 October 2009.

[1] The 2008-09 breakdown will highlight the Ministry of Justice, National Offender Management Services and HM Prison Services spend only. Lower level breakdown of the 2008-09 data by agency can be obtained only via disproportionate costs.

Ministry of Justice (MOJ) 2007-08

	£ million
Ministry of Justice	36.0
National Offender Management Services and HM Prison Services	20.0
Total	56.0

Lower level breakdown of the 2007-08 data by agency can be obtained only via disproportionate costs.

Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA) 2003-04 to 2006-07

		£ million
	2005-06	2006-07
Department of Constitutional Affairs	10.1	6.6
HM Court Service	5.0	3.3
Tribunals Service	0.4	0.6
Office of the Public Guardian	0.05	0.2
Total	15.5	10.7

Between 2003-04 and 2004-05 a breakdown of DCA's (formally LCD's) consultancy costs by agencies can be obtained only via disproportionate costs.

Lord Chancellors Office (LCD) 1997-08 to 2002-03

Between 2001-02 and 2002-03 a breakdown of LCD's consultancy costs by agencies can be obtained only via disproportionate costs.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of staff at each pay band in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been suspended (i) on full pay and (ii) on sick pay for (A) over 12 months, (B) between six and 12 months and (C) between three and six months, broken down by pay band. [285822]

Mr. Straw: For the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) excluding the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), the number of staff currently suspended on full pay is 20, see table.

Length of suspension

Pay band	Over 12 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Between 3 and 6 months	Up to three months	Total
A	—	—	—	—	—
B	—	—	1	—	1
C	—	—	—	—	—
D	—	—	1	5	6
E	—	—	3	9	12
F	—	—	—	1	1
Total	—	—	5	15	20

For those staff on sick pay the information is not held centrally in a format that would enable us to answer this part of the question without incurring disproportionate cost.

The National Offender Management Service does not hold any of the detailed information centrally in a format that would enable us to answer this question without incurring disproportionate cost. I have given instructions that this information must in future be collected.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the change in the employee headcount in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in the next 12 months. [285258]

Mr. Straw: In October 2008, the Ministry of Justice announced controls on recruitment to enable the Department to drive out inefficiencies and look strategically at where we have skills gaps and how to manage our people more effectively across the business.

We estimate a reduction of 1,135 in the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) headcount between March 2009 and 2010. This estimate does not include information relating to the Land Registry, National Archives, Scotland Office, Wales Office or National Probation Service, where responsibility for staffing lies with each individual body.

The table breaks down the changes in Full Time Equivalent headcount by agency. The figures include employees and agency/interim staff.

These figures are projections; as with all projections, future operational and policy decisions will also influence what actually happens. The information provided in this answer is not part of the Department's Official Statistics and is not covered by the Code of Practice for Official statistics.

Estimated change in FTEs over the 12 months to 31 March 2010

	Reduction of:
MoJHQ	[1]80
NOMS[2]	750
HMCS	205
Tribunals Service	65
Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)	35

[1] Full Time Equivalents.

[2] The figures for NOMS refer to HQ and directly employed staff in public sector prisons only. They do not include the National Probation Service where the responsibility for staffing lies with the 42 areas and trusts who employ these staff.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at the latest date for which figures are available. [283259]

Mr. Straw: The Office for National Statistics publish public sector employment statistics quarterly. The latest available data are from 31 March 2009, and are set out in the table.

The table provides full-time equivalent (FTE) figures for the Department as published by the ONS.

	FTEs as at 31 March 2009
MOJ HQ	2,990
NOMS[1]	51,060
HMCS	19,100
Tribunals Service	2,810
Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)	360
Land Registry	6,930
National Archives	620
Scotland Office	90
Wales Office	60
Total	84,020

[1] The figures for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) refer to HQ and directly employed staff in public sector prisons only. They do not include the National Probation Service where the responsibility for staffing lies with the 42 areas and trusts who employ these staff

Drugs: Prisons

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers at each prison have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted for smuggling drugs into prison in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286492]

Maria Eagle: Central National Offender Management Service (NOMS) records show six prison officers have been dismissed under the internal disciplinary procedures for bringing drugs into a prison since January 2005.

	Number of staff dismissed
2005	3
2007	2
2008	1

NOMS has accepted and implemented the Blakey report on disrupting the supply of illicit drugs and mobile phones into prisons and is determined to address this security threat. In line with Blakey's recommendations, we are using legislation where appropriate to deal with prisoners, visitors or staff who attempt to smuggle such items. There are a range of offences used to prosecute staff in these circumstances, including misconduct in public office, possession with intent to supply, and the offences created by the Offender Management Act 2007 which attract tough penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

We do not, though, record information in the form requested. To do so would incur disproportionate cost. However, we are taking steps to record more detailed information in this area.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277415]

Mr. Straw: The data are only held centrally for the two years since the creation of the Ministry of Justice. To obtain the data now for the year 2006-07 would incur disproportionate costs.

In each of the last two years, the following numbers of claims were issued at the Employment Tribunal against the Ministry of Justice:

	Number of claims
2007-08	
Total Claims issued	306
Age Discrimination	19
Disability Discrimination	41
Equal Pay	58
Maternity Leave Pay	1
Non-standard Casework	1
Pension Rights	2
Race Discrimination	16
Sexual Discrimination	35
Sexual Orientation Discrimination	1
Terms of Employment	3
Trade Union Activity	3
TUPE	1
Unfair/Constructive Dismissal	91
Wages Claim	28
Whistleblowing	4
Working Time Regulations	2
2008-09	
Total Claims issued	215
Age Discrimination	5
Disability Discrimination	34
Equal Pay	3
Maternity Leave Pay	1
Non-standard Casework	4
Other	5
Race Discrimination	13
Sexual Discrimination	27
Sexual Orientation Discrimination	1
Terms of Employment	8
Trade Union Activity	4
Unfair/Constructive Dismissal	88
Wages Claim	20
Working Time Regulations	2

In 2007-08 the MoJ employed 78,789 people and in 2008-09, 81,402.

All of these claims were defended by the Ministry at the initial stage in the process, although some were subsequently settled. The outcome of these Employment Tribunals for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is shown in the following table.

	MoJ Win	MoJ Lost	Settled	Outstanding	Total
2007-08					
Age Discrimination	6	0	3	10	19
Disability Discrimination	16	0	11	14	41
Equal Pay	2	0	0	[1]36	38
Maternity Leave Pay	0	0	1	0	1
Non-Standard Casework	0	0	1	0	1
Pension Rights	2	0	0	0	2
Race Discrimination	10	1	0	5	16
Sexual Discrimination	11	1	7	16	35
Sexual Orientation Discrimination	0	0	1	0	1
Terms of Employment	0	0	0	3	3
Trade Union Activity	3	0	0	0	3
TUPE	1	0	0	0	1
Unfair/ Constructive Dismissal	38	2	25	26	91
Wages Claim	10	1	10	7	28
Whistleblowing	0	1	1	2	4
Working Time Regulations	0	0	1	1	2
Total	99	6	61	140	306
2008-09					
Age Discrimination	0	0	0	5	5
Disability Discrimination	5	0	4	25	34
Equal Pay	0	0	0	3	3
Maternity Leave Pay	0	0	0	1	1
Non-Standard Casework	0	0	1	3	4
Other	1	0	1	3	5
Pension Rights	0	0	0	0	0
Race Discrimination	4	0	2	7	13
Sexual Discrimination	3	0	4	20	27
Sexual Orientation Discrimination	0	0	0	1	1
Terms of Employment	1	0	0	7	8
Trade Union Activity	2	0	0	2	4
TUPE	0	0	0	0	0
Unfair/ Constructive Dismissal	18	0	9	61	88
Wages Claim	7	0	3	10	20
Whistleblowing	0	0	0	0	0
Working Time Regulations	0	0	1	1	2
Total	41	0	25	149	215

[1] 19 of these cases showing as outstanding have actually been finalised, but the outcomes have not yet been updated. The results are awaited from the Treasury Solicitor.

The data for the number of cases contested at an Employment Tribunal hearing are not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to obtain them.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288918]

Mr. Straw: I have no current plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer recess but I am always happy to consider invitations, including from the hon. Member.

Information Tribunal

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many information tribunals have sat in each year since 2004. [287939]

Bridget Prentice: The number of Information Tribunal appeals which reached a conclusion in each year since 2004 is shown in the following table. The figures include oral and paper hearings and withdrawn appeals.

Number of information tribunal appeals cleared

	Appeals
2004-05	0
2005-06	18
2006-07	62
2007-08	123
2008-09	113
2009[1]	37

[1] From 1 April to 30 June

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many information tribunals have sat *(a)* in public and *(b)* other than in public in each year since 2004. [287940]

Bridget Prentice: Information Tribunals are ordinarily held in public but individual sessions of the hearing will sometimes need to be held in private. If private sessions are considered necessary, the Tribunal Chairman will advise the parties of the reasons for doing so.

The Information Tribunal does not keep detailed records of the number of sessions that are held in camera. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost by carrying out a manual check of each case file to establish the status of each session of each hearing.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what legal costs were incurred by the Information Commissioner in respect of the Information Tribunal hearing in relation to the request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by Mr. Martin Sixsmith. [288063]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent authority which enforces compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The total cost to the ICO for counsel in the recent Information Tribunal case "Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government v IC" was £7,606.38. In addition, considerable time was spent on the case by the ICO's own in-house solicitors.

This information was provided by the ICO.

Legal Aid

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations the Legal Services Commission has received on the ability of law firms to deliver legally-aided criminal defence services following the implementation of best value tendering in 2010. [285668]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) received 1,503 responses from representative bodies, individual practitioners and other interested parties, to its consultation exercise on proposals to introduce Best Value Tendering (BVT) of criminal defence services in the police station and magistrates court.

My noble Friend Lord Bach's written ministerial statement of 20 July 2009 announced the publication of the Legal Services Commission's (LSC) response to consultation on BVT. A copy of the consultation response and accompanying impact assessment has been placed in the House Library. The documents are also available on the consultation section of the LSC website at:

www.legalservices.gov.uk

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the administration of legal aid in each of the last 12 years. [287188]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission's (LSC) administration expenditure in each of the last 12 years is shown in the table. The costs to the courts for administering the grant and payment of legal aid is not recorded separately.

Total LSC administration expenditure

	£ million
1996-97	53.8
1997-98	57.5
1998-99	59.9
1999-2000	62.4
2000-01	72.4
2001-02	71.6
2002-03	73.4
2003-04	90.2
2004-05	102.7
2005-06	96.8
2006-07	114.4
2007-08	132.5

Legal Aid: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department has incurred on legal aid payments to foreign nationals involved in cases before the Special Immigration Appeals Commission in each of the last seven years. [285266]

Mr. Straw: The Legal Services Commission did not specifically collate costs data on SIAC expenditure prior to the 7 July 2005 terrorist incidents in London.

Expenditure in subsequent financial years, and from April 2009 to June 2009 was as follows:

	£000
2006-07	385
2007-08	731
2008-09	889
2009-10	156

Legal Services Commission

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will hold discussions with the Legal Services Commission on its procedures for best value tendering; and if he will make a statement. [287038]

Bridget Prentice: My noble Friend Lord Bach the Minister for Legal Aid routinely discusses a wide range of issues with the Legal Services Commission including best value tendering.

My noble Friend Lord Bach's written ministerial statement of 20 July 2009 announced the publication of the Legal Services Commission's (LSC) response to consultation on Best Value Tendering of criminal defence services.

A copy of the consultation response and accompanying impact assessment has been placed in the House Library. The documents are also available on the consultation section of the LSC website at:

www.legalservices.gov.uk

Magistrates Courts: Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates clerks were employed in each of the last three years; and how much was spent on employing them in each such year. [276751]

Mr. Straw: The title "Magistrates' Clerk" is a historic title and no longer used in magistrates court. Justice clerks and legal advisers fulfil the roles closest to that of a magistrates clerk, although the role is not directly comparable and both fulfil different functions. I provide in the tables the requested figures for both justice clerks and legal advisers.

Legal advisers

	2006-07*		2007-08		2008-09	
Region	FTE	Salary cost (£)	FTE	Salary cost (£)	FTE	Salary cost (£)
North West	277.2	13,207,859	283.4	14,190,535	283.5	15,101,933
Midlands	—	—	322.3	16,555,657	316.5	17,183,678
Wales	66.2	2,898,648	119.6	5,812,338	115	6,000,768
North East	292	14,494,319	292	14,965,934	288	15,147,267
South West	263.6	9,526,406	280.9	9,702,375	280.9	10,355,665

Justices' clerks

Region	2006-07[1] FTE	2006-07[1] Salary cost (£)	2007-08 FTE	2007-08 Salary cost (£)	2008-09 FTE	2008-09 Salary cost (£)
North West	5	314,298	5	324,820	3	341,916
Midlands	—	—	15	1,585,578	11	1,412,110
Wales	3	306,150	8	818,324	5	518,588
North East	10	992,932	9.5	972,075	7	744,408
South West	10	1,051,987	10	1,095,269	6.2	719,574

It has not been possible to provide exact staff numbers or the breakdown in salary costs for legal advisers and justice clerks for London and the South East region. Further work is taking place to extract this information from local data. I will write to the hon. Member with this information when this has been completed. The following table shows the combined salary costs for legal advisers and justice clerks in London and the South East.

Region	2006-07[1]	2007-08	Salary cost (£) 2008-09
London	—	17,089,462	17,449,073
South East	—	18,223,171	17,892,698

[1] Historical pay data are not held on the HR information system in HMCS and due to a change in accounting procedures brought in across HMCS on 1 April 2007 some regions have not been able to provide this information for 2006-07 from their records.

[2] Staff numbers are quoted as full-time equivalent in post.

Mass Media

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* commissioning of public opinion research and *(b)* contracts with press monitoring services in each of the last five years; [257754]

(2) what the cost of contracts between his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies' and press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [257755]

Mr. Straw: Details of the available information on expenditure on public opinion research and organisations providing media monitoring services in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and its predecessor are provided in the following table.

Table 1: Public opinion research

	£
Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA)	
2004-05	1,410,000
2005-06	1,634,000
2006-07	219,000
Ministry of Justice (created in May 2007)	
2007-08	3,000,000
2008-09	2,945,000

Notes:
Figures shown are estimates including VAT and are based on a collation of local returns as no central records are available. They include NDPBs.

The reason for the fluctuation of spend reflects a smaller research programme in 2006-07. The figures in 2007-08 and 2008-09 for the Ministry of Justice reflect the inclusion of Public Opinion Research for the Office of Criminal Justice Reform and National Offender Management Service.

Table 2: Press monitoring

	Press cuttings (£)
Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA)	
2003-04	50,344.00
2004-05	48,641.00
2005-06	59,606.61
2006-07	20,548.55
Ministry of Justice (created in May 2007)	
2007-08	56,662.93

The reason for the fluctuation in spend between 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is due to a revision of the cuttings specification. For 2006-07 the specification was significantly narrowed and this resulted in fewer cuttings being charged to the Department. However, due to the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007, the cuttings specification was widened to cover the additional subjects covered by the new Ministry and an increase in national and regional press.

The following figures are for costs of press monitoring services for the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. Figures before this relate to expenditure under previous Departments.

Executive Agencies:

National Offender Management service (NOMS)

The cost of press monitoring for NOMS from May 2007 is incorporated in the MoJ cost. Press monitoring costs for NOMS prior to May 2007 were paid by the Home Office.

Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS)

Created in April 2005. Since 2005, HMCS press monitoring services have been part of DCA/MoJ contracts.

Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)

The Office of the Public Guardian formed on 1 October 2007, replacing the Public Guardianship Office.

Office of the Public Guardian

	Durrants (press cuttings service) (£)
2006-07	6,118.70
2007-08	7,118.74

Tribunals Service

The Tribunals Service was created in April 2006, as an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. The Press Association and Meltwater News provide the

Tribunals Service with press monitoring services. To date they have paid in total £6,564.63 to PA; and £4,136 to Meltwater News.

National Archives

The National Archives is a non-ministerial department and executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. The finance documents pre-2006 are kept off-site in a repository in Cheshire, and it would incur disproportionate cost to recover them. Following figures are provided for 2006 onwards.

National Archives

£

	Cision (media management)	Cision (clippings and media monitoring)	Meltwater News	Total
2006-07	23,446.00	220.00	0.00	23,666.00
2007-08	11,660.00	13,169.00	5,288.00	24,829.00

NDPBs:

Boundary Commission—England

No spend.

Boundary Commission—Wales Office

No spend.

Her Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR)

Her Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR)

	Durrants (press cuttings service) (£)
2003-04	13,175.31
2004-05	15,052.92
2005-06	19,537.24
2006-07	28,751.35
2007-08	28,035.64

Legal Services Commission (LSC)

Legal Services Commission (LSC)

	Durrants (press cuttings service) (£)
2003-04	0.00
2004-05	13,333.47
2005-06	24,038.20
2006-07	24,170.03
2007-08	27,159.00

The costs for the Legal Services Commission and Her Majesty's Land Registry increased primarily because there was more media relevant to their work which needed to be monitored. For Her Majesty's Land Registry, a key case of this was the launch in October 2006 of the monthly House Price Index.

Judicial Appointments Commission

The JAC does not hold its own contracts with press monitoring services; instead they are served by the Judicial Communications Office contract.

Press monitoring services include clippings of newspaper articles, compiled on a daily basis, that are relevant to the Department. The Government's Central Office of Information's Media Monitoring Unit provides a press summary service for the Department, but also includes broadcast coverage in these summaries. It is not possible to breakdown the cost of MMU summaries between press monitoring and monitoring of other media. It is important to monitor the climate of opinion and the evolving views of commentators and the media to ensure that policy development takes place in the fullest context and the Department is well placed to respond to events. Press and media monitoring is one way to do this and also provides useful instant feedback on announcements.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much of the projected £30 million savings from the Specification, Benchmarking and Costing (SBC) Programme are expected to be made by *(a)* the Probation Service and *(b)* the Prison Service; and what the SBC expenditure reduction targets are for each service. [275387]

Maria Eagle: The Specification, Benchmarking and Costing (SBC) Programme is targeted to deliver more than £50 million of savings during 2009-10. The target for probation is £21 million and prisons £32 million. The probation savings will be achieved through the work of the SBC programme but also supported by the Probation Trust Programme and the introduction of best value.

Further savings are anticipated in future years from the SBC programme and work is currently ongoing to define and quantify the potential costs, benefits and impact.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much of the projected £117 million savings for the National Offender Management Service is expected to be made by *(a)* the Probation Service, *(b)* the Prison Service and *(c)* National Offender Management Service headquarters. [275388]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has plans in place to achieve savings of £171 million in 2009-10. The savings will be realised through a range of programmes and initiatives to ensure that offender management is delivered effectively and efficiently.

A broad description of the savings is given in the table.

Initiative	Description	Planned saving 2009-10 (£ million)
Specification, Benchmarking and Costing Programme (prisons)	Achieving better value for money by reducing unnecessary variation in service provisions in prisons	32
Regional and National HQ structures	Streamlining and restructuring	28
Specification, Benchmarking and Costing Programme (probation)	Achieving better value for money by reducing unnecessary variation in service provisions in probation	21
Spending Plan Adjustments	Adjustments to spending plans to take account of reducing inflation and lower VAT	12
Management reductions and delayering	Reforms to workforce structures for new uniformed staff and reducing management costs in public prisons	16

Initiative	Description	Planned saving 2009-10 (£ million)
Other Savings	Including, greater efficiency in the Capacity Programme; further procurement improvement; a reduction in non-essential maintenance; prison clustering; modernising staff rostering processes and restructuring training services	70
Total		171

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average ratio of *(a)* probation staff to offenders and *(b)* offender managers to offenders was in each probation service area in each year since 1997. [288426]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following table for the years 2004 to 2007 inclusive. Reliable offender caseload data by probation service area are not available prior to 2004.

(a) The average ratio of probation staff to offenders, by each probation service area in England and Wales at 31 December in each year from 2004-07

Area	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	8.1	7.8	8.1	9.4
Bedfordshire	13.8	12.0	10.7	11.5
Cambridgeshire	10.2	10.9	11.2	12.8
Cheshire	8.0	8.7	10.0	10.2
Cumbria	11.2	9.9	9.5	10.9
Derbyshire	10.7	10.6	10.7	10.8
Devon and Cornwall	8.4	7.9	8.0	7.8
Dorset	7.8	7.9	9.1	9.2
Durham	7.8	8.0	8.8	10.0
Dyfed Powys	8.7	8.1	6.9	8.1
Essex	10.8	10.7	12.6	14.2
Gloucestershire	9.0	9.4	9.4	10.2
Gwent	10.6	9.5	9.6	10.1
Hampshire	10.5	10.1	10.3	10.6
Hertfordshire	12.9	13.1	13.1	12.3
Humberside	8.5	8.3	8.9	9.9
Kent	10.1	9.9	11.0	12.2
Lancashire	10.1	11.1	12.7	13.6
Leicestershire	7.8	7.9	8.3	8.2
Lincolnshire	8.9	8.2	8.0	8.3
London	14.2	16.3	14.5	15.7
Greater Manchester	11.0	11.2	11.5	13.1
Merseyside	11.9	13.2	13.8	13.3
Norfolk	9.6	8.6	8.6	8.8
North Wales	9.4	9.9	11.0	12.4
North Yorkshire	8.7	10.1	10.0	9.2
Northamptonshire	10.4	10.0	9.0	10.2
Northumbria	8.5	8.9	9.9	10.6
Nottinghamshire	11.3	10.2	9.3	10.2
South Wales	11.0	10.3	10.2	10.6
South Yorkshire	9.6	9.7	10.3	10.6
Staffordshire	9.0	9.2	9.8	10.0
Suffolk	8.1	8.4	8.6	9.3
Surrey	7.0	6.8	7.6	7.5
Sussex	13.2	11.2	11.8	14.6
Teesside	11.2	10.3	11.3	11.5
Thames Valley	8.8	9.5	10.3	10.7
Warwickshire	8.8	8.1	9.3	10.5
West Mercia	9.0	10.0	9.7	9.9
West Midlands	14.7	13.5	13.2	13.1
West Yorkshire	10.2	10.6	10.5	10.5
Wiltshire	10.1	8.7	9.2	9.1
Total	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.6

Note:
Figures provided are full-time equivalent

(b) The average ratio of offender managers to offenders, by each probation service area in England and Wales at 31 December in each year from 2004-07

Area	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	26.0	24.8	23.0	25.7
Bedfordshire	41.1	35.3	32.7	32.1
Cambridgeshire	29.0	33.2	32.5	35.3
Cheshire	24.3	26.2	29.2	32.5
Cumbria	33.5	29.7	26.3	29.5
Derbyshire	34.0	32.3	30.9	32.1
Devon and Cornwall	25.3	23.6	23.9	22.7
Dorset	24.7	23.6	27.1	29.9
Durham	23.3	23.8	24.7	27.3
Dyfed Powys	26.3	24.1	26.7	29.5
Essex	39.1	42.2	48.8	54.9
Gloucestershire	26.9	28.8	32.9	37.6
Gwent	36.9	37.4	29.2	27.5
Hampshire	28.7	29.9	32.0	33.6
Hertfordshire	39.6	40.8	47.6	40.2
Humberside	25.6	24.6	24.0	27.0
Kent	31.6	30.4	34.2	35.5
Lancashire	24.0	25.3	27.9	31.1
Leicestershire	25.1	24.2	25.6	26.4
Lincolnshire	31.9	28.0	27.1	26.8
London	40.7	50.7	47.6	48.2
Greater Manchester	35.6	38.8	33.8	37.0
Merseyside	34.5	36.6	38.3	33.7
Norfolk	28.7	28.1	31.3	30.3
North Wales	26.6	27.5	31.4	34.7
North Yorkshire	22.4	25.0	26.3	28.2
Northamptonshire	33.1	33.7	26.3	29.5
Northumbria	21.4	21.0	23.1	26.1
Nottinghamshire	33.4	33.2	30.1	33.3
South Wales	31.6	29.7	30.1	30.5
South Yorkshire	29.6	28.2	29.3	29.6
Staffordshire	24.6	24.1	24.9	26.2
Suffolk	20.3	21.8	23.7	23.3
Surrey	25.3	25.7	28.2	24.7
Sussex	37.3	30.7	33.2	40.5
Teesside	39.8	32.7	33.9	32.5
Thames Valley	30.6	32.6	35.3	35.1
Warwickshire	27.8	23.8	29.2	33.1
West Mercia	23.8	25.9	25.2	27.3
West Midlands	41.0	36.7	37.0	40.4
West Yorkshire	31.4	30.6	29.4	30.1

(b) The average ratio of offender managers to offenders, by each probation service area in England and Wales at 31 December in each year from 2004-07

Area	2004	2005	2006	2007
Wiltshire	34.1	27.7	28.3	33.2
National Average	31.8	32.5	32.6	34.1

Note:
Figures provided are full-time equivalent and include senior probation officers, probation officers, senior practitioners and practice development assessors

National Security Appeals Panel

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times the National Security Appeals Panel has sat in each year since 2004. [287941]

Bridget Prentice: The number of appeals to the National Security Appeals Panel which reached a conclusion in each year since 2004 is shown in the following table. Withdrawn appeals were withdrawn prior to the Tribunal hearing.

Number of national security appeals panel appeals cleared

	Hearings	Withdrawals
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	2	0
2006-07	0	2
2007-08	0	0
2008-09	0	2
2009 (From 1 April to 30 June)	1	1

Office of the Public Guardian

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* resource budget, *(b)* capital budget, *(c)* fee income and *(d)* amount of public funding is for the Office of the Public Guardian in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [287697]

Bridget Prentice: Information about Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)[1] funding is contained in the following table. Prior to April 2009 the OPG provided the administration for the Court of Protection, whereas the administration is now provided by HM Courts Service.

£000

	2008-09 Spring supplementary estimate[2]	2009-10 Main estimate[2]	2010-11 Indicative[2]
Resource DEL	1,100	(2,310)	(2,310)
Resource Budget	21,600	23,670	23,670
Capital Budget	500	1,500	419
Fee Income	(20,500)	(25,980)	(25,980)
Public Funding Resource[3]	2,000	2,600	3,000
Public Funding Capital	0	0	0

[1] These figures also include the costs of the Court of Protection for each year. The financial planning process to incorporate the budgetary transfers which are predicated on the organisational changes for the Court of protection is not complete, the figures therefore reflect the OPG and CP as one entity.
[2] These figures have been taken from the Ministry of Justice's Departmental Annual Report 2008-09 and also include Court of Protection.
[3] The public resource funding is due to remissions and exemptions.

Parole

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in each prison who were eligible for parole had been sitting (i) under a month, (ii) between one and three months, (iii) between three and six months and (iv) over six months for a parole hearing on the latest date for which figures are available. [288425]

Bridget Prentice: As at 30 June 2009, the number of indeterminate sentenced prisoners referred to the Parole Board where the target for a parole hearing has passed are as follows:

(i) 223 under a month;

(ii) 451 between one and three months;

(iii) 213 between three and six months; and

(iv) 192 over six months.

A further 95 cases have had hearing dates cancelled or deferred and will need new hearing dates arranged.

In relation to determinate sentence prisoners, the Parole Board has no backlog of cases awaiting parole consideration.

To provide figures broken down by gender and prison could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

Political Parties and Elections Bill

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he anticipates for the commencement of each substantive element of the Political Parties and Elections Bill following Royal Ascent. [287361]

Mr. Straw: The commencement of the provisions of the Political Parties and Elections Bill, which I introduced to this House on 17 July 2008, will depend on its progress through its final stages in Parliament and the date upon which it receives Royal Assent.

Provisions which are proposed to commence automatically on Royal Assent are listed under clause 41(3). The remaining provisions shall be commenced by order at a time to be determined by me.

As I made clear in the debates at Commons' Report stage on 9 February 2009, the provision in clause 20[1][1] restricting pre-candidacy election expenses will not be commenced until restrictions on the use of the communications allowance have been agreed by the House: "the two matters were linked—one depends on the other" (9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1221-23). As my hon. Friend, the Deputy Leader of the House (Barbara Keeley), made clear in a written answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 800W, the Leader of the House hopes to bring forward the necessary amendments shortly after the summer adjournment.

Prisoner Escapes: Sudbury Prison

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have absconded from Sudbury Prison in the last 18 months. [286412]

Maria Eagle: Absconds occur where a prisoner absents himself from prison custody without lawful authority and without overcoming physical security barriers or

restraints, conditions typically found in open prisons. HMP Sudbury is an adult male, open prison. 50 prisoners absconded from Sudbury prison in the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2009. This compares with 106 absconds for the 18-month period prior to that (1 April 2006 to 30 September 2007). The rate of absconding across England and Wales continues to fall and the number of absconds are presently at their lowest level since centralised reporting of this type of incident began in 1995.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Figures on absconds and a range of other prison performance statistics are available at:

www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics/

Prisoner Release

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what powers he has to reject the recommendation of the Parole Board on the release of a prisoner; and what criteria he uses in deciding whether to reject such a recommendation; [285748]

(2) what recommendation the Parole Board made to him in respect of the release of Ronald Biggs following its recent deliberations; [286125]

(3) what advice he received from officials in his Department in respect of the release of Ronald Biggs following the recent recommendation of the Parole Board; [286126]

(4) on how many occasions since 1 January 2001 the relevant Minister has not agreed with the recommendation of the Parole Board to release an individual prisoner; [286127]

(5) on how many occasions the Parole Board recommended the release of a prisoner in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [286128]

(6) on how many occasions during *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 officials of his Department endorsed Parole Board decisions to release individual prisoners. [286129]

Mr. Straw: Section 35(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, in conjunction with the Parole Board (Transfer of Functions) Order 1998, provides for the Secretary of State to determine whether prisoners serving a determinate sentence of 15 years or more, and who are subject to the release provisions of that Act, should be released on parole, subject to a positive recommendation for early release from the Parole Board. The factors considered when deciding whether or not to accept a recommendation from the Board are set out in directions given by the Secretary of State to the Board. The primary factor is the risk to the public of a further offence being committed at a time when the prisoner would otherwise be in prison and whether any such risk is acceptable.

On 15 June 2009 the Parole Board recommended that Ronald Biggs should be released on parole licence.

To release the advice given to Ministers by officials about the release of Mr. Biggs would be likely to prejudice the provision of full and frank advice to Ministers in future and I am therefore not making this advice public.

The number of prisoners' cases where a recommendation for early release from the Parole Board was turned down in the period 2004-09 is given in the following table. All the cases were those of prisoners serving determinate sentences of 15 years or more and subject to the release provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991. Figures for years prior to those provided are not held centrally and would require a manual trawl of available data. To do so would incur a disproportionate cost.

	Number of prisoners
2004	1
2005	3
2006	3
2007	3
2008	0
2009 (as of 8 July 2009)	1

The number of cases where the Parole Board made a recommendation for release in the period 2007-09 is given in the following table. All the cases were those of prisoners serving determinate sentences of 15 years or more and subject to the release provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

	Number of prisoners
2007	46
2008	31
2009 (as of 9 July 2009)	12

These figures have been drawn from internal records and may be subject to inaccuracies due to data inputting errors.

The number of cases where officials, on behalf of the Secretary of State and without formally seeking ministerial approval, endorsed Parole Board recommendations for the release of prisoners on parole for the period 2007-09 is given in the following table. All the cases were those of prisoners serving determinate sentences of 15 years or more and subject to the release provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

	Number of prisoners
2007	40
2008	31
2009 (as of 9 July 09)	11

These figures have been drawn from internal records possibly subject to data inputting errors.

Prisoners: Human Rights

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much the Government has paid to prisoners as a consequence of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights on cases relating to parole and release of prisoners in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [277179]

(2) how many occasions prisoners have been released from prison on a date changed as a result of a European Court of Human Rights judgment in the last five years. [277180]

Mr. Straw: Compensation paid to prisoners is recorded centrally against the main type of allegation recorded in the claim for compensation. Whether the claim followed

as a consequence of a European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruling and whether a prisoner was released on a date changed as a consequence of the ruling is not recorded centrally. To establish how many prisoners have been paid compensation over the last five years as a consequence of judgments handed down by the ECtHR would involve interrogating over 3,000 individual litigation files.

Prisoners: Pregnant Women

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pregnant women there were in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [287371]

Maria Eagle: As a result of configuration problems experienced with the database used to record information on the number of pregnant women that were in prisons in England and Wales, this information can not be provided at present.

A review of the systems used to record these data is being undertaken to ensure effective processes for data collection and retention are in place. Every effort will be made to consolidate historical data and I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete to provide all the information that is available in response to her question.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection have been offered places on courses promoting their rehabilitation in the most recent period for which figures are available; [285302]

(2) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection have completed courses promoting their rehabilitation in the latest period for which figures are available; [285303]

(3) when he expects the National Offender Management Service review of indeterminate sentences for public protection intervention needs to be complete. [285305]

Mr. Straw: Information on how many prisoners have been offered places on courses promoting their rehabilitation is not centrally recorded, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by checking the files of the prisoners concerned.

At the end of June 2009, 3,189 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPPS) had completed at least one accredited offending behaviour or drug treatment programme in custody. In addition, prisoners may have completed other activities such as training, education, work, non-accredited courses, specialist support or resettlement work which also have a significant part to play in promoting rehabilitation. This information is not centrally recorded.

The programme of work to review the intervention needs of IPPS should be completed in the next 18 months. Much work has already been completed but it now needs to be integrated into a broader programme of work covering the intervention needs of all offenders, the range of programmes, and the resources to deliver them.

Prisoners: Suicide

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection have committed suicide since such sentences were introduced. [285304]

Maria Eagle: Any death in prison custody is a tragic event. The Government, Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is committed to learning from such events and reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prison custody. NOMS has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. ACCT is the prisoner-centred flexible care-planning system introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005-07.

Indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) were introduced in 2005. Prisoners serving such sentences account for 6 per cent. of all prisoners. There have been a total of 12 self-inflicted deaths involving prisoners with IPP status. These numbers are detailed in the following table.

	Self-inflicted deaths involving prisoners on indeterminate sentences for public protection sentences
2005	0
2006	2
2007	4
2008	4
2009[1]	2

[1] 2009 figures cover January to June only.

Prisons: Smuggling

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prison officers, *(b)* staff in governor grades and *(c)* other staff employed in prisons and young offender institutions have been convicted of offences involving the taking of (i) drugs and (ii) mobile telephones into such establishments in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [288862]

Maria Eagle: All Prison Service staff are expected to meet high standards of professional and personal conduct. Allegations of staff misconduct, which are potentially criminal in nature, are referred to the police for investigation and, where appropriate, prosecution.

In order to provide the detailed information requested, we would need to contact all public sector Prison Service establishments, ask them to check their local records for the period required and ask them to submit this information to headquarters so that the central records can be updated. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Public Opinion: Ministry of Justice

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polling in 2008-09. [279240]

Mr. Straw: The information requested on expenditure is not held centrally, however a search of local records has identified a number of projects undertaken in the 2008-09 financial year. Based on these returns the Ministry of Justice Department (not including NDPBs) spent around £647,000 including VAT on focus groups, and £247,000 including VAT on opinion polls.

Note:

The figures given are based on local returns and do not separately identify the elements of projects that were specifically focus groups or opinion polls This figure does not include wider market and opinion research that extends beyond opinion polling and focus groups.

Public Service: Misconduct

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 478W, on misconduct in public office, when he plans to place in the Library a copy of his letter. [278335]

Mr. Straw: I have written to the hon. Member on 19 July 2009 and have placed a copy in the Library of the House. I apologise for the delay.

Reoffenders: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate of people in each age group in the Essex probation area was in each of the last five years. [287034]

Maria Eagle: The local re-offending figures are produced by aggregating the data of four snapshots of the probation caseload at the end of each quarter. Therefore the number of offenders quoted in the following table is approximately four times the number of offenders on the caseload at any one time.

The most recent re-offending rates for Essex are shown in the following table.

Local re-offending rates for Essex, 1 January—31 December 2008

	Number of offenders	*Actual re-offending rate (percentage)*
Essex probation area	20,217	8.17

The local re-offending rate is not broken down by age band.

Local adult re-offending rates by probation area or local authority are not available for periods prior to 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008.

Further details on local adult re-offending are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/local-adult-reoffending-2008-ii.pdf

Sexual Offences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of people convicted of (a) rape and (b) sexual assault were aged (i) under 16, (ii) 16 to 18, (iii) 19 to 65 and (iv) over 65 years in each year since 1997. [285790]

Claire Ward: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for rape and sexual assault, in England and Wales, by age group, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following tables.

The figures given in the tables relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences of rape[1] and sexual assault in England and Wales, by age group, 1997 to 2007[p,1,4,5]

	1997		*1998*		*1999*		*2000[6]*		*2001*		*2002*	
	Found guilty	*% of total found guilty*	*Found guilty*	*% of total found guilty*	*Found guilty*	*% of total found guilty*	*Found guilty*	*% of total found guilty*	*Found guilty*	*% of total found guilty*	*Found guilty*	*% of total found guilty*
Rape												
Age 10-15	25	4	16	2	26	4	16	3	19	3	12	2
Age 16-18	52	8	28	4	51	8	41	7	39	7	35	5
Age 19-65	528	86	600	89	559	86	515	87	498	88	574	89
Age 66 and over	10	2	29	4	16	2	21	4	11	2	23	4
Total all ages	615	100	673	100	652	100	593	100	567	100	644	100
Sexual assault												
Age 10-15	196	7	207	7	208	7	185	7	218	9	237	9
Age 16-18	235	8	243	8	232	8	229	9	197	8	232	9
Age 19-65	2,376	80	2,278	79	2,259	79	2,023	78	1,946	77	1,988	77
Age 66 and over	156	5	166	6	169	6	147	6	156	6	133	5
Total all ages	2,963	100	2,894	100	2,868	100	2,584	100	2,517	100	2,590	100

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Found guilty	% of total found guilty	Found guilty	% of total found guilty	Found guilty	% of total found guilty	Found guilty	% of total found guilty	Found guilty	% of total found guilty
Rape										
Age 10-15	16	2	23	3	32	4	39	5	38	4
Age 16-18	33	5	32	4	74	9	70	8	61	7
Age 19-65	594	89	658	89	660	83	728	84	731	84
Age 66 and over	27	4	29	4	29	4	25	3	42	5
Total all ages	670	100	742	100	795	100	862	100	872	100
Sexual assault										
Age 10-15	164	7	246	9	170	8	138	7	147	7
Age 16-18	205	8	216	8	180	8	150	7	151	7
Age 19-65	1,955	79	1,996	77	1,747	78	1,613	79	1,668	79
Age 66 and over	143	6	150	6	141	6	151	7	137	7
Total all ages	2,467	100	2,608	100	2,238	100	2,052	100	2,103	100

[1] Includes attempted rape.
[2] Data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Data includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.14
Indecent assault on a male.
Indecent assault on a female.
[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1st May 2004 and repealed previous Sexual Offences Acts:
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female.
Rape of a male
Attempted rape of a female.
Attempted rape of a male.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.2
Assault on a male by penetration
Assault on a female by penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.3
Sexual assault on a male.
Sexual assault on a female
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male
Attempted rape of a female child under 13 by a male
Attempted rape of a male child under 13 by a male
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.6
Assault of a male child under 13 by penetration
Assault of a female child under 13 by penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.7
Sexual assault of a female child under 13
Sexual assault of a male child under 13
5 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[6] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted at magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit (OCJR-E&A)

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in the pilot benefit sanction scheme operated by magistrates' courts; what assessment has been made of the effect of the scheme on levels of crime in the pilot areas; and whether he plans to extend that scheme to other areas. [276515]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

A written statement was made on 27 February 2009, announcing the intention to end the community sentence sanction pilots, subject to parliamentary approval. Initial evaluation research showed a modest 1.8 per cent. improvement in compliance by sanctioned offenders, directly attributable to the impact of the policy.

Taking into account the overall cost-effectiveness of running the pilot scheme and other measures introduced to strengthen compliance and enforcement, it was decided that the pilots should end and should not be rolled out nationally. The appropriate legislation to end the pilots is being taken forward as part of the Welfare Reform Bill.

Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been distributed from the Victims Fund on 2008-09; and which groups received money from the fund for the provision of services to victims of hate crime or homicide in that year. [288222]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government distributed a total of £277,618.08 from the Victims Fund between 13 groups for the provision of services to victims of hate crime or homicide for the period 2008-09. £1.25 million was allocated to victims of sexual violence.

£109,976 was distributed for the provision of services to victims of homicide to five groups and they were as follows:

Support After Murder and Manslaughter (Merseyside)—awarded £20,450

National Victims Association—awarded £30,985

Child Bereavement Charity—awarded £20,887

Victims of Crime Trust—awarded £17,700

Victim Support (Bedfordshire)—awarded £19,954.08

£167,642 was distributed for the provision of services to victims of hate crime to eight groups and they were as follows:

Voice UK—awarded £34,900

Greenwich Action Committee Against Racist Attacks—awarded £19,920

Kirklees Metropolitan Council—awarded £15,000

Gender Identity Research and Education Society—awarded £4,750

North Herts People First—£53,180

Victim Support Teesside—£4,130

Greater Manchester Police, Bury Division—£15,762

West Yorkshire Police—£20,000

Young Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many under 18 year olds have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for (i) sexual offences, (ii) robbery, (iii) criminal damage, (iv) drug offences and (v) violent offences in each year since 1999. [277797]

Mr. Straw: The number of persons aged 10 to 17 who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the requested offence groups in England and Wales, for the years 1999 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children from sexual exploitation. This makes direct comparisons with previous legislation very difficult. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons aged 10 to 17 who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected indictable offences[1], England and Wales 1999 to 2007[2, 3]

	Proceeded against					*Found guilty*				
	Sexual Offences[4, 5]	*Robbery[6]*	*Criminal Damage[7]*	*Drug Offences[8]*	*Violence against the Person[9]*	*Sexual Offences[4, 5]*	*Robbery[6]*	*Criminal Damage[7]*	*Drug Offences[8]*	*Violence against the Person[9]*
1999	916	4,107	4,235	3,823	10,898	489	2,044	2,691	3,113	5,982
2000[10]	929	5,309	4,104	4,390	11,777	463	2,213	2,527	3,696	6,253
2001	1,120	6,688	4,841	5,312	13,154	511	2,792	2,897	4,341	6,910
2002	1,208	6,618	4,795	5,954	12,392	557	2,807	2,910	4,957	6,871
2003	1,073	5,546	4,770	6,003	11,999	448	2,641	2,948	5,145	6,579
2004	1,237	5,666	4,632	5,125	11,314	587	2,964	3,233	4,478	6,906
2005	1,146	5,809	4,434	5,214	11,168	554	3,079	3,268	4,628	7,428
2006	987	6,418	4,742	4,977	11,052	492	3,701	3,669	4,455	7,520
2007	1,009	6,808	4,623	5,855	10,738	543	4,115	3,627	5,264	7,679

[1] Includes Indictable and triable-either way offences, 'Indictable only' are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be dealt with at the Crown court. Triable-either-way offences may be tried at either the Crown court or at magistrates courts. The offence groups do not include summary offences.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Sexual Offences includes data for the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2004.

[5] Sexual Offences offence type includes the following offence classes:

Buggery
Sexual Assault on a Male
Indecency between Males
Rape of a Female
Rape of a Male
Sexual Assault on a Female
Sexual Activity with child under 13
Sexual Activity with child under 16
Familial Sexual Offences (Incest)
Exploitation of Prostitution
Abduction

Bigamy
Soliciting of women by Men
Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography
Trafficking for sexual exploitation
Abuse of trust—sexual offences
Gross Indecency with Children
Miscellaneous sexual offences
[6] Robbery offence type includes the following offence class:
Robbery
[7] Criminal Damage offence type includes the following offence classes:
Arson
Criminal Damage Endangering Life
Other Criminal Damage
Threat etc., to commit Criminal Damage
[8] Drug offences includes the following offence classes:
Unlawful importation—Class A
Unlawful importation—Class B
Unlawful importation—Class C
Unlawful importation—Class unspecified
Unlawful exportation—Class A
Unlawful exportation—Class B
Unlawful exportation—Class C
Unlawful exportation—Class Unspecified
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug—Class A
Production—Class B
Production—Class C
Production—Class unspecified
Possession of a controlled drug—Class A
Possession—Class B
Possession—Class C
Possession—Class unspecified
Other drug offences
[9] Violence against the person offence type includes the following offence classes:
Murder
Attempted Murder
Threat or Conspiracy to Murder
Manslaughter
Infanticide
Child Destruction
Causing Death by Dangerous Driving
Manslaughter Due to Diminished Responsibility
Causing Death by Careless Driving when under the influence of Drink or Drugs
Causing Death of a child or vulnerable person
Wounding or other act Endangering Life
Endangering Railway Passenger
Endangering Life at Sea
Malicious Wounding etc.
Cruelty to or Neglect of Children
Abandoning Child aged under Two Years
Child Abduction
Procuring Illegal Abortion
Concealment of Birth
Causing Death by Aggravated Vehicle Taking
[10] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Source:
OCJR—E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of the costs of *(a)* national and regional management and administration, *(b)* premises, *(c)* insurance, *(d)* staff pensions, *(e)* depreciation, *(f)* land, *(g)* capital and *(h)* other central expenditure on his estimate of the average annual cost of providing a custodial place for a young offender. [288651]

Maria Eagle: The overall average resource cost per place of a young offender institution in 2007-08 (the latest year for which figures are available) was:

Direct net expenditure met locally at establishments: £32,799

Other net expenditure met centrally by the Prison Service: 14,960

(HMPS)and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

Total overall average resource cost per place: £47,759

The direct resource expenditure met locally at each establishment is as reported in the Annual Report and Accounts of HMPS 2007-08. Resource expenditure met centrally by HMPS and NOMS includes for example: national and regional management and administration, major maintenance, depreciation and cost of capital of land and buildings, and prisoner escort service. This involves some estimation. Income from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in respect of services recharged to the YJB is excluded in order to show the overall cost to the Ministry of Justice, as is any spend by other Government Departments (e.g. for health and education). Capital expenditure is not included.

Youth Custody

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 622W, on youth custody, if he will issue guidance on the time of day by which juvenile offenders should be delivered to places of detention. [286420]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Youth Justice Board is working with the National Offender Management Service, which manages the contracts for escorts to young offender institutions, on measures to ensure that young people under 18 who are sent to young offender institutions arrive at a reasonable hour.

Escort arrangements for young people sent to secure training centres and secure children's homes are managed by the Youth Justice Board. At the conclusion of court business, service providers are contractually required to take the young person direct to the establishment, which minimises the risk of a late arrival.

Zuzanna Zommer

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will publish a summary of the serious case reviews relating to the murder of Zuzanna Zommer in October 2007; [288700]

(2) if he will hold an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Zuzanna Zommer in October 2007. [288701]

Mr. Straw: There have been two reviews relating to the murder of Zuzanna Zommer by Michael Clark, who was subject to the sex offender notification requirements but not subject to statutory probation supervision at the time of the murder.

The first was a non-statutory review commissioned by the strategic management board (SMB) for West Yorkshire multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA). No summary has been prepared for publication, but the SMB is prepared and has offered to share the findings of the review with the family of Zuzanna Zommer.

In December 2008, the National Offender Management Service and the association of chief police officers introduced a requirement for MAPPA serious case reviews to be completed where an offender managed at level 2 or 3 of MAPPA is charged with murder, rape, manslaughter, attempted murder or attempted rape. Where MAPPA serious case reviews are undertaken, it is a requirement of the process that SMBs produce an overview report, summarising the review, to be shared with the victim or the victim's family.

The second review has been commissioned by Leeds Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and is yet to report. In line with usual practice with such statutory reviews, an executive summary of this review will be published once completed.

We will consider, in the light of the MAPPA serious case review and the anticipated report from the LSCB, what further action may be necessary.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of the academies programme on the provision of basic skills. [285429]

Mr. Coaker: The PricewaterhouseCoopers Academies evaluation looked at pupil progress in English and maths and science at KS3. They found that in English:

"...the average improvement for all Academies over the period 2002-2007 in the percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above at KS3 is 5.2% per year. This is substantially higher than the average annual change for the average of the three Comparison Groups and for England as a whole over the same period."

In Maths they reported that

"the average annual improvement per Academy for the period (3.7%) is well above that for England as a whole, though only slightly above that for the three Comparison Groups."

In science the report found that

"the average improvement per Academy (5.1%) is also much higher than the average improvements for the Comparison Groups and for England as a whole."

Following the 2008 GCSE results, the 36 academies which have been open long enough to have results in both 2007 and 2008 had an increase of 4.3 percentage points in the percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 gaining five or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including English and Maths (up to 29.5 per cent.) compared to 2.5 percentage points nationally.

Arts: Teachers

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many trained *(a)* music, *(b)* drama and *(c)* art teachers have been employed in maintained schools in each of the last five years. [288524]

Mr. Coaker: The number of teachers of music, drama and art in maintained secondary schools in England is collected as part of the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey. This is an occasional survey that does not provide a full time series. The survey has only been conducted in 2007 in the most recent five years.

The following table gives data from the 2007 survey, the most recent survey available, for full-time equivalent teachers. It shows the number of teachers teaching at least one period a week of the subject, and the proportions with a post A-level qualification relevant to the subject.

Number of music, drama and art teachers, and the proportions with a post A-level qualification in the subject in maintained secondary schools in England; 2007

	Number of teachers (FTE)[1]	*Proportion with a relevant post A-level qualification (percentage)*
Music	6,500	87
Drama	9,000	56
Art and design	10,100	78

[1] Teachers are counted once under each subject they teach. A teacher is included in the total for Music if they teach at least one period per timetable rotation of Music for example.

Source:
Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey, 2007.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress his Department has made on its objective of bringing secondary school buildings up to 21st century standards; and if he will make a statement. [286961]

Mr. Coaker: In the three years to 2010-11, we are investing £21.9 billion in our schools estate: a record amount and seven times the rate in 1997. This includes £9.3 billion for Building Schools for the Future, our strategic programme to provide world-class teaching and learning environments for all secondary school pupils, teachers and communities in England. 85 local authorities and about a third of all secondary schools are now engaged in the BSF programme. This includes

the six new projects which were announced on 15 July to enter the programme this month. They will be followed by six more starts in the next quarter and six more in the quarter after that.

Almost 90 schools have now benefited from BSF investment across England. We have also opened 133 academies, around half of which have brand new facilities, and we are well on our way to our target of 400 academies. In addition, schools and local authorities can invest their own funding to improve schools; secondary schools across the country share over £350 million of devolved formula capital grant in 2009-10. We are currently collecting information on the impact of our investment across the school estate and will publish our findings in due course.

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to include sixth form colleges in the Building Schools for the Future programme. [288118]

Mr. Coaker: Pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 529W, I restate that we have made our intention clear to bring Sixth Form Colleges within the scope of the Building Schools for the Future programme. That remains our position. We will make the details clear as soon as we are able.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on Building Schools for the Future projects *(a)* in progress and *(b)* planned in Birmingham; and what projects have been completed in Birmingham. [288864]

Mr. Coaker: Birmingham is making good progress in Building Schools for the Future (BSF). It has a large programme with around 80 schools to deliver in total.

With regards to projects in progress—the five sample schools in Birmingham's Wave 2 BSF project (which consists of 11 schools and eight academies in total) are due to start construction on or before financial close has been reached. This is scheduled to take place before the end of August 2009. The first schools in this wave are scheduled to open at the start of 2011.

A further 14 schools will be delivered through Birmingham's Wave 5 BSF project. This project is progressing well, with the local authority currently finalising its education strategy. The first schools in this wave are currently scheduled to start construction at the end of 2010 and open in 2012.

Birmingham also has a number of follow-on projects which are not yet active in BSF. These projects will deliver the remaining schools in the local authority. No BSF projects have yet been completed in Birmingham.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the funding to be allocated to the Building Schools for the Future programme for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [288696]

Mr. Coaker: Resources from comprehensive spending review 2007 provided £9.3 billion for the building schools for the future and academies programmes for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. This was made up of £3.7 billion PFI credits, and £5.6 billion of capital grant. £1.1 billion of capital grant was spent in 2008-09, with the balance to be allocated over the remaining two years, the timing of which will depend on the achievement of project milestones.

Children in Care

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been placed in care in the last five years; and what proportion were returned to their parents within two months. [285000]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of children that have been placed in care in the last five years and the proportion that returned with their parents within two months can be found in the following table.

Children started to be looked after and the proportion who ceased to be looked after within two months due to returning to parents or those with parental responsibility[1,2,3], 2004 to 2008, Coverage: England

Years ending 31 March	*Children that started to be looked after during the year*	*Percentage returned to their parents (or those with parental responsibility) within two months*
2004	23,000	21
2005	24,900	21
2006	24,600	20
2007	24,000	19
2008[4]	23,000	18

[1] Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked in the year has been counted.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Reason episode ceased defined as "Returned home to live with parents, relatives, or other person with parental responsibility (not under a residence order or special guardianship order)".

[4] Children who started to be looked after during the last two months of the year may subsequently return to their parents within two months but this information will not be available until the next data collection. Therefore the percentage could increase.

Source:
SSDA903

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of meeting the legal requirements associated with placing a child in care in the latest period for which figures are available. [288311]

Dawn Primarolo: Loughborough university has conducted research into the costs of providing children's services. This work calculated that the costs to children's services of obtaining a court order at 2006/07 prices were £2,765.

The fees (in current prices) charged by the courts for obtaining a care order are as follows. There are three stages to these fees with costs varying depending on which stage is reached in proceedings.

1. On an application for a care or supervision order under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989: £2,225

2. Where an issues resolution hearing or pre-hearing review has been listed: £700

3. Where a final hearing has been listed: £1,900.

In response to the recommendation about court fees set out in Lord Laming's report 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report', the Ministry of Justice has appointed Francis Plowden to conduct a review of court fees, and to establish whether or not the level of court fees act as a deterrent when local authorities decide whether or not to commence care proceedings. Francis Plowden is expected to present his findings to the Lord Chancellor and to the Secretary of State for Justice by mid September 2009.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children went missing from care homes in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [285477]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Member to the reply given on 12 June, *Official Report*, column 1068W, to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara). Information on the number of looked after children that went missing from care homes was not collected prior to 2001. This information cannot be provided below local authority level.

Children: Abuse

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will establish mechanisms to track the annual number of cases of *(a)* violence, *(b)* sexual abuse, *(c)* neglect, *(d)* maltreatment and *(e)* exploitation of children, including, (i) within the family, (ii) in schools and (iii) in institutional or other care. [288650]

Dawn Primarolo: National data show 29,200 children were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March 2008. A child has a child protection plan where there are concerns about their safety and welfare as set out in the statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2006). 45 per cent. of these plans were due to neglect, 25 per cent. due to emotional abuse, 15 per cent. due to physical abuse, 7 per cent. due to sexual abuse and 8 per cent. due to multiple abuses.

Children: Disadvantaged

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in poverty with children of school age who do not receive free school meals. [288335]

Dawn Primarolo: It is estimated that on a Before Housing Costs basis, in 2007/08 that 0.9 million households in the United Kingdom in poverty with children did not receive free school meals.

Notes:

1. The FRS undercounts the total number of children receiving free school meals when compared to administrative data.

2. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

3. The estimates exclude households with only children aged under four years who would not be at school.

4. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

5. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.

6. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

7. Incomes have been equivalised using OECD equalisation factors.

8. Numbers of households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 people.

Source:

Family Resources Survey (FRS) 2007-08.

Children: Exercise

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding the Government has allocated to encourage children in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point to adopt more active lifestyles in each year since 1992. [285924]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government do not allocate discrete funding for this purpose on an area basis and it is not possible to provide an answer in the format requested.

Encouraging all children and young people to adopt a more active lifestyle is a priority for this Government. Our strategic approach to this is set out in 'Be Active, Be Healthy', 'Healthy lives, brighter futures: the strategy for children and young people's Health' and 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: a Cross-Government Strategy for England'.

These strategies support the Chief Medical Officer's recommendation that children and young people should achieve a total of at least 60 minutes of at least moderate intensity physical activity each day, and at least twice a week this should include activities to improve bone health, muscle strength and flexibility.

Individuals can achieve this level of activity through a variety of routes, including everyday activity, such as walking or cycling, active recreation, such as play, dance, or swimming, and through sport, both for competition and for individual exercise. The role of parents and carers in influencing children's activity levels is crucial, so the Government support initiatives to improve family based activity as well as a range of initiatives in children's settings, all of which are available to children and young people in Castle Point and Essex.

Initiatives which focus on supporting children and their families to be physically active include:

the Change4Life social marketing campaign, backed by £75 million of funding over three years to 2011, promotes an 'eat well, move more, live longer' message to families with children aged five to 11. Since its launch in January 2009, over 255,000 families have contacted Change4Life and received tailored materials on physical activity and healthy eating as a result;

Sure Start Children's Centres, which should engage parents to promote a whole-family approach to eating well and keeping active, and organise and promote physical activities;

the universal, NHS-delivered Healthy Child Programme for ages 0 to five supports parents in keeping their children healthy, and focuses on developing and maintaining healthy nutritional and lifestyle habits from a very early age;

the Play Strategy, through which 3,500 new or refurbished play areas and 30 staffed adventure playgrounds are being delivered, aimed at eight to 13-year-olds, with a focus on disadvantaged

areas. Details of funding for play schemes in Essex and Castle Point were given in answer to a previous question (Commons written question 282065);

nearly 60 per cent. of local authorities have promised to provide free swimming for the under 16s and have opted-in to the Free Swimming Programme which the Government are supporting with £140 million over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Initiatives which are delivered through early years settings, schools and colleges include:

the PE and School Sport for Young People strategy, through which 90 per cent. of pupils aged five to 16 now participate in at least two hours a week of high quality PE and school sport. The strategy also aims to ensure that all five to 19-year-olds have the opportunity for an additional three hours of sport a week outside the school day;

the National Healthy Schools Programme: almost every school in the country has achieved, or is working towards, Healthy School status, which sets national standards for health and well-being around four core themes, including physical activity;

schools offering access to Extended Services offer access to a wide range of services from 8 am to 6 pm, 48 weeks a year. The services include play, recreation and sports, and community access to facilities including adult learning and sports facilities;

the £140 million joint DCSF and DFT Travel to School Initiative promotes walking and cycling: 17,392 (69 per cent.) of schools have active travel plans worth around £5,000 for a typical primary and around £10,000 for a typical secondary school;

the Bikeability scheme aims to train 500,000 children to level 2 by 2010. Over 146,000 have already received training;

since September 2008, sports co-ordinators have been appointed in 358 FE colleges, so almost all FE colleges have a co-ordinator in place.

Children: Protection

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how he plans to monitor the effectiveness of the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 in protecting vulnerable young people under the age of eight. [287241]

Dawn Primarolo: Once we phase in registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), there will be duties to check registration, and penalties for non-compliance. If, for example, a person permits staff to look after children under the age of eight in a crèche, it will be an offence if that person does not check that the staff are ISA-registered, or uses staff who are not ISA-registered, or knowingly uses staff who are barred from working with children. If anyone suspects that a person is committing such an offence, they should report it to the police.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to improve child protection services in Castle Point. [287504]

Dawn Primarolo: Ofsted's 2008 Joint Area Review of Essex County Council's children's services judged services for safeguarding and looked after children to be inadequate. Essex County Council's 2008 Annual Performance Assessment included an inadequate judgment for the Every Child Matters outcome "staying safe ". The Government subsequently issued the Council with an Improvement Notice setting measurable targets that must be met within twelve months. External experts have been appointed to carry out a review of policies and procedures relating to child protection, children in need and looked after children and to undertake an audit of a broad sample of individual cases. Experts have also been appointed to undertake a review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and to sit on the Government Office chaired Improvement Board to provide additional external scrutiny and challenge of progress in Essex.

The Government have made clear their determination to make sure that child protection services in every area meet the needs of the vulnerable children they serve. That is why we asked Lord Laming to prepare an urgent report of progress across the country in implementing effective arrangements for safeguarding children. The Government have accepted all of Lord Laming's recommendations and published a detailed action plan on 6 May.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people were on the barred list maintained under the Protection of Children Act 1999 in each of the last five years. [287922]

Dawn Primarolo: The total number of people who are included on the barred list maintained under the Protection of Children Act 1999 in each of the last five years is as follows:

Calendar year	*Number*
2004	1,110
2005	1,311
2006	1,580
2007	2,195
2008	2,409

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals for automatic, independent and public reviews of any unexpected death or serious injury involving children in care or in custody. [288438]

Dawn Primarolo: There is already a process for investigating such deaths or serious injury. Where a death in custody engages the investigative requirement in Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the requirement would normally be met by means of an inquest or a combination of the inquest, criminal proceedings and serious case review. In addition, any death in custody will be the subject of an investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. In the case of a death or serious injury of a child who is looked after by a local authority, and where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor, the Local Safeguarding Children Board will consider whether a Serious Case Review (SCR) should be undertaken, as they would following the death of any child in those circumstances. Executive Summaries of SCRs are made publicly available.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of progress in the implementation of the

recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Study on violence against children (A/61299) in ensuring that every child is protected from all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence. [286446]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government took note of the 'World Report on Violence against Children' and welcomes UN follow-up work, including the appointment, in May this year, of the Special Representative on violence against children. It has made clear its determination to do everything possible to make sure that all child protection services meet the needs of the vulnerable children they serve, and that child protection arrangements are effective everywhere. That is why the Government asked Lord Laming to prepare an urgent report of progress across the country in implementing effective arrangements for safeguarding children.

Lord Laming's progress report confirmed that robust legislative, structural and policy foundations were now in place, but stressed the need for a renewed commitment to child protection at every level of government and across all local services.

The Government have accepted all of Lord Laming's recommendations. Implementation will include a revision of the statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', which sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Government have also published new guidance on safeguarding children from specific forms of child abuse, including sexual exploitation and trafficking, and have recently consulted on guidance aimed at safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity.

Children's Centres: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Sure Start children's centres were operating in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* the City of Southampton on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such centres were originally planned to be operational on that date; [286309]

(2) how many Sure Start children's centres are planned for *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* the City of Southampton; and when he expects all such centres to be operational; [286310]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of children in each age group who are eligible for participation in the Sure Start children's centres programme in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* the City of Southampton; what the capacity of such children's centres was in those areas on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such children were participating in that programme on that date. [286307]

Dawn Primarolo: Sure Start children's centres provide a universal service for all children under five and their parents or carers when they need it. Local authorities are responsible for planning and delivering sure start children's centres in their areas.

Test Valley borough council currently has four Sure Start children's centres up and running, offering access to services to around 4,285 children under five and their families. A further two centres are planned for the Test Valley area by March 2010. The city of Southampton currently has 11 children's centres offering services to approximately 10,057 children under five with a further three planned by March 2010.

There are 12,600 children under five[1] in Southampton and 71,700 in Hampshire. We are unable to provide figures for the Test Valley area as figures are set at local authority level. The Department does not collect information centrally on the number of children using children's centres services.

[1] *Source:*
ONS Survey 2007.

Citizenship: Education

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what contribution his Department has made to the development of citizenship education in mosque schools through the Islam Citizenship Education Project; [286116]

(2) what financial contribution *(a)* the Schools Development Support Agency and *(b)* community-based organisations have made to the development of citizenship education in mosque schools. [286117]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Islam and Citizenship Education (ICE) Project is jointly funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Communities and Local Government. We awarded a contract, worth £318,652, to the School Development Support Agency (SDSA) running from February 2008 to July 2009 to develop and pilot citizenship lessons for use in mosque schools. The SDSA, working in conjunction with Muslim communities, has successfully delivered this contract. We are currently in the process of tendering for the next stage of the ICE Project to roll out the lessons to mosque schools nationally. Apart from fulfilling their contractual obligations, the SDSA and community-based organisations have made no financial contribution towards the ICE Project.

Class Sizes

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were taught in classes of more than 30 pupils in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* the South East in each year since 1997. [285892]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is shown in the table.

Dacorum is a local government district within the local authority of Hertfordshire. Data for Dacorum have been included for three years only as to provide for the full 12-year period would incur disproportionate cost.

The tables cover classes in primary and secondary schools. There is a legal limit of 30 pupils for infant classes.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: number of pupils in classes[3] of more than 30 pupils—As at January each year in south-east Government office region, Hertfordshire, Dacorum, and Hemel Hempstead constituency

	South-east			Hertfordshire		
	Number of pupils in classes of over 30	*Number of pupils in all classes*	*Percentage of pupils in classes of over 30*	*Number of pupils in classes of over 30*	*Number of pupils in all classes*	*Percentage of pupils in classes of over 30*
1997	237,350	1,042,040	22.7	32,560	146,600	22.2
1998	252,170	1,054,520	23.9	35,670	150,260	23.7
1999	251,730	1,070,060	23.5	34,380	150,990	22.8
2000	218,240	1,077,710	20.3	32,750	156,080	21.0
2001	183,500	1,085,990	16.9	26,910	158,410	17.0
2002	157,360	1,082,100	14.6	23,620	158,840	14.9
2003	153,540	1,086,920	14.1	22,770	158,650	14.3
2004	151,480	1,087,090	13.9	21,690	159,090	13.6
2005	149,830	1,080,500	13.9	20,270	158,740	12.8
2006	152,350	1,071,640	14.2	20,540	158,070	13.0
2007	149,460	1,065,150	14.0	18,920	156,880	12.1
2008	140,970	1,059,350	13.3	18,940	155,670	12.2

	Dacorum			Hemel Hempstead		
	Number of pupils in classes of over 30	*Number of pupils in all classes*	*Percentage of pupils in classes of over 30*	*Number of pupils in classes of over 30*	*Number of pupils in all classes*	*Percentage of pupils in classes of over 30*
1997	3,980	19,350	20.6	3,050	13,870	22.0
1998	—	—	—	3,360	14,260	23.5
1999	—	—	—	2,770	14,110	19.6
2000	—	—	—	2,910	14,690	19.8
2001				2,300	14,740	15.6
2002	3,040	20,580	14.8	2,410	14,830	16.2
2003	—	—	—	1,740	14,720	11.8
2004	—	—	—	1,640	14,730	11.1
2005	—	—	—	1,840	14,490	12.7
2006	—	—	—	1,680	14,460	11.6
2007	—	—	—	1,390	14,290	9.7
2008	2,120	19,090	11.1	1,700	13,980	12.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287324]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families 2008-09 resource account was published on 9 July 2009 (ref. HC 448).

Departmental Budgets

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what scenario planning is being undertaken within his Department in relation to possible reductions in its budget; and if he will make a statement. [285210]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We are currently focused on embedding the 2010-11 budget savings, agreed as part of the Budget 2009 statement, into current and future plans in such a way as to protect front line delivery while achieving best value for money from the expenditure. Scenario planning will form part of our preparation for a future spending review.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract and *(b)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [287094]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In the Department, any member of staff can request a change to their working pattern and line managers consider requests in line with the Department's policy and guidance. Staff below the senior civil service can also work to a flexi-time agreement and local records are kept of hours worked.

Currently 15.5 per cent. of staff work part-time but we do not keep comprehensive central records of other flexible working arrangements and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All employees can agree with their line managers to work from home occasionally and 64 per cent. have broadband access to the Department's systems through authorised encryption. We do not, however, keep central records of staff who work over four hours each week from home and information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287795]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286551]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

DCSF complies with the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what internal computer databases his Department maintains; and which of them contain personal information. [284393]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Department for Children, Schools and Families has a small number of internal corporate computer databases. In addition each directorate maintains its own smaller databases for a number of different purposes. We do not hold a central list of these databases and it would only be possible to provide details of them at disproportionate cost.

The main internal corporate DCSF computer databases maintained are as follows:

Internal database	*Purpose*	*Personal information*
IFIS	Finance System	Yes
TRENT	HR staff database	Yes
IWP (Intranet)	Staff directory and numerous databases	Yes
Assyst	Helpdesk call management and asset system	Yes
Meridio	Electronic documents records management	Yes
ECHO	Correspondence handling system	Yes
HONOURS	Honours database system	Yes
BIS	Briefing information system	Yes

Departmental Electronic Education

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in his Department and its predecessors in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286179]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To reduce the use of power and consumables, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is in the process of replacing its printers, scanners, photocopiers and fax machines with multi-function devices across its sites.

At this time, some single-function devices are still in use although it is anticipated that this number will diminish further to leave a very small number of single-function devices, primarily for reasonable adjustments and contingency purposes.

The approximate number of single-function devices known to be currently in use within DCSF HQ sites is:

Photocopiers: 0

Scanners: 31

Fax machines: 52

DCSF does not maintain a comprehensive central list of the number of photocopiers, scanning devices or fax machines in use in past years throughout its estate and therefore the information as requested in the latter part of the question is not available. However, procurement records show that 138 leased photocopiers were in use throughout the Department in April 2007.

The Department does not hold records for its arm's length bodies.

Departmental Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been paid in bonuses to staff of each non-departmental body his Department sponsors in the last 12 months. [286387]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: All non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) for which the Department of Children Schools and Families has responsibility for have their own remuneration and reward systems. Ministers are involved in agreeing pay remits for NDPBs in line with the Government's policy on public sector pay. Details of payments made to individual members of staff are not held centrally in the Department and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285306]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is developing a category management approach to procurement which will result in realigning and brigading a number of our national contracts, including those for personalised printed business

stationery and desktop stationery, to reduce costs and obtain better value for money.

Initially this has resulted in the award, from 1 June 2009, of a six year contract for a publishing delivery service. Our existing national contract for personalised printed business stationery is currently in the process of being novated to this new contract and it is likely our national contract for desktop stationery will join at a future date.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287133]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children Schools and Families' commercial policy is based around the EU treaty principles of transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination and proportionality for all its dealings with third parties.

Consequently the Department has a good record for awarding contracts and grants to SMEs as they have an equal opportunity to gain the Department's work as any other organisation.

The Department has already implemented a number of the 12 recommendations given in the Glover Report ('Accelerating the SME economic engine: through transparent, simple and strategic procurement').

We utilise Supply2gov for our sub EU threshold requirements as well as for advertising competitive grants. Over EU threshold requirements are advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) which is available online.

To allow for electronic tendering the DCSF has licenses to the BRAVO system. The majority offenders are already issued electronically, and request electronic bids. Currently a paper version is still requested rather than encrypted electronic versions.

It is a requirement for procurements subject to the Public Contract Regulations to have contract award notices published. However DCSF do not currently publish sub-threshold award notices as a matter of course though bidders are advised of the organisation the contract has been awarded to.

All our procurements are open to all organisations in line with EU treaty principles.

We use OGC's pre qualification questionnaire (PQQ), although the PQQ questions may change depending on the specific requirement the majority of the questions are asked in a standard format.

Our policy is to evaluate all experience quoted by an organisation, against the same criteria.

Any request for standards or certificates also specifies that equivalents are acceptable.

Our innovation procurement plan will be published at the end of July 2009. Our commercial policy encourages innovative procurements through advertising and output based specifications.

We use output based specifications on the majority of our procurements.

We encourage prime contractors to subcontract to SME's and supported businesses. However currently it is not mandatory for prime contractors to advertise on Supply2gov or elsewhere.

Our terms and conditions include requirements for reciprocal contract terms for subcontractors.

We do not currently have the facilities to separate out and measure SME spend. However it is expected that the MI from the new RM system due for implementation in November 2009 will provide this information.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many employees of his Department and its predecessors have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284978]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the civil service code.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many interns work in his Department; what terms of reference apply to their appointment; what remuneration they receive; and how long on average an intern appointment lasts. [286827]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has recruited 32 graduate and undergraduate interns whose internships started on 29 June 2009 for six to eight weeks as part of a Cabinet Office internship programme. Successful candidates are nominated or allocated to the Department by the Cabinet Office from applications through its external recruitment website, at university campus events and through recruitment agencies that specialise in diversity.

Payments for internships in 2009 are £350 per week in London and £300 per week outside London.

The Department also intends to be part of the 'Graduate Talent Pool' programme that has been developed by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on education maintenance allowance for *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 19 year olds in the most recent year for which figures are available. [287528]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department spent a total of £532.9 million on the education maintenance allowance in the academic year 2007/08. Information on how much was spent on education maintenance allowance is not broken down by age.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in post-16 education in Morecambe and Lunesdale are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [288363]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital expenditure from the public purse there has been in the education sector in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency since 1997. [288445]

Mr. Coaker: The Department allocates much of its capital resources to local authority areas. Information by constituency is not held centrally. Support for capital investment in schools in Lancashire is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*£ million* *Schools*
1997-98	13.3
1998-99	19.5
1999-2000	[1]36.8
2000-01	42.2
2001-02	40.6
2002-03	63.6
2003-04	72.7
2004-05	60.6
2005-06	55.1
2006-07	55.7
2007-08	62.0
2008-09	62.4
2009-10	[2]91.8
2010-11	[2]57.7

[1] Includes a PFI project of £13.4 million.
[2] Includes Primary Capital Programme.

In addition, Lancashire has a Building Schools for the Future wave 1 project with an indicative allocation of £77.9 million of conventional funding and £254.3 million of PFI credits.

Educational Visits

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school educational visits to *(a)* national museums and *(b)* English Heritage sites there have been in each of the last five years. [288523]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information is not collected centrally on school visits made to museums and English Heritage sites by primary and secondary schools in the UK.

Evolution: Curriculum

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he made of the merits of including learning about evolution in the scientific and technological understanding area of learning of the proposed primary curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [288165]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The proposed scientific and technological understanding area of learning was developed by a wide range of key stakeholders, including primary head teachers, teachers, subject specialists and learned societies. It contains the scientific and technological knowledge, skills and understanding stakeholders considered to be essential learning for children aged 5 to 11.

The proposals are subject to a consultation exercise that closes on 24 July 2009. The consultation is available at

www.qca.org.uk/curriculumconsultation.

We will take final decisions on the proposals for a new primary curriculum in the autumn.

Foster Care

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fostered children returned home after a period in care in the latest period for which figures are available. [288310]

Dawn Primarolo: Of the 12,600 children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008 and were on a foster placement on ceasing, 7,000 returned home to live with parents or relatives with other parental responsibility.

Further information about looked after children can be found in our publication 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008', which is available on the Department's website via the following link. Table D1 gives a breakdown of the number of children who ceased to be looked after by reason episode ceased and table D2 shows the number who ceased to be looked after by their placement on ceasing.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children were placed in foster *(a)* homes and *(b)* placements outside their borough of residence on the latest date for which figures are available; [288314]

(2) how many children were in foster care on the latest date for which figures are available. [288315]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on how many children were placed in foster placements outside the boundary of the responsible local authority can be found in table A6 in the excel link labelled (1st set of additional tables)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml.

Information on how many children were in foster care can be found in table A3 in the excel link labelled (National tables A1 to H1 from the SFR)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml.

GCE A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils sat an A-level in *(a)* media studies, *(b)* psychology, *(c)* law, *(d)* mathematics, *(e)* physics and *(f)* history in each type of school or college in each year since 1997. [286384]

Mr. Coaker: The information is presented in the following tables and covers students aged 16 to 18 attempting GCE A level examinations during the academic year in question.

Media Studies

GCE A level entries in media/film/TV studies by institution type

	Comprehensive	Selective	Modern	Other maintained	Independent	Sixth Form college	Other FE college	All schools and colleges
1997	2,821	228	95	1	160	3,048	2,601	8,954
1998	3,468	351	149	1	174	3,639	3,023	10,805
1999	4,135	318	215	0	214	3,688	2,804	11,374
2000	4,651	401	211	0	243	3,692	2,968	12,166
2001	5,472	421	229	0	269	4,180	3,085	13,656
2002	7,031	668	310	5	377	5,100	3,258	16,749
2003	8,489	659	412	3	476	5,764	3,467	19,270
2004	9,837	863	480	28	514	5,743	3,525	20,990
2005	10,516	936	505	56	525	5,592	3,337	21,467
2006	11,501	1,033	616	61	603	5,782	3,390	22,986
2007	11,645	1,011	640	107	623	5,852	3,435	23,313
2008	12,661	1,019	606	123	606	5,617	3,503	24,135

Psychology

GCE A level entries in psychology by institution type

	Comprehensive	Selective	Modern	Other maintained	Independent	Sixth form college	Other FE college	All schools and colleges
1997	6,230	837	44	2	463	6,670	8,016	22,262
1998	7,782	1,021	60	0	575	6,898	7,543	23,879
1999	8,586	1,168	84	0	595	6,658	6,718	23,809
2000	9,669	1,283	110	0	790	6,697	6,524	25,073
2001	11,109	1,468	138	0	751	6,927	6,290	26,683
2002	14,066	2,034	167	1	1,404	8,081	6,255	32,008
2003	16,830	2,702	237	4	2,033	9,528	6,563	37,897
2004	19,484	3,113	305	59	2,505	10,309	7,032	42,807
2005	21,696	3,585	444	63	2,507	10,987	6,741	46,023
2006	23,003	3,883	556	73	2,799	11,504	6,753	48,571
2007	22,743	3,890	639	117	2,820	11,650	6,744	48,603
2008	23,379	3,948	626	132	3,035	11,565	6,749	49,434

Law

GCE A level entries in law by institution type

	Comprehensive	Selective	Modern	Other maintained	Independent	Sixth form college	Other FE college	All schools and colleges
1997	1,073	136	28	0	169	2,133	3,714	7,253
1998	1,129	141	37	0	137	2,135	3,526	7,105
1999	1,243	164	27	0	153	2,330	3,300	7,217
2000	1,396	157	48	0	138	2,339	3,111	7,189
2001	1,356	156	41	0	158	2,596	3,091	7,398
2002	1,727	208	48	0	169	3,298	3,056	8,506
2003	2,161	249	64	0	186	4,195	3,242	10,097
2004	2,764	264	73	0	232	4,847	3,661	11,841
2005	3,172	259	128	9	201	5,222	3,660	12,651
2006	3,717	314	145	18	188	5,444	3,685	13,511
2007	3,976	341	148	17	198	5,440	3,699	13,819
2008	4,262	376	142	22	169	5,623	3,604	14,198

Mathematics

GCE A level entries in mathematics by institution type

	Comprehensive	Selective	Modern	Other maintained	Independent	Sixth form college	Other FE college	All schools and colleges
1997	22,612	5,738	169	3	12,804	8,805	5,842	55,973
1998	22,709	6,196	237	0	12,854	8,991	5,602	56,589
1999	22,860	6,174	241	0	12,871	8,800	5,154	56,100
2000	22,237	6,099	243	0	11,967	8,278	4,850	53,674
2001	22,363	6,373	212	0	12,120	8,474	4,615	54,157
2002	17,469	5,426	189	1	10,515	6,884	3,672	44,156
2003	17,558	5,502	238	0	10,519	7,036	3,600	44,453
2004	18,001	5,708	212	28	10,885	7,317	3,866	46,017
2005	18,435	5,646	210	33	10,476	7,604	3,630	46,034
2006	19,632	6,337	294	41	11,685	8,158	3,658	49,805
2007	21,088	6,962	351	109	11,872	8,950	3,999	53,331
2008	22,891	7,539	382	113	12,534	9,757	4,402	57,618

Physics

GCE A level entries in physics by institution type

	Comprehensive	Selective	Modern	Other maintained	Independent	Sixth form college	Other FE college	All schools and colleges
1997	12,126	3,305	67	0	6,454	3,915	2,835	28,702
1998	12,546	3,582	107	0	6,648	4,018	2,771	29,672
1999	12,694	3,575	92	0	6,734	3,881	2,576	29,552
2000	12,098	3,622	101	0	6,467	3,528	2,375	28,191
2001	12,052	3,568	105	0	6,455	3,601	2,250	28,031
2002	12,221	3,603	117	0	6,190	3,527	2,202	27,860
2003	11,175	3,537	127	1	6,143	3,390	1,905	26,278
2004	10,202	3,298	102	17	6,037	3,071	1,879	24,606
2005	10,313	3,339	123	21	5,469	3,086	1,743	24,094
2006	9,916	3,167	133	21	5,651	3,198	1,571	23,657
2007	9,921	3,291	152	41	5,423	3,426	1,633	23,887
2008	10,118	3,491	159	39	5,627	3,503	1,766	24,703

History

GCE A level entries in history by institution type

	Comprehensive	Selective	Modern	Other maintained	Independent	Sixth form college	Other FE college	All schools and colleges
1997	15,740	3,321	242	1	7,112	5,759	3,894	36,069
1998	15,742	3,155	263	2	6,534	5,205	3,536	34,437
1999	15,244	3,301	272	1	6,605	4,824	3,159	33,406
2000	15,241	3,173	277	3	6,454	4,881	3,111	33,140
2001	15,498	3,404	293	0	6,555	5,053	3,027	33,830
2002	16,798	3,698	267	2	6,853	5,118	2,777	35,513
2003	17,138	3,884	329	4	6,849	5,323	2,986	36,513
2004	17,957	4,076	375	16	7,167	5,532	3,027	38,150
2005	18,532	4,237	419	27	7,084	5,979	2,920	39,198
2006	19,401	4,313	443	27	7,150	6,252	3,087	40,673
2007	19,279	4,447	429	65	7,174	6,181	2,967	40,542
2008	20,042	4,541	440	76	7,377	6,439	3,192	42,107

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of year 13 students in comprehensive maintained schools were entered for one or more A-level examinations in each year since 1997. [286388]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to provide the proportion of year 13 students entered for A level examinations. It is normal in post-16 statistics to give figures as a percentage of candidates entered for qualifications at least equivalent to one A level. That would not make sense in this context—all the percentages would be 100 per cent.

The numbers required are given in the following table:

	Number of students in comprehensive schools entered for A levels
1996/97	90,697
1997/98	95,508
1998/99	97,050
1999/2000	96,998
2000/01	100,940
2001/02	107,197
2002/03	111,565
2003/04	113,013
2004/05	116,452
2005/06	116,545
2006/07	113,081
2007/08	116,947

Notes:

1. Figures relate to all comprehensive schools including Academies and CTCs.
2. Figures relate to 16-18 year olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31st August) at the end of their advanced study. Figures for 1996/97 to 1999/2000 relate to all 16-18 year olds.
3. Figures for 1996/97 to 1999/2000 relate to entries in GCE A levels.
4. Since 2001, figures relate to entries in GCE/VCE/applied A levels and double awards.
5. Figures for 2001 onwards were taken from table 1 of the following statistical first releases:
2001 and 2002 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000387/index.shtml
2003 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000475/index.shtml
2004 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000586/index.shtml
2005 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000663/index.shtml
2006 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000703/index.shtml
2007 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000769/index.shtml
2008 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s00Q827/index.shtml
6. Figures prior to 2001 were derived from the achievement and attainment tables.
data.

GCE A-level: Females

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of A-level examinations in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* mathematics, *(d)* information and communications technology and *(e)* a modern language were sat by women in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [284283]

Mr. Coaker: The information required is as follows:

	Number of entries by females	Percentage of entries made by females	All entries
Chemistry			
2008	17,703	48.7	36,328
2007	17,406	49.6	35,077
2006	16,814	48.7	34,534
2005	16,380	49.4	33,164
2004	16,289	50.7	32,130
2003	15,941	51.3	31,065
2002	16,392	50.7	32,324
2001	16,747	49.4	33,871
Physics			
2008	5,285	21.4	24,703
2007	5,194	21.7	23,887
2006	4,970	21.0	23,657
2005	5,174	21.5	24,094
2004	5,383	21.9	24,606
2003	5,908	22.5	26,278
2002	6,319	22.7	27,860
2001	6,021	21.5	28,031
Mathematics			
2008	22,809	39.6	57,618
2007	21,177	39.7	53,331
2006	19,168	38.5	49,805
2005	17,423	37.8	46,034
2004	17,638	38.3	46,017
2003	16,753	37.7	44,453
2002	16,381	37.1	44,156
2001	20,254	37.4	54,157
ICT			
2008	3,561	36.8	9,670
2007	3,994	36.7	10,885
2006	4,332	35.6	12,181
2005	4,504	35.0	12,853
2004	5,031	34.8	14,449
2003	5,575	34.2	16,309
2002	5,224	34.7	15,037
2001	3,044	33.0	9,216
Modern Foreign Languages			
2008	18,992	64.5	29,423
2007	18,250	64.3	28,377
2006	18,121	64.7	28,010
2005	17,320	65.0	26,665
2004	17,730	65.5	27,052
2003	17,989	65.5	27,475
2002	18,715	66.2	28,256
2001	20,800	67.3	30,910

Note:
Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all schools.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables data.

The numbers of entries used to answer this PQ are taken from table 11 of the following Statistical First Release:

DCSF: GCEA/CE/Applied A/AS and Equivalent Results in England, 2007/08 (Revised):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000827/index.shtml

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools achieved an A* in GCSE (i) history and (ii) English literature in 2008. [283465]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The figures are given in the following table:

Number of students who in 2008 achieved A at GCSE in selected subjects*

Subject	Comprehensive	Independent
English literature	14,765	6,924
History	11,048	7,376

Source:
National Pupil Database (NPD).

Figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average change was in the percentage of pupils gaining five A* to C GCSE grades in *(a)* academies and *(b)* other schools between 2004 and 2008. [285430]

Mr. Coaker: Only 11 academies have been open over the full period 2004 to 2008.

The proportion of pupils achieving 5 + GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent in these schools increased from 24.2 per cent. in 2004 to 36.9 per cent. in 2008, an increase of 12.7 percentage points. The equivalent figures for all schools (maintained mainstream schools, CTCs and academies) showed an increase from 53.0 per cent. in 2004 to 65.6 per cent. in 2008, an increase of 12.6 percentage points.

The proportion of pupils achieving 5 + GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent including English and maths in the 11 academies with data for 2004 and 2008 increased from 12.0 per cent. in 2004 to 26.4 per cent. in 2008, an increase of 14.4 percentage points. Over the same period there was an increase in the proportion of pupils achieving 5 + GCSEs or equivalent including English and maths nationally from 41.1 per cent. to 49.1 per cent., an increase of 8.0 percentage points.

Further detail is provided in the following table:

	Maintained mainstream schools, CTCs and academies		Academies with results 2004 to 2008 (11 schools)	
	5+A* to C (percentage)	5+A* to C incl. English and maths (percentage)	5+A* to C (percentage)	5+A* to C incl. English and maths (percentage)
2004	53.0	41.1	24.2	12.0
2005	55.6	43.1	27.2	13.1
2006	58.2	44.7	29.6	17.5
2007	61.0	46.6	32.2	19.4
2008	65.6	49.1	36.9	26.4
Percentage point change 2004-08	12.6	8.0	12.7	14.4

Notes:
1. 5 + A* to C (percentage) refers to the proportion of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C.
2. 5 + A* to C (percentage) including English and maths refers to the proportion of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including GCSEs in English and maths at grade C or above. Both measures include equivalent qualifications.
3. The 2007 data for academies are based on only 10 schools because Walsall Academy had no results in 2007. When quoting figures it is advisable to focus on the change between 2004 and 2008 as data for these years are based on the same number of schools and are therefore directly comparable.
4. Coverage for the 'maintained mainstream schools, CTCs and academies' figures is all schools (including the 11 Academies for which results are presented separately). The total number of schools in this category varies year on year.

Source:
2008 DCSF national pupil database

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in *(a)* academies and *(b)* other schools did not achieve five A* to C GCSE grades in 2008. [285498]

Mr. Coaker: The proportions of pupils achieving at least five A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent by school type are given in table 6 of the statistical first release on GCSE and equivalent results in England, 2007/08 (revised), accessible via:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml

The proportions of pupils who did not achieve this standard can be derived from this table.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils who attended independent schools have been entered for GCSE Latin in each year since 1997; [284576]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils have been entered for GCSE Latin in each year since 1997. [284577]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested can be found in the following table:

Number and proportion of students in all schools and in independent schools entered for GCSE Latin in each year since 1997

	All schools		Independent schools	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1997	10,992	1.9	7,151	17.1
1998	10,076	1.8	6,692	16.5
1999	9,708	1.7	6,403	15.0
2000	9,598	1.7	6,213	14.5
2001	9,796	1.6	6,287	14.3
2002	9,479	1.6	6,203	14.1
2003	9,350	1.5	6,033	13.6
2004	9,190	1.4	6,093	13.0
2005	9,177	1.4	6,181	13.2
2006	9,556	1.5	6,299	12.9
2007	9,563	1.5	6,574	13.7
2008	9,378	1.4	6,329	13.2

Source:
Attainment and Achievement Tables (AATs).

Figures for 1997-2003 are based on 15-year-olds. Figures for 2004-08 are based on pupils at the end of KS4.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when information on how to obtain an abortion was first included in school sex education lessons; at what age pupils are provided with such information; whom he consulted on the matter; what recent representations he has received *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* against the current policy; and if he will make a statement; [285540]

(2) what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the effectiveness of teaching sex education in schools; and if he will make a statement. [285541]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Apart from the statutory elements of Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) that are included in National Curriculum Science, schools currently have flexibility to decide the content of SRE provided within Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). DCSF has provided a non-statutory programme of study indicating what it believes it is appropriate to include within PSHE which—in Key Stage 4 (age 14 to 16)—includes 'informing pupils about where they can go to obtain health information'. This would include information, advice and treatment on contraception and sexual health issues. Subject to public consultation, the Government intend to make PSHE (and the programme of study that underpins it) statutory. First and foremost, however, the principal aim of SRE is to encourage young people to delay early sexual activity. Within secondary schools pupils are taught the skills to enable them to avoid being pressurised into unwanted or unprotected sex, and given factual information to enable them to negotiate safer sex when they do become sexually active. However, we make it clear in our "Sex and Relationship Education Guidance" (July 2000) to schools that any programme of study must be tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children.

As part of the Children's Plan we gave a commitment to review best practice in effective sex and relationship education (SRE) and how it is delivered in schools. Importantly, we involved young people fully in the review, many of whom told us that they did not have the knowledge they needed to make safe and responsible choices about relationships and sexual health.

International evidence, as well as evidence from local areas that have made most progress in reducing under-18 conception rates since the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was launched, shows that comprehensive, age-appropriate SRE, alongside easy access to contraceptive and sexual health services, brings down rates.

In response to the review recommendations, we announced our intention, subject to public consultation, to make SRE compulsory as part of statutory Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) education. This will ensure that as well as receiving factual information, children and young people will have the opportunities to develop the skills they need to deal with the real life situations they face.

We asked Sir Alasdair Macdonald to conduct an independent review of how the principle that PSHE should have statutory status can be translated into a practicable way forward. Following the publication of Sir Alasdair's review in April there is now a full public consultation on his recommendations, including the programmes of study to be included within statutory PSHE. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer term, following which the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will analyse the results and report to Ministers.

Learning Grid Programmes

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of Learning Grid programmes on the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects in schools; what funding his Department has provided for the Learning Grid in each year since it was founded; and what the Government's future plans for the Learning Grid are. [287256]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has not provided any funding for the Learning Grid or made any assessment of the impact that the Learning Grid has had upon teaching of STEM subjects in schools. Similarly, because the Department is not involved in funding or managing the work of the Learning Grid, we do not have any plans for its future development or sustainability.

Manufacturing the Future Programme

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people will work on the Manufacturing the Future programme in schools when the programme becomes operational; how many are working to prepare the programme; when the programme will start; how much has been spent on preparing the programme; and how much funding has been allocated for the programme in total. [286289]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

A part of the Manufacturing the Future programme focuses on presenting young people in schools and colleges, with positive images of the wide range of good careers in the Manufacturing sector. STEMNET (the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network) has been tasked with preparing a set of six product based case studies, which will be resources for teachers, to demonstrate the breadth of careers within the manufacturing sector. The products have been carefully selected as being of genuine interest to young people, particularly teenagers. STEMNET began this work in January 2009, and will complete it in July 2009, with the expectation that the resources will be posted to every UK secondary school during September 2009. A total of £54,000 has been allocated to this particular project. This will pay for six individual products to be featured, each of which contains a number of 'real-life' examples of the people who have used STEM and related skills in their manufacture.

National Curriculum Tests

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children from the *(a)* 10 and *(b)* 20 per cent. most deprived local authorities who did not attain the national standard in (a) English, (b) mathematics and (c) science in Key Stage 1 assessment achieved the national standard in Key Stage 2 assessments in each year since 1997. [252086]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Outdoor Education

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to provide children with access to outdoor and adventurous school-related activities. [286703]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In November 2006 the Department launched the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto with the aim that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances. The Manifesto partnership is steered by a National Advisory Group (NAG) made up from representatives from each of the eight Manifesto sectors, specialist advisers, and user representatives. Adventurous Activities are included as one of the eight sector partnerships.

Since its launch, and with the help of the Manifesto partnership, the Department has:

produced on-line training, resources and guidance available for schools, youth clubs and early years settings to help them plan and implement a successful all types of learning outside the classroom experiences for their learners.

www.lotc.org.uk

launched a new Quality Badge to bring together existing badges combining the essential elements of provision—learning and safety—into one easily recognisable and trusted Badge for all types of Learning Outside the Classroom provider organisations.

www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk

launched a new Independent Council for Learning Outside the Classroom to promote and champion learning outside the classroom, and to become a leading voice, influencing and challenging relevant policy and practice. By raising the profile of learning outside the classroom, the Council will promote its benefits and aim to increase the number of quality learning experiences outside the classroom.

In addition, between 2004 and 2008, the Department has provided opportunities for nearly 35,000 young people to take part in a range of adventurous and curriculum-focused residential courses. This formed part of the London Challenge's £7.4 million New Views project to widen young Londoner's experiences and raise their aspirations.

Primary Education: Free School Meals

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding is available to maintained primary schools to meet the cost of providing a free school meal service for all their pupils. [287681]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Funding for the provision of school meals, including free school meals is given to all local authorities via their Standards Fund allocation. It is for individual local authorities to decide how much funding to allocate to school meal provision. Where a primary school chooses to manage its own budget for school meals, it is also responsible for deciding how much to allocate.

Schools must provide free school meals to pupils from families that meet the national eligibility criteria and who have registered to receive them. In addition, local authorities may choose to provide free meals for all pupils or a particular phase of pupils such as primary pupils, if they choose to do so. This department and the Department of Health are jointly funding pilots with three local authorities to evaluate the benefits of extending eligibility to free school meals within England.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date Dr. Ken Boston offered his resignation from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority; and on what date it was accepted. [287532]

Mr. Iain Wright: Dr. Ken Boston offered his resignation to the board of QCA on 12 December 2008. QCA announced his resignation the following day. A full investigation and review by the board of QCA was then undertaken. QCA announced the acceptance of his resignation and termination of employment on 1 April 2009.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the measures to regulate childcare for children under eight years old contained in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 will be implemented; and whether they will apply to children's crèches. [286936]

Dawn Primarolo: A person who is barred from working with children is already barred from working in child care for under-8s, including in a crèche, under current barring schemes. From October 2009, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will bar unsuitable persons from "regulated activity" under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, replacing current barred lists. Working with under-8s, or with children in a crèche, will both be included in regulated activity. From July 2010, we will start to phase in a duty for staff to register with the ISA under the Act. That duty will also apply to those working in regulated activity with children, including in children's crèches.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local authority area had (i) no kitchen facilities for producing school meals and (ii) no daily access to hot school meals for pupils in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [286959]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information.

Schools

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment is of levels of compliance with his Department's guidance to schools on measures to accommodate *(a)* religious and *(b)* cultural beliefs. [287601]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not undertake assessment of the levels of compliance with guidance to schools on measures to accommodate religious or cultural beliefs. However, Ofsted, as part of its inspection framework does monitor the extent to which the school promotes equality and tackles discrimination.

Schools for the Future - Inspirational Design for Kitchen and Dining Spaces

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's document, Schools for the Future - Inspirational Design for Kitchen and Dining Spaces. [287235]

Mr. Coaker: I will arrange for a copy of the document to be placed in the House Libraries. The Department has also recently published "Kitchen and Dining Spaces—a Design Note" which provides a summary of key design points, mainly for school heads and governors. The booklet is available at the following address

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthyliving/schoolfoodanddrink/diningrooms/

Schools: Admissions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school places there are in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire. [285243]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department collects information annually from each local authority on the number of school places at schools in their area, as part of the surplus places survey. The latest data available relate to the position as at January 2008. The following table gives a breakdown of the capacity of schools located in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire.

Area	*Primary school capacity*	*Secondary school capacity*
Hemel Hempstead	9,017	7,928
Dacorum	11,669	11,452
Hertfordshire	93,532	88,293

Schools: Asbestos

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policy on the wellbeing of children of the presence of asbestos in schools; and if he would make a statement; [288695]

(2) what measures are in place to *(a)* identify and *(b)* remove asbestos in schools being refurbished under (i) Building Schools for the Future and (ii) the Primary Capital Programme. [288725]

Mr. Coaker: Asbestos in schools should be managed in accordance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006. The legal requirements and associated guidance provides a framework that enables those responsible for schools to manage the risks from asbestos within school buildings. Asbestos is identified by surveys and removed where necessary in accordance with HSE guidance. Partnerships for Schools has included requirements for asbestos surveys in its standard contract documentation for Building Schools for the Future. Work carried out under the Primary Capital programme is subject to local procurement and asbestos management procedures which must comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006.

It is DCSF and HSE's assessment that where asbestos is managed in accordance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations teachers and pupils are not likely to be at risk in the course of their normal activities.

Providing asbestos materials are maintained in good condition they can normally be left in situ and managed until the building reaches the end of its life when the asbestos containing materials can be removed without risk of exposing building users to risks arising from significant disturbance.

Schools: Biometrics

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will make it obligatory for schools to obtain the written consent of a child's parents before assembling biometric data on a child based on fingerprint recognition; [288558]

(2) if he will make it obligatory for schools to destroy biometric data based on fingerprint recognition they hold on pupils when a child leaves their school; [288559]

(3) what steps he will take to ensure that *(a)* police forces and *(b)* other third parties have no direct or indirect access to biometric data based on fingerprint recognition held by schools in relation to their pupils. [288560]

Mr. Coaker: In July 2007 Becta issued guidance on the use of biometric technology in schools. This guidance was supported by complementary guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office. The Becta guidance made it clear that while consent is not required for all processing of personal data under the Data Protection Act, schools should normally involve pupils and parents in their decisions to use biometric technologies, as is the case with other decisions made during the school life of children.

The Becta guidance also makes it clear that schools must follow the Data Protection Act in regards to the retention and storage of personal data. In accordance with the Act, schools must ensure all personal data are processed fairly and lawfully, for limited purposes, in line with individuals' rights and not held for longer than necessary. Additionally, schools need to issue a fair processing notice (FPN) to parents summarising the information held about their child or children, why it is held, and the third parties to whom it may be passed on.

Schools: Closures

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been placed in special measures more than once since 1997; and how many of those schools have been closed. [287222]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 July 2009:

Parliamentary question number 287222: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many schools have been placed in special measures more than once since 1997 and how many of those schools have been closed.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Between 1 September 1997 and 3 April 2009, 72 maintained schools were placed in special measures more than once, including one school that had been placed in special measures three times. Twenty three of these schools are now closed.

Of the 72 schools that required special measures a second time, seven remained in special measures at their re-inspection without ever being removed from this category. Data for the summer term 2009 have not yet been published and are not included in these figures.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Construction

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the construction of new school buildings. [287771]

Mr. Coaker: The Department publishes a wide range of design guidance for new school buildings and remodelling existing buildings. The current list of publications available can be found on the following website at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/schoolbuildings/sbdupublications/

For Building Schools for the Future projects, Partnership for Schools publishes design specification guidance. The guidance is available on the following website at:

http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/library/bsf_standard_docs.jsp#OutputSpecification

The Department and Partnerships for Schools also publish a range of design case studies.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the statement of 30 June 200[illegible] *Official Report*, columns 165-80, on 21st century schools, how many members he

expects a slimmer school governing body to comprise; and what criteria he plans to apply to reduce the size of school governing bodies. [284070]

Mr. Coaker: Governing bodies of maintained schools in England are constituted under a stakeholder model which prescribes the percentage representation of each group on the governing body. They can vary in total size from nine to 20 members. It is not our intention to prescribe a smaller size. Each governing body will continue to be free to choose a membership of between nine and 20 which best suits their individual circumstances. We will, however, relax the percentages in the stakeholder model, while retaining safeguards to ensure that each stakeholder group is represented and that there is no reduction in the percentage of parent governors, to give further freedom to governing bodies to choose the optimal membership to meet their needs.

Schools: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff there were in local education authority schools in (i) the Wakefield district and (ii) Hemsworth constituency in (A) 1997 and (B) at the latest date for which figures are available. [288806]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in service in local authority maintained schools in Wakefield local authority and Hemsworth constituency in January 1997 and 2008, the latest year for which information is available.

Full-time equivalent teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in local authority maintained schools[1]; Years: January 1997 and 2008; Coverage: Wakefield local authority and Hemsworth constituency

	1997		2008	
	Wakefield	Hemsworth	Wakefield	Hemsworth
Teachers[2]	2,670	850	2,830	960
Teaching assistants[3]	540	170	1,200	430
Support staff[3,4]	1,000	330	2,160	720

[1] Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
[2] Source: Annual survey of teachers and teacher vacancies (618g) for Wakefield, School Census for Hemsworth.
[3] Source: School Census.
[4] Includes teaching assistants.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pupil-to-teacher ratio in maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Hemsworth constituency was in each year since 1996-97. [288807]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the pupil:teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Hemsworth constituency in January of each year, 1997 to 2008, the latest year for which information is available.

Pupil:teacher ratio (PTR)[1] of local authority maintained primary and secondary schools[2]; Years: January 1997 to 2008; Coverage: Hemsworth constituency

	Pupil:teacher ratio	
	Primary	Secondary
1997	24:7	17:2
1998	24:9	17:2
1999	24:8	18:1
2000	24:7	18:2
2001	23:6	18:1
2002	23:0	17:5
2003	23:2	17:8
2004	23:5	17:2
2005	23:9	16:6
2006	23:3	16:3
2007	23:2	16:0
2008	23:1	15:6

[1] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.
[2] Excludes academies.
Source:
School Census

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what capital funding has been allocated to schools in Hemsworth constituency in each year since 1997. [288809]

Mr. Coaker: The Department allocates much of its capital resources to local authority areas. Information by constituency is not held centrally. Support for capital investment in schools in Wakefield local authority is shown in the following table:

Financial year	£ million
1997-98	5.2
1998-99	7.9
1999-2000	7.4
2000-01	13.4
2001-02	13.7
2002-03	17.3
2003-04	20.6
2004-05	19.4
2005-06	21.2
2006-07	16.7
2007-08	15.7
2008-09	15.0
2009-10	†24.5
2010-11	†23.3

† Includes Primary Capital Programme.

Schools: Inspection

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 235-6W, on Ofsted: finance, what the projected future costs are of the new schools' inspection regime in each year for which information is available. [285597]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 14 July 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

In response to parliamentary question 278406, I provided information on the gross cost of the inspection of schools. This information was derived from a detailed analysis of Ofsted's 2008-09 and prior year financial accounts. At the end of each

year, we undertake a retrospective analysis of our costs. It is not possible to produce such a projected analysis of similarly specific costs because of the scale of change in place in Ofsted; several major changes to Ofsted's organisational structure and operations will be implemented at the same time as the introduction of the new school inspection regime. We are also currently planning to outsource significant aspects of our early years work and this will impact on support costs.

Consequently, we cannot provide meaningful projections of the future gross cost of the inspection of schools, which are comparable with the costs included in our previous response. This information will not be available until spring 2010.

However, I am able to provide details of the estimated savings in the direct costs of the schools' inspection activity, excluding the indirect and overhead costs that were included in the figures provided in our previous response. This covers those inspections affected by the introduction of the new inspection regime, including those carried out under Section 5 of the Education Act 2005 (the routine programme of inspections of maintained schools) and those carried out under Section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (additional monitoring visits for maintained schools judged to be in a category of concern or judged to be satisfactory). Currently, the annual saving as a result of the introduction of the new inspection regime is projected to be £3.9m. This represents a 7.8% savings on the direct cost of the inspection of schools in 2008-09. These savings are based on a range of assumptions, for example, the number of active schools in the future and the proportion of schools judged good or better.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Internet

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to paragraph 2.38, page 40 of his Department's publication, Your child, your schools, our future, what estimate he has made of the likely cost of the virtual school gates pilot programme for parents and carers. [286889]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department is currently in on-going discussions with Netmums and the Family Matters Institute, which runs Dad Talk, about the virtual school gates pilot which will build on their existing web services. We estimate it will cost up to £60,000 plus evaluation costs.

Schools: Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many support staff were employed in English schools in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2008. [286359]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is contained in Table 1 of the School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2009 (Provisional) Statistical First Release published in May 2009:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000844/index.shtml

Schools: Nurses

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that school nurses and school health workers are informed of the life-saving service provided by the MedicAlert Foundation; and if he will make a statement. [283413]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has not taken steps to specifically promote MedicAlert services. The use of various devices bearing clinical and other information carried on the person to be accessible to healthcare staff in the event of injury, illness or exacerbation of a pre-existing condition, is already widely recognised as an option. Their use is a matter of personal choice.

In February we published, jointly with the Department for Health, 'Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures: The strategy for children and young people's health', copies of which have been placed in the Library. The strategy includes a commitment to update the 2005 document 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings'. This guidance addresses the need for schools to have access to the information necessary to support children with healthcare needs who fall ill, and the contact details and arrangements appropriate to managing the situation.

Schools: Output Area Code

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the lower layer super output area code is for each *(a)* maintained mainstream and *(b)* independent school in England. [287255]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries. Information on schools in England including geographic information area can be found on EduBase, the Department's database of educational establishments

www.edubase.gov.uk

Schools: Playing Fields

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools do not have a playing field. [287225]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not hold an estimate of the number of maintained schools that do not have playing fields.

Whether or not schools have on-site playing fields, which may not be possible in urban settings, they are required to have access to team game playing fields proportionate to their pupil numbers and type.

Schools: Public Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many primary schools in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England have had revenue balances in excess of those predicted in each year since 1997; [287394]

(2) how many secondary schools in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England have had revenue balances in excess of those predicted in each year since 1997; [287395]

(3) what the *(a)* revenues raised by and *(b)* public expenditure on (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in (A) the Vale of York and (B) England has been in each year since 1997. [287414]

Mr. Cooker: The Department collects figures of the balances held by schools and the amount of revenues raised by schools via the section 52 outturn statements. We have collected information on balances since 1999-2000 and information on revenues raised since 2002-03. There are no figures available for previous years. The section 52 outturn statements are completed by all local authorities in England and we request only the final figures for the schools in their area. We do not collect predicted figures.

The following table shows the number of schools in York, North Yorkshire and England that held surplus balances from 1999-2000 to 2007-08. The Department does not hold figures by constituency.

Number of maintained primary and secondary schools in surplus[1] in England and York and North Yorkshire local authorities: 1999-2000 to 2007-08[2]

	LA name	Primary schools in surplus	Secondary schools in surplus
1999-2000	England	16,695	2,700
	North Yorkshire	317	42
	York	61	9
2000-01	England	17,138	2,919
	North Yorkshire	323	43
	York	57	10
2001-02	England	17,093	2,857
	North Yorkshire	329	44
	York	56	10
2002-03	England	16,535	2,693
	North Yorkshire	324	42
	York	51	8
2003-04	England	16,187	2,756
	North Yorkshire	323	41
	York	49	8
2004-05	England	16,506	2,834
	North Yorkshire	327	43
	York	50	9
2005-06	England	16,302	2,745
	North Yorkshire	327	42
	York	51	8
2006-07	England	16,213	2,740
	North Yorkshire	325	42
	York	51	9
2007-08	England	16,276	2,829
	North Yorkshire	319	39
	York	50	11

[1] A school's total revenue balance is calculated from the combination of any unspent allocations (including unspent standards fund grants) and the cumulative balance of income less expenditure from revenue funding sources during the financial year and any balances carried forward from previous years. This is drawn by adding together the unspent allocations and balance carried forward columns from local authorities section 52 outturn statements 1999-2000 to 2001-02 (table 2), consistent financial reporting categories B01 and B02 from local authorities section 52 outturn statements (table B) 2002-03 to 2005-06 and consistent financial reporting categories B01, B02 and B09 from local authorities section 52 outturn statements (table B) 2006-07 onwards.
[2] School level revenue balances are not available prior to the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year.

In February 2009, we published the figures for balances and deficits held by schools for the financial year 2007-08. The information for 2008-09 is due to be submitted to the Department by 25 August 2009.

The following table shows the amount of revenue that schools have raised which are held by schools with their budget. These figures are presented alongside the amount of public expenditure allocated on a national and local authority level for York. Further information on these figures can be found in the section 52 outturn statements which the Department publishes on our website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=64

Note that if schools form a company for the use of their premises for community purposes and hold a separate bank account for these charges, then the funds

raised in that account are not subject to the provisions laid upon school revenue funding but are subject to company law.

Revenue raised by England and York local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in England: 2002-03 to 2007-08, compared with public expenditure

		Total income including donations and/or voluntary funds[1]		*Total funding*[2]	
		Primary	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*
2002-03	England	551,138,796	707,095,785	10,494,337,638	10,541,823,696
	York	1,408,066	1,818,593	32,437,446	31,533,495
2003-04	England	623,614,541	788,227,393	11,401,399,490	11,924,975,908
	York	1,521,827	1,495,139	33,264,389	34,908,444
2004-05	England	667,015,306	873,081,128	12,035,908,906	12,752,004,480
	York	1,932,485	1,676,790	35,772,953	38,072,974
2005-06	England	750,736,189	994,129,752	12,789,877,891	13,555,581,500
	York	2,692,088	2,311,242	38,166,522	39,401,808
2006-07	England	785,448,729	1,032,332,053	13,498,889,480	14,295,028,942
	York	2,822,511	2,961,480	40,168,539	40,640,639
2007-08	England	871,799,097	1,099,864,863	14,347,256,953	15,148,426,895
	York	3,310,897	3,581,284	41,960,380	42,965,892

[1] For the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 these totals include "Other grants and payments received" (107), "Income from facilities and services" (108), "Income from catering" (109), "Receipts from supply teacher insurance claims" (110), "Receipts from other insurance claims" (111), "Income from contributions to visits etc." (112) and "Donations and/or voluntary funds" (113). For subsequent years they include these plus "Community focused extended school facilities income" (117).
[2] For the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 these totals include "Funds delegated by the LA" (101), "Funding for sixth form students" (102), "SEN Funding" (103), "Funding for minority ethnic pupils" (104), "Standards Fund" (105) and "Other government grants" (106). For subsequent years they include these plus "School Standards Grant (SSG)—Pupil focused" (114), "Pupil focused extended school funding and/or grants" (115) and "Community focused extended school funding and/or grants" (116).
Note:
Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 16 July.
Source:
The Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations

Schools: Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* maintained mainstream schools and *(b)* independent schools are offering a diploma course in the 2008-09 academic year; and how many pupils are taking each diploma course in each such school. [287248]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not have a central record of which maintained mainstream schools are offering the diploma in 2008/09. Consortia (and hence their member providers) are approved through the diploma gateway process to deliver diplomas. We collect information about members of consortia at the time of their applications. Once approved, it is up to consortia and local authorities to manage delivery plans and offer the entitlement.

There are no independent schools offering diplomas in 2008/09.

Around 12,000 young people enrolled on a diploma course last autumn. We collect a breakdown of this figure at a local authority level, but not at institutional level.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils' results were exempted from appearing in school league tables in each of the last 10 years. [286386]

Mr. Coaker: No pupils' results are excluded completely from the Achievement and Attainment Tables. Since 2000, individual schools have been able to request that results of non-English speaking pupils who have recently arrived from overseas are not reported in their school's published performance data. However, these pupils' results continue to be included in local authority and national level figures published in the tables.

The table shows the number of pupils' results removed from the school level data in the Achievement and Attainment Tables since 2000.

	Key Stage 2	*Key Stage 3*	*Key Stage 4*
2000	1,277	*	1,598
2001	1,642	*	1,980
2002	1,702	*	2,149
2003	1,847	*	2,502
2004	1,800	684	2,418
2005	2,152	818	1,898
2006	2,433	1,155	2,115
2007	2,674	1,418	2,451
2008	2,366	n/a	2,699

From 2000-03 Key Stage 3 results were included as part of the Key Stage 4 Tables. Therefore the number of pupils' results exempted is combined.

There are no Key Stage 3 Achievement and Attainment Tables for 2008.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools were rated unsatisfactory in both of their last two Ofsted inspections; [287245]

(2) how many schools were rated unsatisfactory in both of their last two Ofsted inspections; [287247]

(3) how many schools rated unsatisfactory in their most recent Ofsted inspection had been rated satisfactory in the preceding inspection. [287246]

Mr. Coaker: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 July 2009:

Parliamentary question numbers 287245 and 287247: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many schools were rated unsatisfactory in both of their last two Ofsted inspections

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The 'inadequate' inspection outcome was introduced in September 2005 as part of a four-point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory, inadequate. Before September 2005, judgements were made on a seven-point scale and under a different inspection framework. For this reason, only schools which have been inspected more than once under the current inspection arrangements, including pilot inspections carried out during the academic year 2004/05, have been included in this analysis.

Table A shows that, as of 3 April 2009, 53 schools were rated inadequate in both their last two Ofsted inspections under the current inspection framework (commonly known as section 5).

Table A: Schools inspected more than once under the current inspection framework and judged inadequate at both of their last two inspections, up to 3 April 2009

Number of schools

		School phase					
Latest overall effectiveness grade	*Previous overall effectiveness grade*	*Nursery*	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Special*	*Pupil Referral Unit*	*All schools*
Inadequate	Inadequate	0	24	23	3	3	53

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 July 2009:

Parliamentary question number 287246: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many schools rated unsatisfactory in their most recent Ofsted inspection had been rated satisfactory in the preceding inspection.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The 'inadequate' inspection outcome was introduced in September 2005 as part of a four-point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory, inadequate. Before September 2005, judgements were made on a seven-point scale and under a different inspection framework. Therefore, only schools which have been inspected more than once under the current inspection arrangements, including pilot inspections carried out during the academic year 2004/05, have been included in this analysis.

Table A shows that, as of 3 April 2009, 83 schools were rated inadequate in their last inspection and satisfactory at their previous inspection under the current inspection framework (commonly known as section 5).

Table A: Schools inspected more than once under the current inspection framework and judged inadequate at their last inspection, and satisfactory at their previous inspection, up to 3 April 2009

Number of schools

		School phase					
Latest overall effectiveness grade	*Previous overall effectiveness grade*	*Nursery*	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Special*	*Pupil Referral Unit*	*All schools*
Inadequate	Satisfactory	0	42	39	0	2	83

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Taxis

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each local authority spent on taxis to transport children to and from school under each category for which a taxi was required in each of the last five years. [285723]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect information on local authority expenditure on taxis for home to school transport.

Schools: Teaching Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to page 35 of his Department's publication, Your child, your schools, our future, on the Pupil Guarantee, how many secondary schools use such a personal tutor system. [286885]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Every secondary school pupil and their families will have access to a named Personal Tutor from September 2010. Officials in this Department and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) are currently working to support local authorities and schools to enable them to meet that commitment. We know from this work with schools that many already have similar systems in place. However, we do not collect the information from schools that would enable us to say how many currently have a similar system in place.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to paragraph 2.22, page 31 of his Department's publication, Your child, your schools, our future, what additional funding will be allocated in support of the guarantee of one-to-one catch-up tuition in English and mathematics. [286887]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Funding for the one-to-one tuition programme was announced as part of the most recent comprehensive spending review (CSR) settlement. There is a total of £468 million funding over the CSR period: £15 million to support 36,000 children in year 5 and year 6 in 2008/09; £138 million to support 3.5 per cent. of the Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 (and in National Challenge schools Key Stage 4) cohort in each of English and maths in 2009/10; and £315 million to support 300,000 pupils in English and 300,000 children in mathematics in 2010/11. The funding is sufficient to support the guarantee of one-to-one tuition in English and mathematics for pupils falling behind in Key Stage 2 from September 2010. This funding is also sufficient to cover the one-to-one element of the guarantee for catch-up support for pupils who enter Year 7 behind expectations.

Schools: Vetting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have been added to List 99 *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* by the Independent Safeguarding Authority since January 2009. [288861]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on List 99 numbers has been reported to the House by successive Secretaries of State since 2006. This is set out as follows.

In her statement of 19 January 2006 the then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly), reported that 4,045 people were on List 99. This included 513 people who had been added to List 99 in 2005.

In his statement of 28 February 2007 the then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson), reported that there were a total of 4,921 individuals on List 99.

The present Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton (Ed Balls), reported in his statement of 17 March 2008 that the total number of individuals on List 99 was 8,036. He made a statement on 20 January 2009 in which he reported that the total number on List 99 was 12,992.

In response to *(b)*, since 20 January 2009, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) received new powers to place individuals on the Children's List maintained under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. For the time being, this has equivalent effect to inclusion on List 99 or the PoCA list. The ISA has confirmed that 2,100 individuals have been added to the Children's List since that date.

Science: Education

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will regularly review the effects on levels of attainment in science subjects by children at secondary level of the replacement of science as a core subject in primary schools if the proposal of the Rose Review on that matter is implemented; and if he will make a statement. [286304]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We regularly review levels of science attainment at secondary level, and the factors which impact upon it. In future, this will include changes to the primary science curriculum and assessment arrangements.

These changes have been widely supported by the science education community. They will provide a basis for schools and teachers to improve the quality of the science education experience in primary schools, reflecting more closely the practical and investigative nature of the subject, making it more enjoyable for pupils, and so encouraging more of them to pursue it at higher levels.

Science: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* the maintained mainstream sector and *(b)* the independent sector had one or more students achieve a double award science GCSE in each year since 2005. [278959]

Mr. Coaker: The figures available are given in the table:

Number of schools in which one or more students achieved a Double Award Science GCSE between 2005 and 2007

	Maintained mainstream	*Independent*
2005	3,017	630
2006	2,992	637
2007	2,998	654
2008	116	9

Source:
Attainment and Achievement Tables.

Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

Accreditation of Double Award Science expired in 2008.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities *(a)* have been selected and *(b)* are under consideration for participation in the trial of the new requirement in relation to parents' views on secondary school places, as referred to in paragraph 5.39 of the Building a 21st Century Schools System White Paper; and what criteria his Department uses to select local authorities to participate in such trials. [286954]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has not yet selected local authorities to participate in the trial to seek parents' views on secondary school places. We intend to approach authorities with a mixture of the following characteristics: urban and rural (from different regions of England); mixed socio-economic circumstances; and with a different mix of provision, such as single sex, or selective schools.

Secondary Education: Sports

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours were spent on sport by secondary school pupils on average in *(a)* maintained mainstream schools and *(b)* independent schools in the latest period for which figures are available. [287234]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The annual school sport survey collects data from maintained schools in England relating to the percentage of pupils participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport a week. The 2007/08 survey found that 83 per cent. of all secondary pupils took part in at least two hours high quality PE and sport each week. The survey does not collect comparable data from independent schools.

Sixth Form Education: Lancaster

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Lancaster and Wyre constituency received less funding for sixth form places in the final yearly allocations for 2009-10 than was indicated in the provisional figures. [288369]

Mr. Iain Wright: Following the further increase of £655 million in the Budget 2009, the LSC have now issued revised letters of allocation to all schools, colleges and independent training providers. This means we have now reinstated the original allocations as at March 2009 where schools, colleges and training providers indicated they would deliver an additional 34,500 places for young people aged 16-18. But the Budget allocation has enabled Ministers to approve a revised set of allocations that will mean a further increase of 22,500 places will be made available this September.

We are not able to provide a breakdown of the information based on a constituency basis; however the allocation for schools in the Lancashire area, which includes Lancaster and Wyre, is £23,088,202.

Social Services: Complaints

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints were made against children's social services departments in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [287227]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally. However, local authorities are required to keep a record of each representation or complaint received; the decisions made in response and any action to be taken; and whether there was compliance with the time limits. The local authority must produce an annual report drawing on this information.

Special Educational Needs: Sight Impaired

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress he has made in increasing the availability of textbooks to blind and partially-sighted children. [286956]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We recently signed a contract agreement with a commercial provider to deliver an innovative pilot project over two years (2009-11) to develop curriculum materials in alternative formats for visually impaired/dyslexic children. The preparatory work is being undertaken at the moment and we will be making a formal announcement releasing more details shortly.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 14 to 19 providers formerly part of a diploma consortium have informed his Department that they will no longer be offering diploma lines from September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [286957]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not collect this information centrally. Consortia (and hence their member providers) are approved through the Diploma Gateway process to deliver diplomas.

We collect information about members of consortia at the time of their applications. Once approved, it is up to consortia and local authorities to manage delivery plans and offer the entitlement.

Consortia in 142 local authorities are approved to deliver from September 2009, an increase compared to the 101 local authorities that had consortia approved to deliver in September 2008.

There are 305 consortia approved to deliver diplomas from September 2009, up from 146 consortia in 2008.

Specialised Diplomas: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils enrolled on each diploma course are entitled to free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [287527]

Mr. Coaker: We do not have comprehensive analysis of these figures because data are based upon the information entered into the Diploma Aggregation Service and use a 'snapshot' of participation from the 18 April 2009. This does not include every diploma learner as some learners will not be registered on the system until the 2009/10 academic year, when they are due to claim their diploma. Eligibility for free school meals is based on school census data.

Specialist Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many specialist history teachers there were in mainstream maintained secondary schools in each of the last 10 years; [287232]

(2) how many specialist physical education teachers there were in mainstream maintained schools in each of the last 10 years. [287233]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of specialist subject teachers is only available for maintained secondary schools. It is derived from the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey, (SSCSS), a sample survey last completed in 2007. The survey revealed that of the estimated 15,700 full-time equivalent (FTE) history and 21,700 physical education teachers, who taught at least one period per week in these subjects, some 76 and 83 per cent. respectively held a relevant post A level qualification.

Further information regarding the SSCSS is available from the survey report which is available at the following URL:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR026.pdf

Sure Start Programme: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* children and *(b)* families in Hemsworth constituency have received support from his Department's Sure Start programme since the programme's inception. [288808]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect information centrally about the numbers of children and families accessing individual Sure Start Children's Centres. We expect local authorities and children's centres to collect data on the take up of services as part of their local performance management arrangements. Hemsworth currently has four Sure Start Children's Centres offering access to services to around 3,070 children under five and their families.

Teachers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what support his Department provides to teachers to assist them in educating students in issues related to *(a)* international poverty, *(b)* sustainable development and *(c)* cultural diversity; [286155]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that schools educate pupils on *(a)* global learning, *(b)* community cohesion and *(c)* international development; and if he will make a statement. [286297]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Geography, Science, Citizenship and History programmes of study within the new secondary curriculum provide opportunities for teachers to educate their pupils in issues related to international poverty, sustainable development, and cultural diversity. The secondary curriculum allows teachers the flexibility to personalise their offer to meet individual needs and engage all of their learners.

Support for implementing the new curriculum is provided through the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency's secondary curriculum website. This website offers guidance, resources and case studies to support teachers planning cross-curriculum dimensions, including "Global dimension and sustainable development" and "Identity and cultural diversity".

Environmental education is one of the key concepts for the study of geography in the new secondary curriculum and the Action Plan for Geography supports this by providing professional development opportunities for teachers in the regions to help them embed sustainable development and environmental education in their classroom practice.

The Citizenship programmes of study ensure young people develop a historical understanding of issues that have shaped contemporary life in the UK and the values we share, and allow for joint working on issues such as diversity and ethnicity. There are strong links between Citizenship Education and the teaching of history with guidance available to teachers showing how cultural and ethnic diversity can be taught through history.

The Department has also produced a Community Cohesion Resource Pack on TeacherNet to help schools and head teachers meet their duty to promote community cohesion. It has also developed the School Linking Network which helps schools establish links with other schools so that pupils from different backgrounds can mix and interact.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of teachers did not satisfactorily complete their induction year in the latest period for which figures are available. [287226]

Mr. Coaker: The General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) received notification of 24 newly qualified teachers (0.1 per cent.) who failed their induction in 2008 calendar year.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers have been suspended for each reason in each of the last 10 years; [287230]

(2) how many teachers have been dismissed in each of the last 10 years. [287231]

Mr. Coaker: The operation of disciplinary procedures in schools, including those that result in suspension, is a matter for local determination. Accordingly the information requested about the suspension and any subsequent dismissals of teachers is not held centrally.

Teachers: Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average salary of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school classroom teachers was in the last year for which figures are available; [288356]

(2) what the average salary of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school headteachers was in the last year for which figures are available. [288357]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the average salary of classroom grade and head teachers in service in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England, March 2008.

Average salary of classroom grade and head teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools. Year: March 2008.
Coverage: England

	Classroom grade[1]	Head teacher
Nursery/primary	31,000	52,300
Secondary	34,300	73,000

[1] Includes main classroom, upper and advanced skills teachers.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £100.

Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Teachers: Pensions

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have had their annual pension payments reduced as a result of over-estimates of the guaranteed minimum pension in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* Southampton; and by how much the total paid out in pension payments to such teachers will be reduced. [288396]

Mr. Coaker: The detailed information is not readily available within a geographic split. Specific details regarding the Guaranteed Minimum Pension overpayment are quoted within the National Audit Office Report "Review of Errors in Guaranteed Minimum Pension Payments" published on 16 July and available in the House Libraries.

Teachers: Recruitment

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid in golden hellos by the Training and Development Agency for Schools in the last year for which figures are available. [288342]

Mr. Coaker: In 2008-09 the Training and Development Agency for Schools paid £28 million in respect of reimbursements for golden hello payments made to teachers by schools or local authorities.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the amount of the tax-free training bursary for people training to be teachers of mathematics will be in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [286992]

Mr. Coaker: The information is as follows.

(a) New entrants to secondary mathematics Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) initial teacher training (ITT) courses commencing on or after 1 August 2009 and on or before 31 July 2010 will receive a training bursary of up to £9,000 payable by monthly instalments over the period of their initial teacher training course.

(b) The applicable training bursary rate for new entrants to secondary mathematics PGCE courses starting during the academic year 2010/11 will be announced during September 2009 at the start of the 2010/11 ITT recruitment cycle.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average annual salary for people begining the Graduate Teacher Programme was in the latest year for which figures are available. [288344]

Mr. Coaker: In the interests of reducing burdens on schools, information on graduate teacher pay is not collected centrally.

It is a condition of the Graduate Teacher Programme that trainees must be paid at least the minimum of the unqualified teacher pay scale. This equates to £15,113 (excluding the London area) and £19,007 in inner London (2008/09).

Once the trainees obtain qualified teacher status they are paid on the main scale for classroom teachers, starting from a minimum of £20,627 (excluding the London area) and £25,000 in inner London (2008/09).

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken by the Government with the objective of improving the quality of teaching training since 1997. [288346]

Mr. Coaker: For more than a decade we have worked with the Teacher Training Agency, now the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), and training providers to secure the continuous quality improvement of Initial Teacher Training (ITT).

The standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) were revised in 1998, 2002 and 2007 setting out progressively more demanding expectations of beginner teachers. Statutory requirements apply to all accredited providers of ITT to ensure training is designed to make sure new teachers have met all of the standards. The TDA uses quality categories derived from Ofsted inspections when allocating ITT places and funding to higher education institutions and school-based providers.

In the 10 years that this allocation approach has been used in full, the percentage of undergraduate and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) ITT places allocated to high quality ITT providers has increased from 68 to 96 per cent. This approach has helped secure positive results from the TDA's annual survey of newly qualified teachers. Currently 85 per cent. of primary newly qualified teachers and 86 per cent. of secondary newly qualified teachers rate their training as good or very good.

The outcomes of the first full inspections by Ofsted of the Graduate Teacher Programme will be available in the autumn of 2009 which will assess quality of training through that route. Since 2003 Teach First has brought into teaching many high quality graduates who would otherwise not have considered the profession. Ofsted said that some of their trainees were the best it had ever seen. Currently around half of teachers trained on this route remain in the profession at the end of their induction year.

The agency's special educational needs (SEN) and disability programme of work has been developed within the context of the Government's long-term strategy: "Removing Barriers to Achievement" (2004), the "Children's Plan" (December 2007) and other evidence. Resources have been put in place to ensure that all trainees are well-prepared to teach children and young people with SEN and disabilities.

Since 2000 the agency has invested nearly £20 million of its funding from the Department to support Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in initial teacher training alongside the Government's investment in ICT in schools. The aim is to ensure that all NQTs have strong skills in using ICT to support teaching and learning.

TDA have worked with schools and ITT providers to ensure that ITT is up-to-date, responds rapidly to changes in the schools' curriculum, that ITT partnerships are secure and that every trainee has effective school based training.

The SEN modules on dyslexia, autism and other frequently encountered special needs that were developed for primary ITT, were launched in June 2008 and have been well-received. Similar modules for secondary training were launched on 25 June 2009. PGCE materials are due to be launched later in 2009.

Evaluation shows that the great majority of trainee teachers have access to a personal laptop and have opportunities to use ICT to support teaching and learning while on school experience. Research indicates that trainees and ITT providers have integrated the effective use of ICT in practice.

"The Teacher Training Resource Bank" (www.ttrb.ac.uk) provides access to up-to-date materials and relevant research to support ITT. Over 5,000 articles are viewed daily and the site has 18,000 registered users. Evaluation shows that the resources support quality improvement by giving trainers access to key materials cost-effectively.

In 1997 there were approximately 27,000 trainees requiring schools experience as part of their ITT programme. Currently the figure is approximately 38,000. Ofsted indicates that this expansion has been achieved effectively.

DCSF and TDA monitor and support training providers to implement the approach to the teaching of early reading recommended by Sir Jim Rose based on the teaching of phonics.

TDA has a range of programmes t o improve the recruitment of mathematics and science teachers by means of a targeted campaign. The target for the training of primary teachers of modern languages with 900 new teachers having an enhanced experience in teaching French, German or Spanish in 2008/09 has been met.

The TDA have boosted the numbers of trainees who report having had a 'very good' or 'good' grounding in phonics from 35 per cent. in 2006 to 49 per cent. in the 2008 cohort. TDA have ambitious targets for further progress.

The diversity of routes to teaching and programmes such as Transition to Teaching has boosted the supply of new science and maths teachers. The agency works to help provide additional training both pre-service and in-service to develop the subject knowledge of specialist teachers in science and mathematics.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers entered the profession via the Graduate Teacher Programme in the latest year for which figures are available; [288347]

(2) how many new primary school teachers had B.Ed degrees in the latest year for which figures are available. [288348]

Mr. Coaker: In 2006/07, 5,140 trainees gained qualified teacher status (QTS) through the graduate teacher programme. There were 5,090 trainees who gained BA or BSc with QTS or BEd via a primary initial teacher training course.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much money has been spent on developing the Masters course in teaching and learning. [288349]

Mr. Coaker: Since the Masters in Teaching and Learning was announced by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in March 2008, £1,482,070 has been spent on developing the programme. A further £3,250,123, split between the Training and Development Agency for Schools and MTL providers (schools and higher education institutions), is budgeted for the development of the programme between now and its launch in April 2010.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students are registered to begin the Masters course in teaching and learning in the next academic year. [288350]

Mr. Coaker: The latest figures available show that as of 17 July 2009, 2,893 trainee teachers had expressed an interest in the Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL) via the TDA's website, of which 1,871 intend to teach in an eligible school and enrol for MTL in 2009/10. Eligible newly qualified teachers will be able to enrol with their MTL provider in January 2010, to commence MTL from the summer term 2010.

Teaching Methods

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of classes in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were set by ability at the most recent date for which figures are available. [286403]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 July 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Table A shows the data Ofsted holds on the use of setting, streaming or banding in lessons observed during inspections carried out in the academic year 2007/08. Inspectors record whether classes are in sets, streamed or banded (as one category), mixed ability or grouped by criteria other than ability.

Table A: All lessons observed during Ofsted inspections 2007/08, by lesson grouping

	Percentage of lessons observed		
School phase	*Mixed ability*	*Setted, streamed or banded*	*Other*
Primary schools (including middle deemed primary)	85	14	2
Secondary schools (including middle deemed secondary, academies and city technology colleges)	54	45	1

Note:
These figures include all lessons, not just national curriculum subjects, in years 1 to 6 (primary) and 7 to 11 (secondary).

Please note that these data do not enable us to estimate how many classes in England are set by ability. Since the introduction of the current school inspection framework in September 2005 (commonly known as section 5), the recording of how lessons are organised has been based on discussions with the headteacher or teacher during the inspection, or by reference to the lesson plan at the time of observation. A much smaller number of lessons are observed than would have been seen under the previous inspection framework. Lessons seen may not, therefore, represent the way pupils are grouped in the school as a whole.

For clarity, setting is the term used to describe the organisation of pupils in classes on the basis of their prior attainment in the particular subject being taught. The term banding, which is similar to streaming, is used when the decision as to which pupils are included in a class is based on the prior attainment in a range of subjects. Ofsted does not currently differentiate between setting, streaming and banding in the data collected during lesson observations.

It is of some concern to me that we do not have ready access to a comprehensive data set about pupil groupings. As a consequence, from September, headteachers have been asked to record the detail of the pupil groupings in use in their schools in their Self-Evaluation Forms.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Young People: Connexions Service

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of 13 to 19 year olds received one-to-one careers guidance from a Connexions adviser in each local authority in each of the last five years. [287244]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is not available in the form requested.

Young people: Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1018W, on young people: unemployed, how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 years old were not in education, employment or training in each region in the second quarter of 2009. [288021]

Mr. Iain Wright: Quarterly estimates of the number of people aged 16-24 who were not in education, employment or training are produced from the labour force survey (LFS). The LFS data relating to the second quarter of 2009 are not available until 12 August 2009.

Youth Services: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* capital and *(b)* other expenditure from the public purse per 1,000 of the population between 11 and 18 years old was in respect of youth services in real terms in each London local authority in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008. [288336]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government do not set a budget for spending on youth services. Local authorities receive funding from Government through the revenue support grant for youth services and it is for them to decide how much funding should be spent based on Government priorities and local needs. Information on local authority capital expenditure on youth facilities is not collected by the Department.

Since 2006, the Department has provided capital funding to local areas through the Youth Capital Fund and from 2008, the 'myplace' initiative.

The following table sets out expenditure in respect of youth services for each London local authority from 2001-09 and funds allocated in respect of the Youth Capital Fund and 'myplace' initiative for 2008-09. The Department does not hold information as far back as 1997.

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations, budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in England on youth services[1]: 2000-01 to 2008-09[2, 3], real terms figures[3] as reported by local authorities as at 16 July 2009

£

		Budgeted net expenditure on youth services[1, 2, 3]								
LA no.	*LA name*	*2000-01*	*2001-02[2]*	*2002-03[2]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
201	City of London	343,464	163,174	147,598	160,874	189,016	250,541	269,598	311,574	247,700
202	Camden	2,713,113	2,777,364	2,752,066	2,605,799	2,573,320	2,667,087	2,762,048	2,651,919	3,965,941
203	Greenwich	3,073,628	3,120,302	3,196,499	3,444,560	3,518,219	3,673,243	3,565,777	3,249,075	4,000,039
204	Hackney	1,481,979	0	0	1,218,759	1,287,989	1,625,160	2,576,962	2,864,097	2,834,026
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	918,938	1,326,211	1,021,692	1,336,721	1,338,005	1,423,898	1,432,163	1,436,267	1,447,462
206	Islington	7,350,124	6,679,333	7,230,320	3,577,437	3,689,476	3,568,988	2,820,935	2,450,530	2,955,890
207	Kensington and Chelsea	4,823,487	4,331,200	4,402,932	4,186,913	2,169,536	2,081,153	2,546,862	3,142,053	3,489,130
208	Lambeth	2,324,256	6,673,567	3,713,284	4,077,371	2,091,816	1,947,302	1,993,425	2,237,457	2,655,278
209	Lewisham	3,336,647	3,508,472	3,184,081	3,362,278	3,620,286	3,763,667	3,778,997	3,580,390	3,766,323
210	Southwark	3,467,803	3,476,161	3,554,935	3,783,205	4,596,661	4,037,539	3,863,074	4,042,904	3,575,586
211	Tower Hamlets	5,153,428	5,271,296	5,621,924	5,450,829	4,583,635	4,947,740	4,790,167	4,757,733	4,825,619
212	Wandsworth	0	3,578,619	3,678,776	3,632,492	3,649,693	3,186,246	3,254,117	3,346,001	3,287,338
213	Westminster	2,123,707	2,127,271	2,329,791	2,198,460	2,490,913	2,796,388	2,929,445	2,559,116	3,073,895
301	Barking and Dagenham	1,186,645	1,079,532	1,061,251	1,220,695	1,300,498	1,278,397	1,304,492	1,400,037	1,285,298
302	Barnet	2,777,857	2,197,757	2,680,121	2,035,109	1,680,635	1,364,147	1,437,453	1,517,521	1,745,380
303	Bexley	1,935,975	1,958,570	2,209,315	2,200,838	2,350,583	2,387,543	2,175,055	2,005,968	2,002,000
304	Brent	2,684,077	2,496,876	2,543,389	1,852,145	2,164,431	2,371,324	2,624,559	2,703,918	2,689,000
305	Bromley	1,381,934	1,345,682	1,249,464	1,257,600	1,269,690	1,274,865	1,465,806	1,478,776	1,610,782
306	Croydon	3,090,196	3,133,357	3,984,922	4,049,418	2,901,942	3,086,461	4,116,259	3,659,509	3,827,756
307	Ealing	1,879,100	1,863,645	1,763,028	1,866,636	1,812,945	1,831,747	1,740,674	1,909,161	2,034,817
308	Enfield	1,211,346	1,264,459	1,305,622	1,534,453	1,586,325	1,641,583	1,731,394	2,067,894	2,356,094
309	Haringey	1,843,500	2,278,670	2,289,957	2,373,737	2,158,593	2,220,812	2,301,249	1,900,549	1,936,960
310	Harrow	945,419	1,195,620	911,880	1,003,515	1,283,496	1,808,846	1,777,392	1,548,194	1,567,760
311	Havering	1,632,773	1,505,391	1,550,874	2,031,892	2,043,360	2,132,731	1,977,598	2,016,871	4,612,120
312	Hillingdon	1,777,477	1,770,166	2,068,481	2,414,678	2,515,969	3,322,512	3,284,588	2,048,959	2,253,644
313	Hounslow	905,953	923,532	965,189	928,156	960,476	1,434,120	1,382,826	1,347,263	2,107,125
314	Kingston upon Thames	935,383	1,174,366	1,166,076	1,233,981	1,348,176	1,304,017	1,317,049	1,352,668	1,434,626
315	Merton	678,423	691,782	705,083	913,427	891,129	915,904	1,098,527	1,214,509	1,299,420
316	Newham	1,486,220	1,666,259	1,776,509	3,605,910	3,707,385	3,581,707	3,560,941	3,540,934	5,932,663

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations, budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in England on youth services[1]: 2000-01 to 2008-09[2, 3], real terms figures[3] as reported by local authorities as at 16 July 2009

£

		Budgeted net expenditure on youth services[1, 2, 3]								
LA no.	*LA name*	*2000-01*	*2001-02[2]*	*2002-03[2]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
317	Redbridge	1,990,481	2,126,689	2,351,850	2,268,553	2,098,835	2,131,846	2,136,141	2,242,884	2,323,512
318	Richmond upon Thames	922,782	776,819	807,599	791,011	811,469	1,027,790	1,132,163	1,437,900	1,399,813
319	Sutton	1,706,824	1,844,247	2,010,672	1,466,170	1,463,751	1,452,936	1,440,621	1,309,914	1,363,760
320	Waltham Forest	2,574,350	3,499,808	2,402,351	2,213,314	2,373,009	2,521,670	2,427,953	2,381,205	2,515,168
	Total	70,657,291	77,826,194	76,637,529	76,296,935	72,521,261	75,059,909	77,016,308	75,713,752	86,421,924

Notes:
1. Youth service includes the following items of planned expenditure on the Youth Service and youth work:
Employees
Staff Training
Premises-related expenditure
Transport-related expenditure
Supplies and services
Third-party payments
Support services
Youth work costs at residential and non-residential youth centres
Youth work costs at activity at outdoor and urban studies centres
Grant funding to the voluntary sector for youth work.
2. The 2001-02 and 2002-03 figures also include any local authority youth service provision that contributed to the delivery of the Connexions Service plus any Connexions Service specific funding.
3. Cash figures are converted to 2008-09 prices using the 30 June 2009 gross domestic product (GDP) deflators.
Source:
Figures are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statement (Table 1) submitted to the DCSF (formally DfES).

Youth capital fund and youth capital fund plus, 2008-09

GO region	*LA name*	*YCF 2008-09 allocation*	*YCF plus 2008-09 allocation*	*Total*
London	Tower Hamlets	183,600	452,000	635,600
London	Hackney	139,200	452,000	591,200
London	Islington	118,000	452,000	570,000
London	Newham	173,700	452,000	625,700
London	Southwark	191,900	452,000	643,900
London	Haringey	160,300	452,000	612,300
London	Camden	111,700	452,000	563,700
London	Barking and Dagenham	109,400	452,000	561,400
London	Lambeth	142,400	452,000	594,400
London	Westminster	135,900	0	135,900
London	Greenwich	180,400	452,000	632,400
London	Lewisham	171,000	452,000	623,000
London	Waltham Forest	149,500	452,000	601,500
London	City of London	50,000	0	50,000
London	Hammersmith and Fulham	87,700	0	87,700
London	Kensington and Chelsea	113,500	0	113,500
London	Brent	154,100	0	154,100
London	Enfield	169,300	0	169,300
London	Ealing	152,500	0	152,500
London	Croydon	179,700	0	179,700
London	Hounslow	126,000	0	126,000
London	Wandsworth	126,600	0	126,600
London	Bexley	114,900	0	114,900
London	Bromley	144,100	0	144,100
London	Barnet	172,600	0	172,600
London	Sutton	98,900	0	98,900
London	Hillingdon	166,800	0	166,800
London	Havering	106,200	0	106,200
London	Redbridge	114,500	0	114,500
London	Merton	98,900	0	98,900
London	Harrow	100,000	0	100,000
London	Kingston upon Thames	72,200	0	72,200
London	Richmond upon Thames	78,600	0	78,600
Total London		4,394,100	5,424,000	9,818,100

myplace initiative, 2008-09

GO region	*Project name*	*Lead organisation*	*Grant allocation 2008-09*	*Total*
London	Sutton Life Centre	LB of Sutton	4,074,688	4,074,688

myplace initiative, 2008-09

GO region	Project name	Lead organisation	Grant allocation 2008-09	Total
London	New Horizon Youth Centre	Third Sector	1,500,000	1,500,000
London	Trinity at Bowes Centre Plus	Third Sector	2,168,228	2,168,228
London	Slamon Youth Centre Phase 2	Third Sector	1,118,679	1,118,679
Total London				8,861,595

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 21 July 2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

Health and Safety Executive: Publications

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the last inspection report of the Health and Safety Executive by *(a)* the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner and *(b)* the Interception of Communications Commissioner. [288289]

Mr. Hanson: The oversight commissioners are independent of Government and it is a matter for them and the individual public authority concerned to decide whether it is appropriate for inspection reports to be made more widely available.

Identity and Passport Service

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Identity and Passport Service and its predecessors have cost the public purse in each of the last 12 years; and how many passports were issued in each such year. [286157]

Mr. Woolas: In delivery of passport services to the public, passport fees are set to recover the costs of the service provided as agreed with HM Treasury. In recent years there has been public funding required to set up the national identity service which is not recovered by fee income.

The number of passports issued in the last 12 years is as below:

Financial year	*Passports issued*
1997-98	4,527,865
1998-99	4,681,885
1999-2000	5,393,403
2000-01	5,509,704
2001-02	5,588,550
2002-03	5,354,348
2003-04	5,723,473
2004-05	6,031,325
2005-06	6,453,095
2006-07	6,212,339
2007-08	5,683,445
2008-09	5,225,115

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each court service area aged (i) between 10 and 12 years, (ii) between 13 and 16 years, (iii) between 17 to 18 years, (iv) between 19 and 24 years and (v) over 24 years old were (A) proceeded against, (B) found guilty and (C) sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol-related offences in each year since 1997. [285785]

Alan Johnson: Data showing the number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, England and Wales 1997 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

The number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences[1], by age group England and Wales[2,3]

	Male								
	10-12			*13-16*			*17-18*		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
1997	4	2	—	991	813	7	6,207	5,204	65
1998	11	10	—	998	813	7	6,357	5,428	79
1999	9	9	—	1,168	986	9	6,038	5,223	66
2000	8	5	—	1,299	1,086	13	6,022	5,247	90
2001	7	7	—	1,412	1,102	20	6,408	5,435	86
2002	11	9	—	1,372	1,119	18	6,322	5,454	85
2003	8	7	—	1,416	1,178	15	6,502	5,648	59
2004	8	7	—	1,320	1,122	17	5,559	5,037	69
2005	8	6	—	1,114	973	12	4,561	4,198	40
2006	6	6	—	1,078	939	2	4,475	4,150	42
2007	1	—	—	1,210	1,062	5	4,403	4,099	44

	Male						*Total*		
	19-24			*25 and over*					
1997	27,002	23,023	588	87,041	78,542	3,354	121,245	108,544	4,014
1998	26,052	23,183	584	83,117	74,644	3,041	116,535	104,078	3,711
1999	24,756	22,218	568	77,113	69,707	2,95C	109,084	98,143	3,593
2000	24,534	21,903	617	72,923	65,413	2,694	104,786	93,654	3,414

	Male						Total		
	10-24			25 and over					
2001	25,301	22,477	625	70,832	63,198	2,689	103,960	92,219	3,420
2002	26,830	23,988	624	74,047	66,365	2,546	108,582	96,935	3,273
2003	27,673	24,986	586	75,395	67,679	2,350	110,954	99,498	3,010
2004	24,817	22,967	557	72,905	66,676	2,275	104,609	95,809	2,918
2005	22,384	21,074	455	68,125	62,790	2,205	96,192	89,041	2,712
2006	22,173	20,873	405	66,898	61,986	1,794	94,630	87,954	2,247
2007	21,326	20,334	382	64,992	60,659	1,561	91,932	86,154	1,992

	Female								
	10-12			13-15			17-18		
1997	—	—	—	138	104	—	427	445	1
1998	—	—	—	157	114	—	541	441	1
1999	4	2	—	171	143	—	504	425	—
2000	2	2	—	243	194	—	466	379	—
2001	6	5	—	247	180	—	499	412	—
2002	3	2	—	241	177	—	534	446	—
2003	—	—	—	287	233	—	675	563	—
2004	1	1	—	330	268	—	560	495	—
2005	—	—	—	313	265	—	580	529	—
2006	1	—	—	311	268	—	626	564	—
2007	1	—	—	433	382	—	695	625	1

	Female						Total		
	10-24			25 and over					
1997	2,092	1,846	11	8,839	7,879	110	11,496	10,174	122
1998	2,040	1,823	10	9,230	8,162	113	11,968	10,540	124
1999	2,031	1,802	13	9,162	8,191	108	11,872	10,563	122
2000	2,077	1,817	14	9,299	8,295	96	12,089	10,687	110
2001	2,182	1,884	11	9,048	7,998	102	11,982	10,479	113
2002	2,413	2,117	12	10,191	9,076	86	13,382	11,818	98
2003	2,687	2,392	7	10,616	9,494	101	14,265	12,682	108
2004	2,631	2,432	15	10,600	9,629	114	14,122	12,825	129
2005	2,547	2,382	15	10,254	9,459	102	13,704	12,635	117
2006	2,708	2,590	12	10,380	9,604	73	14,020	12,986	85
2007	2,886	2,724	9	10,729	10,005	73	14,744	13,736	83

[1] Includes offences of:
(a) Drunkenness simple.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation.
(c) Offences by licensed person.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.

[2] The number proceeded against and number found guilty statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform
[Ref: IOS 364-09]

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) under 31, (ii) 31 to 40, (iii) 41 to 50, (iv) 51 to 60, (v) 61 to 70 and (vi) over 70 years have been issued with penalty notices for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in each of the last five years; [285781]

(2) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) 10 to 12, (ii) 13 to 16, (iii) 17 to 18 and (iv) 19 to 30 years old have been issued with penalty notices for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in each of the last five years. [285784]

Alan Johnson: Information showing the number of males and females issued with a penalty notice for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in England and Wales, broken down by sex and age group from 2004 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

2008 data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for being drunk and disorderly[1], by sex and age group, 2004 to 2007[2,3]

Sex and age group	2004[4]	2005	2006	2007
Males				
16	299	570	736	703
17-18	2,882	4,442	5,205	5,274
19-30	13,340	18,729	21,613	23,157
16 to 30	16,521	23,733	27,554	29,134
31 -40	4,701	5,856	6,494	6,765
41 -50	2,403	3,117	3,591	3,819
51 -60	861	1,054	1,133	1,092
61 -70	228	265	275	283
71 and over	46	54	40	39
Total	24,760	34,078	39,087	41,132
Females				
16	90	167	225	233
17-18	434	737	1,032	1,019
19-30	1,888	2,720	3,169	3,657
16 to 30	2,412	3,624	4,426	4,909
31 -40	1,117	1,383	1,571	1,630
41 -50	604	867	935	1,119
51 -60	173	191	220	216
61 -70	22	30	27	33
71 and over	2	3	2	7
Total	4,330	6,098	7,181	7,930

[1] Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.
[2] The penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Under the scheme, the police are able to issue penalty notices (£50 or £80) to those aged 18 and over for a range of minor alcohol-related offences including being drunk in a highway which attracts the lower tariff. The scheme was extended to 16 and 17-year-olds under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003; the tariffs for young people are £40 and £30.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
[4] Figures for 2004 exclude 16 PNDs issued where the gender of the offender was not recorded.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 10 to 12, (ii) 12 to 16, (iii) 16 to 18, (iv) 18 to 24 and (v) over 24 years have been issued with (A) a penalty notice for disorder and (B) a caution for alcohol-related offences in each police force area in each year since 1997. [286042]

Alan Johnson: Information showing the number of males and females issued with a caution from 1998 to 2007, and the number of males and females issued with a penalty notice for disorder 2004 to 2007 for alcohol related offences can be viewed in the tables placed in the House Library.

2008 data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful prosecutions there were for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years from *(a)* on-licence and *(b)* off-licence premises in each police force in the North West in each of the last five years. [285374]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18, in each police force area in the north-west region from 2003-07 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

It is not possible to differentiate between sales on premises and off premises in the court proceedings database.

Data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[1], by police force area in the North West region, 2003-07[2, 3]

Force	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cheshire	5	15	5	6	5
Cumbria	—	1	6	1	1
Greater Manchester	87	135	92	112	30
Lancashire	13	15	65	22	21
Merseyside	27	9	11	16	20
Total	132	175	179	157	77

[1] Includes the following offences:
(a) Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
(b) Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.
(c) Sale of alcohol to person under 18.
(d) Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18.
(e) Persistently selling alcohol to children.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit: Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he last reviewed his Department's performance in applying its policy of refinement, replacement and reductions in respect of animal experimentation. [287982]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government strongly support and continue to promote the development of refinement, replacement and reduction methods, commonly known as the 3Rs, wherever possible. Indeed the use of animals in scientific procedures will not be licensed if alternative non-animal techniques are available. Application of the 3Rs is kept under continuous review, and progress is

reported in a variety of ways, including the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate and Division Annual Report for 2008, published on 21 July 2009, other departmental publications, and presentations to scientific and other meetings.

Antisocial Behaviour: Alcoholic Drinks

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 16, (ii) between 16 and 19, (iii) between 20 and 25, (iv) between 26 and 30, (v) between 31 and 40, (vii) between 51 and 60 and (viii) 61 and over have been cautioned, proceeded against or received a penalty notice for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in each police force area in the last 12 months. [284833]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of males and females cautioned, proceeded against and issued with a penalty notice for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in England and Wales 2007, broken down by age group and police force area, can be viewed in tables 1, 2 and 3.

2008 data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned[1] for drunk and disorderly offences, broken down by sex, age and police force area, England and Wales, 2007[2, 3]

140101, 141101	Male age groups								
Police force area	10-15	16-19	20-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+	Total
Avon and Somerset	5	28	16	5	9	8	4	—	75
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	5	15	13	1	3	4	3	3	47
City of London	—	3	2	2	8	5	2	1	23
Cleveland	6	9	2	6	1	—	3	1	28
Cumbria	11	34	15	1	9	12	3	—	85
Derbyshire	3	9	3	—	1	—	—	1	17
Devon and Cornwall	15	88	57	25	43	45	16	6	295
Dorset	2	11	5	—	—	1	1	1	21
Durham	15	47	12	4	2	7	2	—	89
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	4	3	1	2	3	—	1	14
Greater Manchester	4	9	8	2	11	2	3	—	39
Hampshire	4	25	14	2	4	9	1	1	60
Hertfordshire	2	4	5	2	5	3	2	—	23
Humberside	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	5
Kent	20	22	20	10	9	5	2	—	88
Lancashire	16	54	58	15	34	26	6	5	214
Leicestershire	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	4
Lincolnshire	1	8	8	6	16	6	5	1	51
Merseyside	9	21	35	16	23	12	2	5	123
Metropolitan Police	—	33	114	55	89	63	19	6	379
Norfolk	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
North Yorkshire	4	13	9	3	5	5	3	3	45
Northamptonshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Northumbria	76	180	147	65	81	48	25	12	634
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	12	24	2	3	1	2	—	2	46
Staffordshire	—	5	2	1	5	2	—	1	16
Suffolk	—	6	9	3	10	6	3	1	38
Surrey	1	—	4	4	5	4	1	—	19
Sussex	14	31	31	17	17	31	10	5	156
Thames Valley	1	9	12	6	11	14	4	—	57
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	7	49	42	16	20	18	1	2	155
West Midlands	4	40	35	15	29	15	10	4	152
West Yorkshire	29	168	149	58	89	55	28	6	582
Wiltshire	1	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	8
Dyfed-Powys	8	31	8	12	16	1	3	6	85
Gwent	13	83	82	35	34	18	7	2	274
North Wales	6	15	12	6	11	4	3	3	60
South Wales	2	12	9	8	6	6	4	3	50
England and Wales	298	1,095	944	409	611	444	176	85	4,062

Female

140101, 141101 Police force area	age groups 10-15	16-19	20-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+	Total
Avon and Somerset	2	11	4	—	3	3	2	—	25
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	4	4	2	1	4	1	—	—	16
City of London	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Cleveland	1	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	7
Cumbria	15	14	6	4	2	2	2	—	45
Derbyshire	3	10	—	1	3	1	—	—	18
Devon and Cornwall	30	37	18	6	19	19	3	1	133
Dorset	2	2	2	2	1	—	—	—	9
Durham	16	18	7	1	4	2	3	—	51
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	4
Greater Manchester	6	4	[illegible]	—	2	1	—	—	14
Hampshire	4	11	4	2	2	1	1	—	25
Hertfordshire	1	2	2	1	1	—	2	—	9
Humberside	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Kent	12	5	4	1	4	—	3	—	29
Lancashire	16	50	21	5	19	17	7	—	135
Leicestershire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Lincolnshire	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	4
Merseyside	13	12	2	4	8	1	—	3	43
Metropolitan Police	—	13	34	8	16	14	6	1	92
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	8	10	1	1	2	2	1	—	25
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	75	98	48	13	33	27	6	3	303
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	17	7	3	1	1	2	—	1	32
Staffordshire	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Suffolk	1	3	—	1	—	1	1	1	8
Surrey	3	3	1	—	3	2	1	—	13
Sussex	11	16	3	4	10	7	1	2	54
Thames Valley	6	4	2	3	2	2	—	—	19
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	3	18	13	4	8	5	—	—	51
West Midlands	9	24	10	4	7	9	2	1	66
West Yorkshire	38	65	48	18	50	23	4	—	246
Wiltshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dyfed-Powys	3	9	5	—	4	3	3	—	27
Gwent	13	17	19	10	18	12	1	1	91
North Wales	3	7	1	2	2	3	2	—	20
South Wales	2	12	—	—	3	3	1	—	21
England and Wales	321	496	265	100	232	165	53	14	1,646

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for drunk and disorderly offences, broken down by age, sex and police force area, England and Wales 2007[1, 2]

Male

Police force area	age groups 10-15	16-19	20-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+	Total
Avon and Somerset	4	35	40	24	55	62	73	18	311
Bedfordshire	1	10	11	10	25	34	4	3	98
Cambridgeshire	1	8	17	8	23	27	12	13	109
Cheshire	7	34	32	25	41	40	6	3	188

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for drunk and disorderly offences, broken down by age, sex and police force area, England and Wales 2007[1, 2]

Male

Police force area	age groups 10-15	16-19	20-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+	Total
City of London	—	—	5	3	14	26	11	—	59
Cleveland	8	16	31	12	19	22	5	1	115
Cumbria	6	78	94	45	62	49	11	3	348
Derbyshire	4	39	60	31	48	32	9	2	225
Devon and Cornwall	19	103	112	84	137	157	38	4	654
Dorset	5	24	24	13	21	23	5	4	119
Durham	13	72	37	23	22	15	9	—	191
Essex	1	19	45	23	49	35	13	3	188
Gloucestershire	—	8	11	7	9	7	2	—	44
Greater Manchester	8	37	68	24	63	49	20	3	272
Hampshire	7	38	64	31	48	41	16	1	246
Hertfordshire	—	8	5	6	18	10	4	2	53
Humberside	1	16	6	4	18	9	7	—	61
Kent	14	57	71	35	107	78	19	7	388
Lancashire	31	125	146	84	112	106	23	6	633
Leicestershire	—	4	7	3	7	7	8	—	36
Lincolnshire	—	12	20	7	15	11	4	—	69
Merseyside	19	147	301	119	238	142	38	19	1,023
Metropolitan Police	9	46	140	129	288	266	86	34	998
Norfolk	—	18	24	12	37	15	10	—	116
North Yorkshire	1	25	44	29	70	53	22	8	252
Northamptonshire	1	3	1	2	6	2	2	1	18
Northumbria	106	902	1,165	464	577	312	112	25	3,663
Nottinghamshire	3	28	63	46	49	33	11	4	237
South Yorkshire	17	68	141	71	101	111	19	5	533
Staffordshire	4	24	31	15	27	37	13	4	155
Suffolk	—	12	21	14	19	19	9	2	96
Surrey	—	7	25	30	35	30	22	4	153
Sussex	7	62	71	44	116	89	42	6	437
Thames Valley	2	38	52	21	42	47	19	3	224
Warwickshire	—	12	10	8	6	7	5	—	48
West Mercia	3	95	138	53	63	38	11	11	412
West Midlands	3	159	231	132	319	199	71	16	1,130
West Yorkshire	29	201	315	179	347	247	78	21	1,415
Wiltshire	1	6	20	7	28	18	7	5	92
Dyfed-Powys	3	26	35	14	37	20	22	10	167
Gwent	4	57	82	42	60	44	15	8	312
North Wales	6	39	35	21	36	45	20	2	204
South Wales	5	28	36	22	46	40	11	2	190
England and Wales	354	2,746	3,887	1,976	3,460	2,654	942	263	16,282

Female

Police force area	age groups 10-15	16-19	20-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+	Total
Avon and Somerset	5	6	5	3	9	5	3	—	36
Bedfordshire	1	6	3	1	3	7	2	—	23
Cambridgeshire	1	5	2	1	5	4	1	—	19
Cheshire	1	6	4	4	6	14	2	—	37
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	8	3	1	4	4	3	—	—	25
Cumbria	9	13	9	6	8	20	7	—	72
Derbyshire	2	5	9	4	6	4	2	—	32
Devon and Cornwall	11	39	11	10	19	12	7	—	109
Dorset	2	4	3	—	5	3	—	—	19
Durham	4	20	13	3	9	3	—	—	52
Essex	1	3	4	4	6	1	—	—	19
Gloucestershire	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	4
Greater Manchester	1	9	4	2	5	5	2	—	28

Female

Police force area	age groups 10-15	16-19	20-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+	Total
Hampshire	3	9	6	5	13	4	1	—	41
Hertfordshire	1	—	—	1	3	5	1	—	11
Humberside	2	4	3	—	—	2	1	—	12
Kent	13	20	10	8	9	13	3	—	76
Lancashire	13	32	23	16	13	23	2	—	122
Leicestershire	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	5
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	7
Merseyside	4	27	29	14	52	39	12	3	180
Metropolitan Police	15	17	13	9	30	27	10	2	123
Norfolk	1	2	1	4	7	4	1	—	20
North Yorkshire	8	17	4	4	11	5	7	1	57
Northamptonshire	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	5
Northumbria	56	183	141	74	119	62	19	1	655
Nottinghamshire	1	3	4	2	7	6	2	—	25
South Yorkshire	7	18	24	7	17	10	2	—	85
Staffordshire	6	9	5	3	5	10	8	—	46
Suffolk	—	3	2	3	5	1	—	—	14
Surrey	—	8	1	2	10	12	5	—	38
Sussex	6	14	14	6	21	24	1	—	86
Thames Valley	6	4	1	3	10	11	2	—	37
Warwickshire	1	3	—	2	1	—	1	—	8
West Mercia	5	16	6	7	2	5	2	—	43
West Midlands	8	30	21	25	19	26	5	—	134
West Yorkshire	15	49	45	45	53	41	6	—	254
Wiltshire	1	—	2	—	3	8	1	—	15
Dyfed-Powys	2	10	7	8	5	20	—	—	52
Gwent	9	13	6	6	11	5	8	1	59
North Wales	1	6	5	1	11	12	1	—	37
South Wales	4	4	6	3	5	10	1	—	33
England and Wales	234	627	451	301	531	471	131	9	2,755

[1] These data are an the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 3: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for being drunk and disorderly[1] by police force area and age group, 2007[2]

Male

Police force area	age groups 16-19	20-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-80	61+	Total
Avon and Somerset	53	74	27	49	18	6	2	229
Bedfordshire	39	92	28	46	22	7	2	236
Cambridgeshire	72	113	60	63	51	17	4	380
Cheshire	114	169	72	88	44	12	4	503
City of London	12	87	59	65	25	4	—	252
Cleveland	105	138	68	68	44	9	1	433
Cumbria	137	226	77	107	52	16	5	620
Derbyshire	190	201	79	114	49	22	6	661
Devon and Cornwall	392	528	224	190	108	47	11	1,500
Dorset	41	68	32	23	15	4	2	185
Durham	172	295	81	110	66	14	2	740
Essex	81	141	67	56	49	9	3	406
Gloucestershire	28	30	17	20	17	7	1	120
Greater Manchester	73	102	39	62	35	8	4	323
Hampshire	113	190	61	91	46	9	2	512
Hertfordshire	71	90	26	24	21	13	1	246
Humberside	159	177	74	97	56	12	3	578
Kent	476	632	241	305	195	62	17	1,928
Lancashire	1,273	1,609	613	752	412	105	31	4,795
Leicestershire	58	141	72	61	39	8	2	381
Lincolnshire	15	28	12	11	3	2	—	71

Table 3: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for being drunk and disorderly[1] by police force area and age group, 2007[2]

Male

Police force area	16-19	20-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-80	61+	Total
	age groups							
Merseyside	751	1,076	416	508	333	98	34	3,216
Metropolitan Police	308	857	511	738	424	127	47	3,012
Norfolk	55	83	32	55	21	8	—	254
Northamptonshire	66	121	43	49	32	6	—	317
Northumbria	927	1,457	541	562	300	70	22	3,879
North Yorkshire	243	322	115	148	80	21	8	937
Nottinghamshire	129	205	71	77	41	11	2	536
South Yorkshire	539	869	306	364	160	32	12	2,282
Staffordshire	97	114	41	58	41	9	8	368
Suffolk	25	24	10	12	8	2	3	84
Surrey	69	74	38	40	36	14	—	271
Sussex	317	486	189	214	108	38	9	1,361
Thames Valley	62	119	48	43	31	10	2	315
Warwickshire	26	37	11	15	8	6	—	103
West Mercia	145	208	69	74	29	8	3	536
West Midlands	744	1,220	446	537	297	83	22	3,349
West Yorkshire	589	854	324	352	190	57	10	2,376
Wiltshire	64	103	29	31	28	4	4	263
Dyfed-Powys	59	74	34	46	24	10	3	250
Gwent	52	68	28	19	13	3	6	189
North Wales	284	349	129	167	85	36	4	1,054
South Wales	73	100	37	53	26	7	9	305
British Transport Police	84	203	101	201	137	39	11	776
England and Wales	9,382	14,154	5,598	6,765	3,819	1,092	322	41,132

Female

Police force area	16-19	20-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+	Total
	age groups							
Avon and Somerset	9	6	4	7	9	1	—	36
Bedfordshire	5	7	5	7	4	1	—	29
Cambridgeshire	11	16	3	3	11	3	1	48
Cheshire	19	26	17	20	16	4	—	102
City of London	4	6	8	10	4	—	—	32
Cleveland	25	25	13	25	20	2	3	113
Cumbria	17	28	17	27	29	1	1	120
Derbyshire	34	21	18	23	19	5	—	120
Devon and Cornwall	57	68	26	45	35	10	1	242
Dorset	5	3	2	9	3	—	—	22
Durham	28	52	19	35	18	10	—	162
Essex	9	26	10	12	12	2	1	72
Gloucestershire	9	3	1	6	1	—	—	20
Greater Manchester	23	19	6	11	9	3	1	72
Hampshire	22	14	9	17	9	1	1	73
Hertfordshire	14	11	4	3	10	—	—	42
Humberside	25	36	9	11	15	1	—	97
Kent	75	78	45	81	48	10	2	339
Lancashire	286	289	154	221	133	18	2	1,103
Leicestershire	8	19	6	8	7	1	—	49
Lincolnshire	1	1	1	2	1	—	—	6
Merseyside	161	185	74	133	111	13	2	679
Metropolitan Police	60	100	75	133	88	20	6	482
Norfolk	2	8	3	12	5	—	—	30
Northamptonshire	11	11	2	7	7	1	—	39
Northumbria	264	360	155	223	137	20	1	1,160
North Yorkshire	56	30	12	35	18	10	3	164
Nottinghamshire	22	25	8	20	12	1	1	89
South Yorkshire	124	136	50	71	54	3	—	438

	Female age groups							
Police force area	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61+*	*Total*
Staffordshire	12	20	8	15	6	2	2	65
Suffolk	2	2	1	6	2	1	—	14
Surrey	14	12	8	11	18	8	2	73
Sussex	65	52	35	53	33	9	3	250
Thames Valley	13	15	3	3	12	2	—	48
Warwickshire	8	4	2	2	1	—	—	17
West Mercia	30	19	14	15	9	3	—	90
West Midlands	117	135	67	93	72	15	4	503
West Yorkshire	112	126	63	105	64	8	—	478
Wiltshire	9	8	2	6	6	3	—	34
Dyfed-Powys	1	12	3	10	9	1	—	36
Gwent	4	2	3	9	2	2	—	21
North Wales	48	32	14	40	21	11	1	167
South Wales	8	15	12	10	13	2	—	60
British Transport Police	7	11	8	36	22	8	2	94
England and Wales	1,836	2,074	999	1,630	1,135	216	40	7,930

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which benefits in *(a)* cash and *(b)* kind his Department provides for asylum seekers awaiting a decision on their case who are (i) single, (ii) accompanied by their spouse or partner, (iii) have a partner and one child, (iv) have a partner and two children and (v) have a partner and three children. [283597]

Mr. Woolas: Under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 asylum seekers and their dependants are not permitted to access the mainstream system of welfare benefits.

Asylum seekers and their dependants who need support to avoid destitution are given it by the UK Border Agency from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is fully determined. Support takes the form of subsistence, accommodation or both.

Accommodation is fully furnished and includes all utilities and council tax payment. It is provided through a series of target contracts which the UK Border Agency has entered into with both public and private sector accommodation providers.

From 6 July 2009, levels of subsistence support will be per week £35.13 for a single asylum seeker aged 18 to 24 or £42.16 for a single asylum seeker aged over 25; £69.57 for an asylum seeker accompanied by a spouse or partner; £120.38 for an asylum seeker with a partner and one child under 16; £171.19 for an asylum seeker with a partner and two children under 16; £222.00 for an asylum seeker with a partner and three children under 16.

From 5 October 2009, all new single applicants without children will receive £35.13 a week regardless of age.

The regulations updating asylum support rates were laid before Parliament on 11 June 2009.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of legacy asylum applications which will be decided by the 2011 target date. [287778]

Mr. Woolas: The previous Home Secretary informed Parliament in July 2006 of

"the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's case load of around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records, which as hon. Members also know, are riddled with duplication and errors, and include cases of individuals who have since died or left the country, or are now EU citizens."

She committed to tackling this case load in five years or less. The Case Resolution Directorate as made good progress and remain committed and on track to conclude these cases by summer 2011.

Asylum Seekers: Detention of Children

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of stay of a child aged 16 years or under in an immigration removal centre was in each of the last four years. [288513]

Alan Johnson: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only by checking individual records over the period requested at a disproportionate cost.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children aged 16 years and under were detained in each asylum and immigration centre in each month in each of the last two years. [288555]

Alan Johnson: Statistics on persons (including children) entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers in the first two quarters of 2009 will be published for the first time in August 2009 in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—Q2 2009 and on a quarterly basis thereafter. Copies of this bulletin will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Information outside this time period is not available.

Asylum: Bahrain

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Bahrain nationals have been granted asylum in the UK. [267846]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide information on people currently receiving asylum in the UK. People who have previously applied for or been granted asylum may not now currently reside in the UK. The number of Bahrain nationals who have applied for asylum in the UK between 2001 and 2008 was 10 principal applicants. The number who have been granted asylum at initial decision between 2001 and 2008 was five. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period.

Information on main asylum nationalities is published annually and quarterly. The latest quarterly statistics were published on 24 February 2009 and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum: Families

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an assessment of the merits of granting children who have remained in their country of origin while their parents have claimed asylum in the UK the right to join their parents in circumstances in which their parents are unable to return to their country of origin; and if he will make a statement. [286938]

Mr. Woolas: There are no provisions under the immigrations rules which allow the family members of an asylum seeker to apply for entry clearance to join an individual here in the United Kingdom (UK) while an asylum claim is pending.

The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) recognises that families become fragmented because of the speed and manner in which a person seeking asylum has fled to the UK, therefore we allow dependants arriving at a later date to be added to a main applicants asylum claim, providing an initial decision has not yet been made on the asylum claim.

Where an individual's claim for asylum has been successful, their minor children may apply for immediate family reunion under paragraph 352D of the immigration rules.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an assessment of the merits of extending the right to automatic family reunion to people claiming asylum from persecution who are granted the right to live in the UK under the Legacy programme; and if he will make a statement. [286939]

Mr. Woolas: From 30 August 2005 individuals qualifying for asylum, including those qualifying under the Legacy programme, are normally granted five years limited leave to remain (LTR). Individuals who qualified for asylum prior to this date were granted indefinite leave to remain (ILR).

The family reunion provisions contained in paragraph 352A-FI of the immigration rules, allows individuals granted asylum (either five years LTR or ILR) and those benefiting from a grant of five years humanitarian protection (HP) to sponsor an application for family reunion immediately, upon their grant of leave.

The right to sponsor an application under family reunion provisions will fall away once the sponsor has obtained their British citizenship and family members will be expected to apply under the general settlement rules, laid out in part 8 of the immigration rules.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an assessment of the merits of granting children who have remained in their country of origin and who have reached the age of 18 years in the period during which their parents have been seeking asylum in the UK, the right to join their parents in the UK on the settlement of their parents' asylum claim if they turn 18 during the period in which the claim is being settled; and if he will make a statement. [286940]

Mr. Woolas: Family reunion is intended to allow family members (that is, those who formed the part of the family unit prior to the time that the sponsor fled to seek protection) to reunite with their sponsors who are recognised refugees or are benefiting from humanitarian protection (post 30 August 2005) in the UK.

Only pre-existing families are eligible for family reunion under the provisions of the immigration rules, paragraph 352A-FI, that is the spouse, civil partner, unmarried/same sex partner and minor children who formed part of the family unit at the time the sponsor fled to seek asylum.

Family members who do not meet the requirements of the family reunion provisions may still be considered for family reunion if compassionate and compelling circumstances exist. Each case is considered on its individual merits.

British Nationality

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted UK citizenship in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [288009]

Mr. Woolas: The latest quarterly figures were published in Table 4b in the 'Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—First Quarter 2009' available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq109.pdf

A copy of the table follows:

Table 4b: Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom by basis of grant and refusal, Q4 2006 to Q1 2009

	Grants by basis of grant					
	Total grants	Residence	Marriage	Minor Children	Other	Total refusals
2006 Q4	36,465	19,675	5,360	10,200	1,235	3,295
2007 Q1	44,610	24,230	6,620	11,970	1,790	4,185
2007 Q2	40,370	21,250	7,250	10,265	1,610	3,155
2007 Q3	43,770	23,590	8,955	9,730	1,485	4,170
2007 Q4	35,890	18,715	7,600	8,565	1,010	4,115
2008 Q1	34,875	18,220	7,685	8,115	855	2,575
2008 Q2	23,325	10,575	4,460	7,230	1,060	1,860
2008 Q3	32,220	16,185	8,005	7,040	995	2,310
2008 Q4	38,955	20,735	8,925	8,450	845	2,340
2009 Q1	54,615	27,720	13,455	12,545	890	2,715

Data for quarter two are scheduled for publication on 27th August 2009 and will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

British Nationality

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have had their British citizenship revoked by his Department since 19 February 2001; and how many such individuals have been *(a)* removed, *(b)* deported and *(c)* excluded from the UK. [283819]

Mr. Woolas: Three individuals have been deprived of their British citizen status since 2001. A fourth has had a deprivation order served but the deprivation has not yet come into effect. None of these four have been removed or deported because two, who are overseas, have been excluded following deprivation. One of these has appealed against the deprivation decision. There is no right of appeal against exclusion.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1482W, on community relations: finance, what the title is of each of the 33 projects aimed at disrupting violent extremism. [271522]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 906-07W.

Crime: West Yorkshire Police Force

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate for West Yorkshire police force was in each year since 1996-97. [288659]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the tables.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in total detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstance.

There are other changes affecting trends in detection rates that are discussed in section 3.5 of Volume 2 of 'Crime in England Wales 2008/09' which has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Table 1: Detection rates in West Yorkshire

	Detection rate (percentage)
1996	24
1997	27

Table 2: Detection rates in West Yorkshire 1998-99 to 2001-02[1,2]

	Detection rate (percentage)
1998-99	27
1999-2000	25
2000-01	23
2001-02	19

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
[2] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Detection rates in West Yorkshire 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

	Detection rate (percentage)
2002-03	20
2003-04	20
2004-05	25
2005-06	28
2006-07	29
2007-08	24
2008-09	26

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crimes of Violence: Yorkshire

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes of violence against the person and *(b)* crimes were recorded in (i) West Yorkshire and (ii) Hemsworth constituency in each year since 1996-97. [289059]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the following tables.

Statistics for Hemsworth are not collected centrally. Figures have been provided for the Wakefield local authority area which includes Hemsworth.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in West Yorkshire and Wakefield, 1996 and 1997

		Number of offences
Area and offence	1996	1997
West Yorkshire		
Violence against the person	8,376	8,183
Total recorded crime	268,716	244,142

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in West Yorkshire and Wakefield, 1996 and 1997

Number of offences

Area and offence	*1996*	*1997*
Wakefield		
Violence against the person	n/a	n/a
Total recorded crime	n/a	n/a

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in West Yorkshire and Wakefield, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1, 2]

Number of offences

Area and offence	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
West Yorkshire				
Violence against the person	16,683	17,738	17,091	19,104
Total recorded crime	273,809	260,237	258,908	298,845
Wakefield				
Violence against the person	n/a	2,630	2,412	2,632
Total recorded crime	n/a	n/a	n/a	35,053

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
[2] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police in West Yorkshire and Wakefield, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

Number of offences

Area and offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
West Yorkshire							
Violence against the person	30,850	45,864	44,609	48,879	43,267	39,027	34,573
Total recorded crime	322,794	325,556	263,534	258,887	249,670	228,195	217,223
Wakefield							
Violence against the person	4,208	7,225	6,715	7,924	7,330	6,250	5,381
Total recorded crime	42,220	48,302	37,573	37,847	35,407	31,161	29,732

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to end the system of enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosures; and if he will make a statement. [288636]

Mr. Hanson: Part V of the Police Act 1997 which underpins the disclosure service makes provision for the issue of three levels of disclosure: basic, standard and enhanced. The disclosure service plays a vital role in the enabling organisations to make better informed and safer recruitment decisions. There are no plans to end this system or indeed cease the issuing of enhanced criminal records checks (enhanced disclosures).

Criminal Records Bureau: Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals in each region have undergone *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four and *(d)* five or more standard or enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks in respect of posts which would require their names to be added to the list maintained under the (i) Protection of Children Act 1999 and (ii) Protection of Vulnerable Adults Act 2003 in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [288172]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 138-39W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by the Criminal Records Bureau was to undertake checks in respect of individuals applying for posts which would require their names to be added to the list maintained under the *(a)* Protection of Children Act 1999 and *(b)* Protection of Vulnerable Adults Act 2003 in each police force area in each of the last (i) five years and (ii) 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [288173]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80W.

Cyber Security

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure that measures adopted to protect cyber security respect human rights. [286999]

Mr. Hanson: As with all national security activity, it is vital that Government powers are used proportionately and in a way that is consistent with individual liberty. The UK's Cyber Security Strategy sets out in unambiguous terms the need to preserve and protect the rights to which we are accustomed, and to build a strong ethical foundation for activity to provide security in and through cyber space. As part of the cross-Government programme of cyber security work announced on 25 June 2009, the Government will establish an Ethics Advisory Committee to advise on this issue and the House will be updated on its membership.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Cyber Security Operations Centre will work in co-operation with the Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence. [287002]

Mr. Hanson: The Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC) will be established to bring together existing multi-agency efforts to provide situational awareness, analysis and incident response co-ordination in the cyber security field. It will co-ordinate its activities internationally with appropriate allied organisations and, where appropriate, enable the enhancement of existing departmental linkages.

The United Kingdom is fully supportive of this Estonian-hosted Cyber Defence initiative and their endeavours in this important area. As a NATO accredited entity, the MOD has acted as the UK's interface to the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, providing participation in events sponsored by the Centre and specific mutually beneficial workstreams.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how he plans to improve knowledge of cyber security among *(a)* citizens, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* other Government Departments; [287003]

(2) how he plans to reduce the impact of cyber operations on UK interests; [287004]

(3) how he plans to reduce the vulnerability of UK interests to cyber warfare operations; [287005]

(4) how he plans to reduce the likelihood of potential adversaries launching a cyber attack against the UK; [287006]

(5) what steps he plans to take to involve *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* business and *(c)* international partners in the cyber security strategy; [287007]

(6) what recent discussions he had with cyber security experts from higher education institutions on implementing the cyber security strategy. [287008]

Mr. Hanson: The Government's Cyber Security Strategy, published last month, announced new governance structures and a cross-Government programme of work in pursuit of the UK's strategic cyber security objectives. These objectives include reducing the risks and exploiting the opportunities from our use of cyber space through improving knowledge, capabilities and decision-making.

These objectives will be delivered through eight new workstreams, overseen by the Office of Cyber Security and supported by the Cyber Security Operations Centre:

Workstream 1: Safe, secure and Resilient Systems

Workstream 2: Policy, Doctrine, Legal and Regulatory Issues

Workstream 3: Awareness and Culture Change

Workstream 4: Skills and Education

Workstream 5: Technical Capabilities and Research and Development

Workstream 6: Exploitation

Workstream 7: International Engagement

Workstream 8: Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

These workstreams will build on existing work to take forward the Government's plans for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks. They also describe how the Government would improve knowledge and awareness of the issues and the range of stakeholders who will be involved in the process, including the public.

As the Strategy makes clear, this programme will be delivered through a partnership approach comprising Government, organisations across all sectors, and the public.

Cybercrime

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition his Department uses of *(a)* cyber terrorism and *(b)* cyber warfare. [286945]

Mr. Hanson: Broadly, an act of 'cyber terrorism' refers to a non-physical attack by terrorists on our information and communications infrastructure. As the UK's Cyber Security Strategy makes clear, terrorists and violent extremists also make use of cyberspace for purposes such as communication, co-ordination, propaganda, fundraising, radicalisation and recruitment. However, due to the inherent challenges associated with attributing responsibility for actions in cyberspace, our security approach aims to address the range of threats which may manifest in the cyber domain rather than seeking to categorise specific actions as cyber terrorism.

There is an ongoing and broad debate regarding what 'cyber warfare' might entail. However, it is clear that the defence and exploitation of information systems are increasingly important for national security and we recognise the need to develop military and civil capabilities to ensure that we can defend against attack and take steps against adversaries where necessary.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce levels of *(a)* cyber attacks and *(b)* other cross-jurisdictional crimes affecting the UK. [286947]

Mr. Hanson: The Government's Cyber Security Strategy, published last month, announced new governance structures and programmes of work in pursuit of the UK's strategic cyber security objectives.

The Office of Cyber Security (OCS), based in the Cabinet Office, will be established in September 2009 to provide strategic leadership for and coherence across Government on all cyber security issues. These include measures to improve the security and resilience of critical systems in the public and private sector, enhance our ability to detect cyber attacks and work to develop international law and doctrines of national defence in cyberspace.

The Government have also recently published "Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime". Organised crime is an international business, for example, trafficking in drugs or illegal immigrants. In addition, much e-crime is committed by individuals outside the UK's borders.

We need to act wherever we can have the greatest impact on reducing the harms to the UK and its citizens. That is why we have operational footprint across the world, including in South America, Africa and Afghanistan. SOCA work with Spanish authorities, for example, has led to the arrest of 101 subjects who had fled from UK justice to Spain. Among these there have been 25 drug traffickers, 12 individuals wanted for murder and eight money launderers.

International work can be the most effective way to cut organised crime profits, bring criminals to justice and reduce the harms caused in the UK.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cyber attacks have been detected against *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the UK Border Agency in the last five years. [288552]

Alan Johnson: The Government consider a range of information on such issues and take appropriate steps where necessary. It would not be in the interests of national security to provide information about specific threats and attacks, either in terms of the type of threat, the method or the target, as this could aid potential adversaries.

Cyberspace

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has held with his US and European counterparts on a multilateral approach to securing cyberspace. [287001]

Mr. Hanson: The Cabinet Office currently provides the lead for policy on cyber security and has, supported by representatives from across Government, continued to engage closely with international partners during the development of the UK's recently published Cyber Security Strategy.

As the strategy explains, the security of cyberspace is a transnational issue and, as such, working with international partners and organisations, including those in the US and Europe, is essential to achieving the UK's strategic cyber security objectives.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287332]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has published the 2008-09 resource accounts in the Journal Office. Copies are available in the Vote Office, shortly after they are laid. The Department expects to publish the 2008-09 resource accounts within one month of laying the typescript accounts.

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287802]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Glover report and is working to achieve these. It has the ability to identify small and medium-enterprises (SMEs) on its system and currently has 1,883 registered.

The Department does not capture company size information in relation to number of employees below that of the definition of SMEs, which are enterprises that employ fewer than 250 employees.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many facilities management contracts have been let by his Department in each of the last 12 years. [288375]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* This information is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff at each pay band in his Department and its agencies had been *(a)* suspended on full pay and *(b)* on sick pay for (i) over 12 months, (ii) six to 12 months and (iii) three to six months at the latest date for which figures are available. [285787]

Alan Johnson: There are currently 26,099 staff in the Home Office and its agencies. Of those 26,000:

(a) 93 are suspended on full pay

(b) (i) None have been on paid sickness absence for more that 12 months. Home Office policy is to cease paying staff whose sickness absence exceeds 12 months. (ii) Fewer than 178 have been on paid sickness absence for between six and 12 months. (iii) Fewer than 651 have been on paid sickness absence for between three and six months.

Detailed breakdowns of suspensions and sickness absences by pay band are attached. It is not possible to provide precise answers to *(b)* (ii) and (iii) as the detailed breakdown by pay band includes groups of fewer than five. In those cases further information is withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

Table (a): questions (i) over 12 months (ii) six to 12 months and (iii) three to six months

	Home Office (including all agencies)		
Grade	*Over 12 months*	*6 to 12 months*	*3 to 6 months*
AA	[1] —	0	[1] —
AO	8	5	14
EO	16	8	20
G6	0	0	0
G7	[1] —	0	[1] —
HEO	[1] —	[1] —	6
SCS	0	0	0
SEO	0	[1] —	0

[1] Fewer than five

Notes:

1. The table includes all suspensions within the UK Border Agency, as UKBA do not centrally hold information on whether staff were suspended on full pay.
2. Where fewer than five members of staff have been suspended, further information has been withheld on confidentiality grounds.

Table (b) (ii) Home Office staff paid sickness absences accrued 6 to 12 months

Grade	*Home Department*
AA	26
AO	59
EO	55
HEO	27
SEO	6
G7	[1] —
G6	0

Table (b) (ii) Home Office staff paid sickness absences accrued 6 to 12 months

Grade	Home Department
SCS	0

[1] Fewer than five

Table (b) (iii) Home Office staff paid sickness absences accrued 3 to 6 months

Grade	Home Department
AA	98
AO	247
EO	203
HEO	57
SEO	26
G7	12
G6	[1] —
SCS	[1] —

[1] Fewer than five

Notes:

1. Figures represent number of staff whose total sick absences during the period accrued to the relevant duration in each table
2. Period covered—1 June 2008 to 31 May 2009

Source:

Home Office Data view May 2009

Departmental Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the nationalities are of employees based in his Department's Abu Dhabi hub. [272747]

Alan Johnson: For staff security reasons, My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration will write to the hon. Gentleman in confidence with the information he has requested.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of the (i) male and (ii) female employees in his Department was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287557]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Civil service statistics are collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from annual civil service employment surveys (ACSES). The latest published statistics are for 31 March 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/ce0109.pdf

ONS collects the annual gross salary of civil servants and does not produce hourly rates of pay.

Departmental Nurseries

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what crèche facilities his Department provides for its employees working in Whitehall. [282232]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* The Home Office does not provide crèche (nursery) facilities for its staff. The Department does however operate a Childcare Voucher Salary Sacrifice Scheme which is open to all staff at all locations. In addition Home Office staff are able to use the Westminster holiday playscheme at subsidised rates. This scheme is run during the school holidays for children aged between four-12 and provision is shared by a number of Government Departments.

In addition to childcare support the Home Office also has in place a range of policies to help staff who are working parents balance work and home. These include enhanced maternity, adoption and paternity pay, flexible working patterns, for example, part time working and job sharing as well as special paid and unpaid leave provision.

Departmental Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1639-40W, on official cars, how many of the cars *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies are over six years old. [276777]

Mr. Woolas: The four cars are owned by the UK Border Agency.

Cars leased by the Home Department and its executive agencies are usually returned to the lease company at or shortly after three years.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282894]

Mr. Woolas: No section of the Home Office, nor any of the non-departmental public bodies for which the Home Office is responsible, has requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in its 2009 pay offer to staff.

Departmental Procurement

Lovely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover report in its procurement processes. [287141]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department is fully participating in the work and has representation on the boards of the cross-departmental projects set up by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Office of Government Commerce for the implementation of the Glover Report recommendations.

The Home Department's progress on the implementation of the report's recommendations includes:

(a) investment in a Procurement and Commercial Toolset which enables the electronic advertisement of contract opportunities through a free online portal;

(b) migration of tender documentation to a system to issue all tender documentation electronically by 2010;

(c) work is on target for the online publication in standard format of details of contract awardees by 2010;

(d) completion of work so that the Department can clearly identify its SME suppliers and report monthly on its prompt payment performance for these suppliers. SME prompt payment

performance for June 2009 is 99 per cent. of all payments made being within agreed terms;

(e) completion of work so that the Department is able to identify its SME community. Currently there are 1,883 SME suppliers who supply 25 per cent. of total invoices received each month.

In addition to implementation of the recommendations, the Department has recognised SMEs for the second year running in its annual Supplier Value Awards Programme. Work is proceeding with several SMEs on a number of strategically important tasks such as the approach to corporate social responsibility.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours the Minister of State, Borders and Immigration, spent on his Ministerial duties in the week beginning 7 June 2009. [282129]

Mr. Woolas: I had a full diary of official duties.

Deportation: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 729W, on immigration: deportation, what the cost to the public purse was of engaging contractors to facilitate the removal of individuals deported by the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [287392]

Mr. Woolas: The value of contracts between the UK Border Agency and its escorting suppliers is commercially sensitive and cannot therefore be disclosed.

Deportation: Prisoners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much compensation has been awarded to foreign national prisoners held in custody beyond the expiry of their sentence while awaiting deportation in each month in each of the last five years. [286689]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* A breakdown of compensation paid by the UK Border Agency to foreign national prisoners held in custody beyond the expiry of their sentence made from April 2008 to June 2009 is outlined in the following table:

Month/year	£
April 2008	36,590.00
May 2008	36,590.00
June 2008	7,500.00
July 2008	78,500.00
August 2008	23,000.00
September 2008	24,000.00
October 2008	19,000.00
November 2008	41,329.29
December 2008	15,000.00
January 2009	750.00
February 2009	34,500.00
March 2009	67,727.92
April 2009	54,500.00
May 2009	20,000.00
June 2009	18,000.00
Total	498,897.21

A breakdown of the monthly compensation figures of foreign national prisoners before April 2008 is unavailable.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on deporting people to Zimbabwe. [278556]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 10 June 2009]:* We keep our policy on enforced returns to Zimbabwe under constant review. Since the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal RN-returnees-country guidance judgment last November, all cases are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Those asylum seekers deemed to need protection will be granted it. Where the independent courts have confirmed that it is safe for an individual to return home, we do not consider that it is right to ask the UK taxpayer to support them. Instead we expect those not at risk to return home and hundreds of Zimbabweans have done so since we halted the enforced return of failed asylum seekers in September 2006. Any failed asylum seeker who is unable to return home through no fault of their own can apply for support.

Detainees

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Norfolk of 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 404W, on detainees, if he will make it his policy to collect information on the number of people detained on the basis of evidence which had not been disclosed to the detainee. [286241]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not intend to introduce a system to collect statistics on the number of persons detained without charge on the basis of evidence which had not been disclosed to the detainee.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each police authority area were found to be driving *(a)* without a licence, *(b)* without insurance, *(c)* under the influence of drink and *(d)* under the influence of drugs in each of the last 10 years. [279596]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of defendants found guilty for the offences requested, covering 1998 to 2007 (latest available), are provided in tables 1 to 3 below:

Table 1: Findings of guilt at all courts for the offence Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence, in England and Wales, by police force area, 1998-2007[1,2]

Number of offences

Police force area	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	5,215	4,970	5,451	4,896	5,778	6,517	7,120	5,612	4,779	3,455
Bedfordshire	1,354	1,121	1,242	1,661	1,835	1,960	1,933	2,006	1,752	1,358
Cambridgeshire	1,105	1,008	1,143	1,043	1,265	1,399	1,591	1,656	1,836	1,285
Cheshire	1,834	2,047	2,350	2,261	2,738	3,236	3,224	2,287	1,967	2,091
Cleveland	1,623	1,786	2,100	2,304	2,871	2,551	3,463	2,439	2,243	1,454
Cumbria	1,459	1,538	1,470	1,592	1,532	1,554	1,641	1,114	1,032	903
Derbyshire	1,761	1,896	2,204	2,466	2,774	2,800	3,679	3,589	2,496	2,441
Devon and Cornwall	1,766	1,932	2,638	2,699	3,205	3,469	3,350	2,639	2,629	2,113
Dorset	1,132	1,396	1,614	1,645	1,915	2,350	1,954	1,912	1,679	1,179
Durham	1,753	2,665	2,430	2,791	2,934	2,885	2,514	1,785	1,343	1,403
Essex	1,991	2,348	2,809	2,940	2,832	2,945	3,000	3,156	3,027	3,169
Gloucestershire	1,488	1,630	1,527	1,547	1,245	1,370	1,341	1,238	1,096	989
Greater Manchester	12,423	14,407	15,103	17,580	18,207	20,043	18,852	15,896	12,941	9,051
Hampshire	3,869	4,331	4,094	4,166	4,802	4,717	4,526	3,754	3,046	3,085
Hertfordshire	1,333	1,351	1,813	2,092	2,594	3,211	3,406	3,629	3,283	2,387
Humberside	1,818	2,137	2,235	2,075	2,107	2,660	2,763	2,645	2,664	1,956
Kent	2,022	1,771	3,195	3,770	4,245	4,575	5,197	4,281	3,769	2,825
Lancashire	6,333	6,230	6,717	5,978	6,998	8,773	6,538	7,402	5,785	4,813
Leicestershire	3,257	3,811	3,708	3,874	4,245	4,951	4,889	3,302	2,689	1,785
Lincolnshire	1,830	2,064	1,958	1,758	1,810	2,468	3,050	2,281	2,103	1,363
London, City of	698	596	407	481	707	946	830	848	907	695
Merseyside	4,291	4,086	4,892	4,630	5,533	7,094	6,961	5,787	3,619	4,350
Metropolitan Police	11,424	11,129	11,332	12,806	15,403	19,486	24,210	24,725	25,063	24,614
Norfolk	1,288	1,619	1,296	1,465	1,754	2,367	2,092	1,799	1,365	1,356
Northamptonshire	1,519	2,335	1,665	856	458	1,946	3,051	2,185	1,338	1,184
Northumbria	4,607	5,441	5,598	5,054	5,774	6,206	5,864	5,972	5,463	4,315
North Yorkshire	1,162	1,324	1,222	1,017	1,017	1,201	1,271	1,194	1,196	1,031
Nottinghamshire	3,341	3,201	3,415	3,622	3,563	4,648	4,935	4,151	3,235	3,011
South Yorkshire	3,913	4,639	4,808	5,740	6,065	5,734	4,937	5,156	4,511	3,066
Staffordshire	2,683	3,140	3,970	2,645	3,190	3,513	3,948	3,710	3,073	2,314
Suffolk	952	1,182	1,093	1,320	1,554	1,977	1,994	1,479	1,234	1,016
Surrey	742	1,039	1,196	1,394	1,509	1,295	1,490	1,541	1,359	2,004
Sussex	1,925	2,028	1,943	2,057	1,900	1,817	1,654	1,739	1,899	1,931
Thames Valley	2,953	3,928	4,089	3,952	4,778	5,619	5,488	4,827	4,638	4,050
Warwickshire	1,202	1,110	1,233	1,365	1,356	1,775	2,259	1,986	1,685	1,444
West Mercia	3,017	3,033	3,130	3,441	3,462	3,639	3,616	3,590	3,233	2,446
West Midlands	10,847	9,541	11,371	11,446	14,760	17,729	20,070	16,268	14,693	10,023
West Yorkshire	7,388	7,991	8,299	9,363	9,457	11,191	14,631	11,613	9,166	6,565
Wiltshire	1,087	1,083	1,269	1,889	1,760	1,770	1,672	1,632	1,510	993
England	130,375	128,669	138,025	144,061	158,992	184,389	195,026	174,825	152,448	125,738
Dyfed Powys	992	967	1,080	933	1,176	1,180	872	980	807	788
Gwent	1,743	1,980	2,113	2,190	2,156	1,857	1,644	1,450	1,396	1,008
North Wales	1,698	1,622	1,592	1,382	1,733	2,690	2,866	2,009	2,229	1,758
South Wales	5,934	6,277	6,281	5,665	6,853	6,732	6,632	5,171	4,420	3,231
Wales	10,367	10,766	10,951	10,130	11,918	12,459	12,014	9,610	8,852	6,785
England and Wales	130,642	130,435	148,976	154,191	170,910	196,848	207,040	184,435	161,300	132,523

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:
The Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 2: Findings of guilt at all courts for offences for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, in England and Wales, by police force area, 1998 to 2007[1,2]

Number of offences

Police force area	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	9,945	9,419	9,578	8,455	9,766	10,633	10,925	8,741	7,483	5,874

Table 2: Findings of guilt at all courts for offences for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, in England and Wales, by police force area, 1998 to 2007[1,2]

Number of offences

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Bedfordshire	3,007	2,337	2,323	2,916	3,184	3,524	3,220	3,371	3,168	2,682
Cambridgeshire	2,526	2,250	2,226	1,989	2,298	2,728	2,678	2,854	3,456	2,631
Cheshire	3,701	3,892	4,110	3,927	4,600	5,414	5,412	3,925	3,844	4,336
Cleveland	2,939	3,058	3,597	3,643	4,325	4,017	5,124	3,851	3,410	2,352
Cumbria	2,888	2,780	2,699	2,906	2,888	2,868	2,764	2,208	2,103	2,154
Derbyshire	3,559	3,651	3,945	4,261	4,736	4,956	5,557	5,238	3,874	4,492
Devon and Cornwall	4,301	4,710	5,890	5,742	6,380	6,635	6,217	5,259	5,371	4,786
Dorset	2,792	3,021	3,548	2,986	3,388	4,276	3,634	3,594	3,222	2,638
Durham	3,103	4,488	4,338	4,361	4,632	4,535	4,065	3,212	2,460	2,610
Essex	4,672	5,061	5,356	5,417	5,401	5,487	5,368	5,459	5,373	5,759
Gloucestershire	2,903	2,876	2,548	2,692	2,297	2,599	2,451	2,064	1,889	1,825
Greater Manchester	21,620	23,842	24,020	26,600	27,805	29,827	26,939	23,087	20,472	15,658
Hampshire	8,071	8,157	7,578	7,677	8,135	8,148	7,509	6,291	5,390	5,369
Hertfordshire	3,072	2,805	3,332	3,691	4,214	5,099	5,401	5,735	5,876	4,558
Humberside	3,535	3,943	4,065	3,657	3,576	4,460	4,348	4,181	4,443	2,855
Kent	4,849	4,261	6,431	7,063	7,722	7,485	8,377	7,073	7,079	6,277
Lancashire	11,274	10,857	11,054	9,812	11,107	13,770	10,011	11,016	9,487	8,637
Leicestershire	6,289	7,312	6,752	6,849	7,435	8,114	7,822	5,379	4,370	3,173
Lincolnshire	3,478	3,758	3,321	2,970	3,070	4,298	4,781	3,921	3,883	2,893
London, City of	1,431	1,141	777	1,021	1,333	1,606	1,125	1,070	1,130	907
Merseyside	7,791	6,995	7,813	7,794	8,688	10,756	10,555	8,906	6,673	7,567
Metropolitan Police	23,048	21,033	20,247	22,677	27,307	31,703	36,707	36,242	37,280	38,214
Norfolk	3,066	3,020	2,851	3,040	3,610	4,486	3,750	3,456	3,187	2,790
Northamptonshire	3,288	4,178	2,998	1,643	913	3,261	4,671	3,621	3,126	2,067
Northumbria	8,138	9,356	9,430	9,251	9,364	9,904	9,159	9,417	8,697	7,306
North Yorkshire	2,577	2,679	2,572	2,216	2,124	2,369	2,537	2,592	2,323	2,430
Nottinghamshire	6,710	6,205	6,082	6,261	6,005	7,730	7,833	6,372	5,170	4,886
South Yorkshire	7,918	8,512	8,956	10,163	10,101	9,966	8,571	8,546	7,924	5,996
Staffordshire	5,444	5,767	6,760	4,723	5,764	6,128	6,370	6,018	5,439	4,373
Suffolk	2,288	2,557	2,330	2,387	2,862	3,594	3,548	2,744	2,509	2,026
Surrey	2,056	2,285	2,577	2,826	3,158	2,900	2,604	2,886	2,724	3,898
Sussex	4,165	4,220	3,808	4,016	3,730	3,694	3,102	3,401	3,802	3,994
Thames Valley	6,351	7,315	7,456	7,128	8,334	9,760	9,208	7,931	7,640	7,116
Warwickshire	2,410	2,205	2,316	2,672	2,395	2,905	3,438	2,970	2,993	2,461
West Mercia	5,666	5,238	5,542	5,766	5,858	6,051	5,540	5,642	5,715	4,458
West Midlands	19,144	16,495	18,010	18,221	22,202	25,557	27,734	25,108	21,612	15,517
West Yorkshire	14,875	16,105	15,649	15,934	14,043	17,101	20,308	16,344	13,832	10,048
Wiltshire	2,719	2,564	2,625	3,281	3,170	3,022	2,794	2,828	2,797	1,922
England	237,609	240,348	245,510	248,634	267,920	301,366	302,157	272,553	251,226	219,535
Dyfed Powys	1,964	2,050	2,076	1,914	2,293	2,243	1,650	1,897	1,753	1,728
Gwent	3,363	3,470	3,808	3,836	3,676	3,465	2,980	2,774	2,682	2,001
North Wales	3,323	3,104	2,848	2,565	3,003	4,542	4,797	3,348	3,979	2,940
South Wales	10,715	10,550	10,335	9,809	11,607	11,756	11,232	8,776	8,033	6,607
Wales	19,365	19,174	19,067	18,124	20,579	22,006	20,659	16,795	16,447	13,276
England and Wales	256,974	259,522	264,577	266,758	288,499	323,372	322,816	289,348	267,673	232,811

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, It is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 3: Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1]*, in England and Wales, by police force area, 1998 to 2007*[2,3]

Number of offences

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	2,566	2,728	2,462	2,197	2,401	2,666	2,692	2,595	2,457	2,490

Table 3: Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], in England and Wales, by police force area, 1998 to 2007[2,3]

Number of offences

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000[4]*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Bedfordshire	1,060	869	797	914	955	1,072	1,028	1,050	1,152	1,064
Cambridgeshire	1,060	941	793	813	852	933	1,083	1,214	1,268	1,240
Cheshire	1,903	1,827	1,652	1,529	1,993	1,905	2,128	1,709	1,866	1,804
Cleveland	870	811	777	887	921	981	1,071	959	1,032	948
Cumbria	856	871	806	761	768	843	907	853	859	868
Derbyshire	1,547	1,463	1,417	1,411	1,465	1,617	1,874	1,645	1,520	1,466
Devon and Cornwall	2,265	2,277	2,199	2,369	2,441	2,667	2,560	2,446	2,336	2,247
Dorset	1,186	1,120	1,115	1,150	1,199	1,264	1,239	1,207	1,156	1,191
Durham	1,035	1,137	1,124	1,097	1,136	1,170	1,277	1,168	1,002	1,051
Essex	2,438	2,528	2,462	2,456	2,522	2,622	2,853	2,549	2,697	2,553
Gloucestershire	985	889	804	865	926	890	913	834	812	725
Greater Manchester	4,715	4,850	4,801	4,715	4,720	4,743	4,811	4,653	4,570	4,462
Hampshire	3,597	3,7	3,472	3,464	3,846	3,663	3,743	3,372	2,993	2,974
Hertfordshire	1,672	1,679	1,552	1,666	1,894	1,904	1,881	1,836	1,860	1,830
Humberside	1,358	1,323	1,371	1,259	1,395	1,445	1,623	1,592	1,518	1,071
Kent	2,627	2,633	2,592	2,575	2,745	2,811	3,010	2,907	2,824	2,836
Lancashire	2,945	3,010	2,584	2,304	2,599	2,652	2,706	2,723	2,775	2,756
Leicestershire	1,485	1,624	1,531	1,546	1,659	1,725	1,754	1,631	1,512	1,520
Lincolnshire	979	941	816	877	847	1,111	1,209	1,176	1,274	1,233
London, City of	301	236	152	162	221	230	169	184	168	189
Merseyside	2,451	2,137	2,123	2,195	2,293	2,687	2,849	2,964	2,737	2,541
Metropolitan Police	13,889	12,414	11,801	11,260	12,905	12,621	13,227	12,887	13,075	12,237
Norfolk	1,118	1,010	935	1,143	1,220	1,274	1,240	1,265	1,335	1,246
Northamptonshire	1,062	1,058	782	399	236	799	922	853	1,016	879
Northumbria	2,457	2,463	2,621	2,529	2,588	2,747	2,675	2,561	2,559	2,482
North Yorkshire	1,205	1,124	1,073	1,066	1,119	1,194	1,131	1,244	1,261	1,194
Nottinghamshire	1,804	1,802	1,722	1,598	1,420	1,644	1,669	1,626	1,699	1,517
South Yorkshire	2,002	1,927	2,122	2,020	1,945	2,089	2,224	2,220	2,019	2,023
Staffordshire	1,955	1,711	0	1,513	1,704	1,733	1,733	1,718	1,657	1,704
Suffolk	1,042	1,089	902	920	1,105	1,213	1,332	1,103	1,158	1,058
Surrey	1,328	1,417	1,539	1,592	1,614	1,464	1,425	1,503	1,413	1,517
Sussex	2,113	2,224	2,112	2,358	2,306	2,430	2,368	2,379	2,475	2,479
Thames Valley	3,896	3,725	3,496	3,275	4,317	3,884	3,539	3,474	3,419	3,356
Warwickshire	784	856	786	880	841	918	845	871	895	994
West Mercia	1,794	1,747	1,631	1,740	1,719	1,797	1,689	1,917	2,008	1,904
West Midlands	5,582	4,775	4,559	4,914	5,050	5,233	5,584	5,693	5,554	5,483
West Yorkshire	3,669	3,597	3,375	3,220	3,564	3,720	3,897	3,863	3,587	3,429
Wiltshire	1,108	1,009	930	1,045	1,005	1,031	1,024	1,038	1,028	816
England	86,709	83,567	77,788	78,684	84,456	87,392	89,904	87,482	86,546	83,377
Dyfed Powys	995	944	858	867	927	993	986	932	927	906
Gwent	1,203	1,079	1,211	1,152	1,074	1,149	1,188	1,129	1,188	1,097
North Wales	1,306	1,248	1,332	1,227	1,270	1,326	1,349	1,364	1,335	1,297
South Wales	2,903	2,526	2,757	2,812	2,761	2,840	2,811	2,811	2,675	2,546
Wales	6,407	5,797	6,158	6,058	6,032	6,310	6,334	6,236	6,125	5,846
England and Wales	93,116	89,364	83,946	84,742	90,488	93,702	96,238	93,718	92,671	89,223

[1] Data provided cover summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be reliably distinguished separately).

[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:
The Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Drugs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the volume of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine and *(c)* cannabis to have entered the UK without detection at the point of entry in each of the last five years. [285948]

Alan Johnson: Estimates published in 2003 placed imports of cocaine powder to supply the UK cocaine markets at 35-45 tonnes and heroin at 25-35 tonnes.

There are no agreed estimates of cannabis imported into the UK.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate his Department has made of the volume of *(a)* heroin and *(b)* cocaine to have been smuggled into the UK by each method of importation in the most recent period for which figures are available. [285949]

Alan Johnson: The most recent estimates of illicit drugs smuggled into the United Kingdom are contained within the 2008-09 UK Threat Assessment published by the Serious Organised Crime Agency. There are no precise estimates of the methods of importation.

The following table shows the proportion of heroin and cocaine seized by HM Revenue and Customs and UK Border Agency officers during the financial year 2007-08, broken down by mode of transport.

	Percentage	
	Heroin	*Cocaine*
Freight	69	53
Passenger traffic	20	43
Post	4	2
Other	7	2

Emergency Services: Standards

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the name is of each Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 whose emergency procedures the Department has checked since January 2008; what the nature of the checks made was; and if he will make a statement. [287236]

Mr. Hanson: The Audit Commission works with partner inspectorates (i.e. HM Inspectorate for Constabularies, the Care Quality Inspectorate, HM Inspectorate of Prisons; HM Inspectorate of Probation and Ofsted) to assess the performance of local services in England through the comprehensive area assessment. HMIC carried out an inspection of 21 (of 43 English and Welsh) police forces between September 2008 and April 2009, examining three subjects: civil contingency planning; critical incident handling; and public order response. A consolidated report with the thematic findings of these inspections will be published in three to four weeks time.

Entry Clearance Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry clearance officers based in *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* the Abu Dhabi visa hub are fluent in the (i) Punjabi and (ii) Pashto language. [285951]

Alan Johnson: In Pakistan, one entry clearance officer is fluent in Punjabi and none are fluent in Pashto.

Twenty-four locally engaged staff members are fluent in Punjabi and two are fluent in Pashto.

Eighty-two members of Gerry's staff are fluent in Punjabi and seven are fluent in Pashto.

In Abu Dhabi, four entry clearance officers are fluent in Punjabi and none are fluent in Pashto.

Two locally engaged staff members are fluent in Punjabi and none are fluent in Pashto.

One VFS staff member is fluent in Punjabi and none are fluent in Pashto.

Applicants are required to provide certified translations of any documents that are not in English. Visa application forms have to be submitted in English. As a result, there is only a limited requirement for interpretation into local languages which can be satisfied through our locally-engaged staff.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many translators work in support of entry clearance officers in *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Abu Dhabi. [285952]

Alan Johnson: We do not require translators as all local documents are accompanied by a certified English translation. Our administrative support staff across the two locations speak Urdu, Punjabi, Pushto, Potohari, Saraiki, Sindi, Arabic, Persian, French, German, Swahili, Luganda, Lunyankole, Kinyarwanda, Pahari, Hindko and Dari, Arabic, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Mandarin, French Nepali, Filipino, Amharic, Russian and Polish. They assist with any translation needs.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* the London Borough of Hillingdon, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England applied for leave to remain in the UK outside of immigration rules in each of the last five years; and how many did not have valid leave to remain at the time of their application. [250774]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is only able to provide the total number of applications received outside of the immigration rules over the past five years.

To further breakdown the information as requested UKBA would have to:

(a) accurately determine the applicant's geographical location. This would involve trawling each application, validating the applicant's postcode, and cross-matching this with a list of postcodes for the London borough of Hillingdon.

(b) review the applicant's previous immigration history, including determining if the individual had valid leave to remain at the time of application(s). This would involve trawling each application,

reviewing any previous applications made to the Home Office to determine if the applicant's leave to remain was valid at the time of application(s).

The reasons above demonstrate why the further breakdown of information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Leave to remain (LTR): Number of applications received in the UK by UKBA outside of the immigration rules

	Number
2004-05	3,206
2005-06	4,179
2006-07	5,760
2007-08	6,196
2008-09	2,047

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many face-to-face interviews with visa applicants from *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Pakistan have been conducted by entry clearance officers based in Islamabad since 27 October 2008. [280126]

Alan Johnson: All applicants must submit their applications in person to our commercial partner Gerry's, where they are also required to give biometrics (electronic fingerprints), which are checked against immigration and criminal databases.

Supporting documents are checked by the visa section at the high commission in Islamabad for fraud and forgery. Approximately 29 visa applicants have been called in on the basis of risk assessment for face-to-face interviews in Islamabad since 27 October 2008.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency visa risk assessment officers in Abu Dhabi are working in *(a)* Canada, *(b)* Nigeria, *(c)* Kazakhstan and *(d)* New Zealand. [282945]

Mr. Woolas: Risk assessment officers based in Abu Dhabi are responsible for assessing applications from Pakistan, UAE and other Gulf posts.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an academic institution is required to register as a sponsor under the new tier 4 immigration rules if all the courses they offer for overseas students are for a period of less than six months. [285105]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* Students who enter the UK for a period of less than six months can choose whether to apply to enter under Tier 4 of the points based system or under the student visitor category.

For students entering the UK under Tier 4, the education provider must be on the register of Tier 4 sponsors.

The student visitor category is a distinct category separate from the points based system. In addition to meeting the requirements of the visitor rules the student visitor must be able to demonstrate that he has been accepted on a course of study at an institution which is:

the holder of a Sponsor Licence for Tier 4 of the Points Based System, or

accredited by a UKBA approved accreditation body, or

an overseas higher education institution offering only part of their programmes in the United Kingdom , holding their own national accreditation and offering programmes that are of an equivalent level to a United Kingdom degree.

Further information on the student visitor route is available at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/student-visitors/

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many decisions by entry clearance officers have been overturned by a Minister in each year since 1997. [285932]

Mr. Woolas: I refer to the answer my hon. Friend gave to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 22 March 2001, *Official Report*, column 317W, and to the answer given to my hon. Friend on 2 November 2001, *Official Report*, column 910W.

We have no records from this date until December 2008. Since December 2008, four decisions to refuse entry clearance to the United Kingdom have been overturned following the exercise of ministerial discretion.

Entry Clearances: Complaints

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints each visa hub has received on the issue of visas to applicants in each of the last three years. [272749]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency and its predecessor UKvisas received and recorded 1,623 complaints globally relating to visa matters in 2008. UK visas did not centrally collate this information before 2008.

To obtain further information would be at disproportionate cost. Due to the reduction of visa issuing posts during this time, it is not possible to break figures down by post.

Entry Clearances: Kosovo

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration he has given to the merits of allowing visa applications to be made at the British Embassy in Pristina. [281217]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* Nationals of Kosovo who wish to apply for UK visas are currently required to lodge their applications at our visa section in Skopje. We are, however, looking into the feasibility of opening a visa office in Pristina but have not yet reached a conclusion.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of foreign students enrolled at colleges not listed on the UK Border Agency's accreditation list; and what assessment he has made of how this affects their immigration status. [269747]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of foreign students currently enrolled at colleges which have not been granted a sponsorship licence is not held centrally and could be obtained only by investigating individual case files.

Students may continue to study at colleges which have not been granted a sponsorship licence until their current period of leave lapses. Their immigration status will be affected if they wish to seek further leave as a student. To qualify they will be required to meet the full requirements of the new rules including providing evidence that they are sponsored by a college which has been granted a licence by the UK Border Agency. Details of the new rules can be found at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/Tier4migrantguidance.pdf

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/quickguideforstudent

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas students of each *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* nationality have been granted visas to study in the UK in each of the last five years. [279317]

Alan Johnson: Please see the following table in relation to how many overseas students of each *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* nationality have been granted visas to study in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years.

	Sum of student visas issued				
Nationality	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Afghanistan	59	80	135	101	78
Albania	275	321	465	558	239
Algeria	319	265	391	512	334
Andorra	—	1	4	4	1
Angola	279	332	389	431	211
Anguilla	—	—	—	—	—
Antigua and Barbuda	7	10	22	20	31
Argentina	139	190	197	221	211
Armenia	128	137	201	192	88
Australia	775	743	758	875	1,030
Austria	—	—	—	1	—
Azerbaijan	449	489	521	614	238
Bahamas	39	81	91	85	74
Bahrain	585	555	630	640	592
Bangladesh	2,406	2,988	3,544	3,653	3,253
Barbados	107	176	163	136	131
Belarus	578	741	753	897	239
Belgium	—	—	—	1	—
Belize	5	15	18	18	15
Benin	26	38	38	26	22
Bermuda	—	1	1	—	—
Bhutan	18	14	19	16	12
Bolivia	93	116	134	100	88
Bosnia and Herzegovina	167	170	142	140	71
Botswana	254	240	329	410	327
Brazil	623	4,612	3,216	3,868	4,671
British Citizen	3	2	2	1	3
British Dependent Territories Citizen	—	—	—	1	1
British National Overseas	3,831	3,343	3,082	2,824	2,680
British Overseas Citizen	4	6	7	4	6
British Protected Person	—	—	—	—	—
British Subject	1	—	—	—	—
Brunei	424	536	660	903	961
Bulgaria	698	621	735	1	1
Burkina	20	19	18	10	20
Burma (Myanmar)	243	358	304	400	337
Burundi	11	6	8	11	6
Cambodia	38	32	33	45	33
Cameroon	418	447	458	542	308
Canada	2,223	2,457	2,559	2,919	3,343
Cape Verde	8	9	2	51	9
Cayman Islands	—	2	—	1	1
Central African Republic	9	1	4	6	3
Chad	12	8	8	15	5
Chile	200	254	337	415	407
China	22,333	18,312	21,239	24,944	27,879
Colombia	2,616	2,808	3,089	4,497	5,479
Comoros	3	5	3	1	—
Congo	96	54	63	88	52
Costa Rica	1	17	22	30	32
Croatia	706	821	210	192	194
Cuba	44	48	60	59	38
Cyprus	126	49	23	17	20
Czech Republic	53	1	—	—	—
Democratic Republic Of Congo	55	55	60	67	44
Djibouti	6	8	9	14	3
Dominica	14	33	31	19	18
Dominican Republic	31	33	40	44	50
Ecuador	426	410	452	498	335
Egypt	530	576	1,260	1,201	798
El Salvador	7	20	17	11	12
Equatorial Guinea	10	14	13	40	4
Eritrea	30	18	18	10	3
Estonia	3	—	—	—	—
Ethiopia	160	152	129	132	11
Fiji	14	18	14	18	1
Gabon	39	33	46	48	2
Gambia	458	430	428	384	50
Georgia	598	527	630	796	44
Germany	—	—	2	1	—
Ghana	1,963	1,157	1,107	922	79
Gibraltar	—	—	—	—	—
Greece	—	—	—	2	—
Grenada	19	42	43	31	1
Guatemala	10	20	17	19	1
Guinea	99	87	82	59	1
Guinea-Bissau	13	7	22	14	—
Guyana	78	88	89	72	—
Haiti	15	14	14	12	—
Honduras	1	12	9	13	—
Hong Kong	2,080	2,027	2,337	2,583	2,8
Hungary	1	1	—	—	—
Iceland	—	1	—	—	—
India	17,620	19,837	22,240	22,709	28,5
Indonesia	869	716	665	701	1
Iran	1,407	1,487	2,018	2,280	2,4
Iraq	128	195	375	417	1
Ireland	—	1	—	—	—
Israel	663	2,021	728	319	—

	Sum of student visas issued				
Nationality	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Italy	—	—	—	1	1
Ivory Coast	234	138	147	137	74
Jamaica	255	224	187	203	151
Japan	8,849	8,623	8,175	7,018	5,684
Jordan	944	861	1,022	985	821
Kazakhstan	4,385	4,960	6,257	4,667	1,621
Kenya	1,103	885	970	924	1,017
Kiribati	—	2	1	—	—
Korea (North)	13	7	4	3	3
Kosovo	—	—	—	—	5
Kuwait	779	731	823	1,144	1,134
Kyrgyzstan	248	247	373	323	161
Laos	11	16	4	5	5
Latvia	5	—	—	1	—
Lebanon	415	396	396	342	302
Lesotho	12	8	24	10	7
Liberia	10	9	6	14	12
Libya	2,567	2,950	3,871	2,418	3,640
Lithuania	17	—	—	1	—
Macau	32	83	89	105	133
Macedonia	146	216	178	212	177
Madagascar	25	32	26	25	21
Malawi	242	564	371	588	251
Malaysia	4,853	4,618	4,645	5,473	5,890
Maldives	12	85	90	86	87
Mali	33	16	26	41	32
Malta	5	—	—	—	—
Mauritania	15	21	30	33	20
Mauritius	1,357	1,553	1,224	943	816
Mexico	1,066	1,239	1,346	1,543	1,494
Micronesia	—	—	—	1	—
Moldova	269	190	216	126	98
Monaco	—	2	3	2	4
Mongolia	194	198	291	981	313
Montenegro	—	—	—	1	30
Morocco	564	398	455	389	297
Mozambique	56	62	28	32	32
Namibia	45	33	44	34	26
Nauru	—	—	—	—	—
Nepal	442	607	801	1,112	653
Netherlands	—	—	—	1	—
New Zealand	148	162	136	207	208
Nicaragua	5	3	9	10	11
Niger	17	18	14	20	7
Nigeria	7,863	8,584	7,574	7,695	8,579
Norway	—	—	1	—	1
Oman	1,199	1,040	1,226	1,128	884
Pakistan	14,017	9,346	12,497	9,589	6,628
Palestinian Authority	90	80	114	92	2
Panama	4	26	23	30	52
Papua New Guinea	10	13	7	2	13
Paraguay	7	12	19	25	14
Peru	400	419	441	460	442
Philippines	1,943	1,479	962	1,556	7,519
Poland	7	—	—	—	1
Portugal	—	—	—	—	—
Qatar	414	507	710	942	938
Refugee (Art 1 1951 Convention)	20	11	10	8	5
Romania	854	938	840	2	3
Russia	10,289	13,109	22,326	22,744	3,757
Rwanda	52	58	58	71	70
San Marino	1	1	3	2	1

	Sum of student visas issued				
Nationality	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Sao Tome and Principe	16	50	53	8	7
Saudi Arabia	3,273	3,713	4,474	6,249	10,427
Senegal	68	76	105	163	140
Serbia	—	—	—	42	27
Seychelles	1	—	2	2	3
Sierra Leone	240	219	275	211	134
Singapore	1,016	884	1,053	1,004	1,262
Slovakia	8	—	1	—	—
Slovenia	1	—	—	—	—
Solomon Islands	2	4	2	2	3
Somalia	16	4	4	4	3
South Africa	446	506	526	496	523
South Korea	7,109	8,346	7,588	6,581	6,580
Soviet Union	1	—	—	1	—
Spain	—	1	—	—	—
Sri Lanka	1,809	2,038	2,379	2,759	3,233
St. Helena	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitts and Nevis	10	13	16	14	12
St. Lucia	40	98	84	70	74
St. Vincent	14	50	64	43	36
Stateless (Art 1 1951 Convention)	64	40	39	31	15
Sudan	581	620	486	423	227
Surinam	3	4	4	3	5
Swaziland	39	28	20	22	12
Sweden	1	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	—	—	2	—	—
Syria	643	748	2 883	686	394
Taiwan	9,299	9,327	9,630	7,007	4,340
Tajikistan	62	96	96	66	53
Tanzania	809	902	1,061	914	936
Thailand	5,142	4,900	5,339	5,236	4,518
Togo	36	15	32	23	13
Tonga	—	5	3	6	—3
Trinidad and Tobago	392	440	450	491	401
Tunisia	109	143	262	490	90
Turkey	4,448	7,586	8,752	8,277	5,554
Turkmenistan	257	458	217	175	203
Turks and Caicos Islands	—	—	—	1	—
Tuvalu	—	1	—	—	—
Uganda	865	632	497	564	627
Ukraine	1,835	1,272	1,751	1,857	753
United Arab Emirates	1,280	1,114	1,170	1,168	1,251
United Nations	4	1	3	11	8
United States	8,713	8,938	9,250	11,317	14,981
Unknown	367	327	310	422	491
Uruguay	12	16	20	29	34
Uzbekistan	517	759	1,281	1,042	399
Vanuatu	1	—	—	—	—
Venezuela	92	330	471	764	842
Vietnam	1,404	1,414	1,554	1,907	1,921
Western Samoa	2	3	—	1	—
Yemen	349	272	297	289	296
Yugoslavia	1,512	1,468	1,128	1,183	341
Zambia	474	470	477	559	386
Zimbabwe	796	791	490	371	238
Grand total	189,520	196,893	219,676	222,425	208,383

This information will be published in the statistical bulletin in August 2009.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether regulations under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system apply in the case of students who enter the UK for a study period of less than six months. [284583]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* Those wishing to come to the UK to study for a period of less than six months can choose whether to apply to enter under Tier 4 of the points-based system or under the student visitor category. If they choose to apply under Tier 4 of the points-based system they must be intending to study at an institution which is registered with the UKBA as a licensed Tier 4 sponsor. In addition they must be enrolled on a course which leads at least to an approved qualification at level 3 or above of the National Qualifications Framework.

Those wishing to come to study for a period of less than six months on a course which is below level 3 NVQ, can apply under the student visitor category. Short-term students (i.e. those studying on courses of six months duration or less) who do not intend to take part-time employment or undertake a paid or unpaid work placement as part of their course can also benefit from these provisions. The college at which the student intends to study must either be accredited by a UKBA approved accreditation body, or be an overseas higher education institution offering only part of their programmes in the United Kingdom, holding its own national accreditation and offering programmes that are of an equivalent level to a United Kingdom degree. These requirements prove the necessary assurance that the prospective student is coming to study at a bona fide educational establishment.

Further information on the student visitor route is available at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/student-visitors/

Extra-curricular Activities

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to provide after-school activities for young people. [287549]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* £1 million funding was provided to the Tackling Knives Action Programme areas to deliver extra positive activities on Friday and Saturday nights in areas where crime, criminal gangs and antisocial behaviour are a concern. Monitoring information from these local areas shows that to the end of March more than 14,000 young people had benefited.

Through the Open drive, Government are challenging local areas to provide activities when young people and the community want them, particularly on a Friday and Saturday night. In 2009-10 an additional £28 million has been provided to all local authorities through the Positive Activities for Young People programme with an emphasis on providing activities at these times.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* highly-skilled migrants and *(b)* dependants of highly-skilled migrants of each nationality were given leave to enter the UK under (i) the highly-skilled migrants programme and (ii) Tier 1 of the points-based immigration system in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available; [286457]

(2) how many *(a)* migrants and *(b)* dependants of migrants were given leave to enter the UK under Tier 1 of the points-based immigration system in the second quarter of 2009. [286462]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested by the hon. Member is summarised in the following table:

	HSMP			Tier 1		
Calendar year	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*	*All*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*	*All*
2007 Q2	2,411	1,161	3,572	0	0	0
2007 Q3	2,637	1,611	4,248	0	0	0
2007 Q4	2,938	1,742	4,680	0	0	0
2008 Q1	3,615	1,883	5,498	0	0	0
2008 Q2	2,659	1,430	4,089	265	163	428
2008 Q3	470	722	1,192	2,630	1,020	3,650
2008 Q4	155	738	893	5,720	2,254	7,974
2009 Q1	98	503	601	7,801	3,468	11,269
2009 Q2	142	578	720	4,812	3,532	8,344

Note:
The data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
CRS 14.7.09

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many historic crimes were solved at each Forensic Science Service site in each of the last 10 years. [288242]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is not the role of the Forensic Science Service to solve crime. Its job is to assist the police in providing intelligence that will assist with the investigation. It is a matter for police and the Crown Prosecution Service to decide the value of the intelligence, and for the courts to determine its weight as evidence.

The FSS does not maintain records of the results of cases in which they have been involved.

Forensic Science: Police

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's paper on the risk modelling of in-house forensic services provided by police forces. [283869]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The Forensic Science Regulator has published for consultation a set of quality standards that should equally apply to any police in-house forensic work. He has also commissioned a survey to assess the nature and extent of police in-house forensic provision and is currently assessing the outcome of that.

Freedom of Information

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of which requests for information received by his Department in 2008 under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

it has received permission to extend the deadline for a response by more than 40 days; and what the reason for the request for an extension was in each case. [286158]

Mr. Woolas: The Freedom of Information Act 2000 obliges public authorities to respond to requests for information within 20 working days. The exception is where an exemption is being considered that engages the public interest test. In these cases the period for response can be extended. In a small number of instances responses have taken longer. There were 50 such cases in 2008.

Explanations for the delay in each case could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288914]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has no plans at this time to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment.

Government Departments: Cybercrime

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent reports he has received on cyber attacks on Government websites in *(a)* South Korea and *(b)* the US; [286949]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of cyber attacks against Government IT systems in each of the last three years; and how many such attacks originated outside the UK; [286937]

(3) what his most recent assessment is of the likelihood of cyber-attack on the UK by another state; and if he will make a statement. [287000]

Mr. Hanson: The Government consider a range of information on such issues and takes appropriate steps where necessary. It would not be in the interests of national security to provide information about specified threats an attacks, either n terms of the type of threat, the method or the target, as this could aid potential adversaries.

Home Office Property Group: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed in the Home Office Property Group; and what the staffing costs of the group were in the last 12 months. [288376]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* In October 2006 the Home Office restructured its estates management functions and created two internal shared service organisations which by October 2007 had reduced estates staff by just over 45 per cent. with a £5 million per year saving on staff costs. At the end of last financial year in March 2009 HO General Property in the Department's shared services directorate had 136 staff including 18 direct delivery staff, with a net cost to the Department of pay/non-pay expenditure of £4.4 million. Services to the Departments custodial estate are delivered by the Ministry of Justice.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Inter Departmental Ministerial Group last met to discuss human trafficking; and how many times the group has met to discuss human trafficking in the last two years. [287930]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Inter Departmental Ministerial Group (IDMG) last met in March and will meet again in the near future.

The IDMG meets on a quarterly basis and has done so over the past two years.

ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's computers were compromised by malicious software in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286996]

Mr. Woolas: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of malicious attacks against their IT systems.

The Home Office complies with mandatory requirement 39 of the Security Policy Framework which requires a policy on managing risks posed by all forms of malicious software ('malware').

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many trojan computer programmes have been detected on *(a)* Home Office, *(b)* UK Border Agency and *(c)* Immigration and Passport Service computers in each of the last five years; [288553]

(2) how many *(a)* alien key logging devices and *(b)* items of alien key logging software have been detected on (i) Home Office, (ii) UK Border Agency and (iii) Immigration and Passport Service computers in each of the last five years. [288554]

Alan Johnson: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of malicious attacks against their IT systems.

The Home Office complies with mandatory requirement 39 of the Security Policy Framework which requires a policy on managing risks posed by all forms of malicious software ('malware').

Immigration

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time for processing *(a)* immigration and *(b)* citizenship applications was in the latest period for which figures are available. [264628]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* Information showing turnaround performance on immigration applications for the period April 2006-March 2007 is published on the UKBA website.

The average process time for citizenship applications at the end of June 2009 was under three months compared to a published service standard of six months. Process times are driven by the volume of applications received.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals are awaiting decisions on their immigration status while present in the UK from each country of origin. [264629]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The requested information is not collated in this way across the range of workstreams and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer, updates the Home Affairs Select Committee twice a year on work to clear the historic backlog of unresolved asylum cases by summer 2011. A copy of Ms Homer's letter of 7 July 2009 is in the Library.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with his French counterpart on immigration matters; and if he will make a statement. [285931]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not yet had any discussions with his French counterpart on immigration matters. I have met with Eric Besson the French Minister for Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Co-Development on four occasions:

11 February 2009—Bilateral meeting, London, UK

23 June 2009—Bilateral meeting, Paris, France

6 July 2009—Meeting at the Anglo-French summit, Evian, France

16 July 2009—Meeting at the Informal meeting of European Union Justice and Home Affairs Ministers in Stockholm, Sweden.

Immigration Controls

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to paragraph 8.19 of the United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, published in March 2009, what recent progress his Department has made on the formation of powers to exclude European Economic Area nationals from entering the UK on grounds of national security, unacceptable behaviour, public order or serious criminality. [284052]

Mr. Woolas: Amendments to the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 were laid on 5 May and came into effect on 1 June. Among other changes, the Home Secretary now has the personal power to exclude EEA individuals, and members of their families, if he considers that their exclusion from the UK is justified on the grounds of public policy, public security or public health.

Depending upon the exact circumstances, EEA nationals, and members of their family, who are considered to pose a threat to national security, who have engaged in unacceptable behaviour or who have committed public order or serious criminal offences may fall to be excluded on the grounds of public policy or public security.

Internet: Terrorism

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent assessment is of the extent of use of cyberspace by terrorist and violent extremists in the UK. [286997]

Mr. Hanson: A number of Government Departments and Agencies are involved in assessing terrorist use of cyber-space, in particular terrorist use of the internet. By their nature such assessments are classified. The recently published Cyber Security Strategy provides an unclassified summary of Government's collective assessment of such activities and of the current threat:

"Terrorists and violent extremists use cyber space for communication, co-ordination, propaganda, fundraising, radicalisation, and recruitment, providing them with an unprecedented opportunity to access a wider global community. While we expect terrorist groups to continue to favour high-profile conventional operations over cyber attacks, we must be vigilant against any future increase in capability that might be directed against UK interests at home and overseas."

The UK's revised strategy for countering international terrorism - CONTEST -published in March this year provides further analysis of the impact which the advancements in technology have had on terrorist activities alongside our understanding of the current use of the internet by terrorist groups, including the increases in the number of websites related to terrorist groups or supporting violent extremism.

Mass Media

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports he has received from the police on the extent to which telephone taps undertaken on behalf of media organisations are made in accordance with legislation; who is responsible for investigating allegations of illegal telephone tapping on behalf of media organisations; what discussions he has had with media organisations on the appropriate use of surveillance techniques in the public interest; and if he will make a statement. [288169]

Mr. Hanson: We have received no reports from the police on the extent of the interception of telephone communication on behalf of media organisations. The police are responsible for investigating allegations of unlawful interception under section 1 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. The Home Office has not had any discussions with media organisations on the appropriate use of surveillance techniques in the public interest. However, following the convictions of Mr. Clive Goodman and Mr. Glen Mulcaire in 2007 for unlawfully intercepting communications, the Press Complaints Commission carried out a review of events and issued new guidelines in May 2007 on subterfuge and news-gathering.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 7 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. S. Rasoul. [276507]

Alan Johnson: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 20 July.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 9 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms R Hughes. [284728]

Alan Johnson: My hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier) replied on 17 March.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the visa enquiry office of the Islamabad consulate plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence of 17 April, 7 May and 20 May 2009, on Mr Abdul Rehman; [286381]

(2) when the visa enquiry office of the Islamabad consulate plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence of 17 April, 7 May and 20 May 2009, on Mr Abdul Rehman. [279824]

Mr. Woolas: Our visa Section in Islamabad has no record of the correspondence in question from the hon. Member about Mr. Abdul Rehman. An Entry Clearance Manager has written separately to the hon. Member to explain the position regarding Mr. Rehman's visa application.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to reply to the letter to the Minister of State of 19 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. R. Cawley; [288629]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter to his Department of 19 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. R. Crawley. [287817]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 20 July 2009.

Metal: Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce levels of theft of metal in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [288247]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Government take the issue of metal theft seriously, and recognise that it has a detrimental effect on the national infrastructure, affecting service providers, and both individuals and whole communities. It can also pose a serious health risk to offenders.

Local agencies are well placed with the necessary tools and powers to tackle metal theft where this is a issue locally. For example, in Avon and Somerset, police and partners initiated Operation Fragment when metal theft was discovered to be a problem. This successful operation tackled metal theft through crime prevention measures, increased publicity, a focus on suspicious vehicles and offenders and working with the scrap metal dealers in the area.

The Home Office part funded a dedicated unit to tackle metal theft, headed by British Transport police. This ran from January to June 2009 and we are assessing the impact of this unit and considering how to apply this learning more widely.

Government officials, including from the Home Office, are also on the Association of Chief Police Officers-led steering group tackling metal theft, which meets regularly to discuss the strategies to tackle metal theft and any emerging issues. This includes representatives from police as well as from industries most affected by metal theft.

Minister for Identity

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what temporary arrangements have been made to cover the responsibilities of the Minister for Identity. [285926]

Alan Johnson: I refer my right hon. Friend to the evidence I gave before the Home Affairs Select Committee, of which he chairs, on Tuesday 14 July. The specific answer is in relation to question number 35.

National Police Improvement Agency: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the National Policing Improvement Agency in each of the last five years. [280610]

Mr. Hanson: The national policing improvement agency was established by statute on 1 April 2007. Data in respect of bonuses paid since that date to the categories of staff listed are given in the following table.

Bonuses paid within NPIA

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]	*Total*
Directors—NPIA CEO and chief officers	79,000	82,000	Pending	161,000
Senior managers—NPIA grade 4A to 4B	5,000	605	1,500	7,105
Specialist and delivery managers—NPIA grades 2B to 3B	8,104	14,104	4,000	26,208
Executive support and administration staff—all other grades	13,003	7,291	7,250	27,544
Total	105,107	104,000	12,750	221,857

[1] As at 22 June 2009

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has provided to the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in each of the last five years. [284830]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has provided funding to the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09 as shown in the table:

	£
2004-05	1,082,000
2005-06	142,000
2006-07	2,486,000
2007-08	2,371,000
2008-09	2,945,000

Source:
Home Office Accounting System

In addition, in 2005-06 a budget transfer of £1,333,000 was made to the Department of Health through the Supplementary Estimates to meet Drug Interventions Programme related costs that fell to the NTA.

Offences Against Children

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* other overseas counterparts on the establishment of a single list of websites found to be displaying images of child abuse. [288877]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government fully support work funded by the EU to develop and refine the data on websites collected by reporting hotlines. This will develop a more accurate list of websites containing illegal images of child sexual abuse. The Government fully support this and other work being taken forward by the EU to protect children online. The Government and law enforcement agencies work closely with their counterparts outside the EU to tackle such websites.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the maximum sum payable in support under the Facilitated Returns Scheme is; [276850]

(2) how much has been spent in support under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each year since its inception; [276876]

(3) how many people removed from the UK under the Early Removal Scheme have been returned to prison in England and Wales in each of the last three years; [276877]

(4) how many people have been returned under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each of the last three years. [276878]

Mr. Woolas: The Facilitated Returns Scheme was launched in October 2006 as an incentive to persuade foreign prisoners to return voluntarily to their own country. The scheme offers a package of reintegration assistance to the individual; however, no financial incentives are offered. The only cash the individual receives is the standard £46 discharge grant provided to all prisoners, including British nationals. The level of assistance offered is variable and is dependant upon the individual circumstances of each case. Assistance is provided up to a maximum of £5,000 for serving foreign criminals and £3,000 for those who have completed their sentence. Only half of those who are removed under the provisions of the scheme receive reintegration assistance once they return to their country. Once removed from the UK under the scheme's provisions, they are excluded from the UK. As such it is only possible to benefit from the scheme once.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has written to the Home Affairs Select Committee on a regular basis in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information on foreign national prisoners and deportation, including the successes seen through the use of the Facilitated Returns Scheme. In her letter of 23 July 2008 she advised that the scheme, accounted for around 25 per cent. of all foreign prisoner removals in 2007. This has generated significant savings and has resulted in nearly 1,800 foreign prisoners being removed from the UK. In the first year of the scheme (October 2006 to October 2007) the agency spent around £350,000, inclusive of administrative costs. For the same period around 880 removals were made under the scheme which generated considerable savings in detention costs alone.

Since April 2008, the Early Removals Scheme was extended to enable eligible prisoners to be removed up to 270 days before their normal release date. It was previously 135 days. The information relating to those removed from the UK and who have been returned to prison is not held centrally. In order to obtain the information it would be necessary to examine individual case files at a disproportionate cost.

Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House. The chief executive will continue to write to the Committee with further updates on the scheme and other data on the deportation of foreign national prisoners.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who *(a)* were suspected of being involved in terrorist-related activity and *(b)* have completed terrorist-related prison sentences have been deported to their country of origin by the UK Border Agency since the Agency commenced operations. [283820]

Mr. Woolas: Details of the numbers of people who have completed prison sentences for a terrorist-related offence, or who have been suspected of being involved in terrorist-related activity, and who have subsequently been deported are not available.

Official Residences

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 78W, on official residences, how much the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside paid to cover rent at South Eaton Place; what period the payment covered; and what the estimated market rental value of the property was for that period. [264949]

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 78W, on official residences, how much the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside paid to cover rent at South Eaton Place; what period the payment covered; and what the estimated market rental value of the property was for the period. [273391]

Mr. Woolas: South Eaton Place has been made available to all Home Secretaries since the Department procured its use. No rent has ever been charged. The payment referred to in the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 78W, related to council tax and utility bills.

Passports: Forgery

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fake British passports *(a)* containing and *(b)* not containing biometric information have been recovered by (i) the police, (ii) the UK Border Agency and (iii) HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [276829]

Alan Johnson: The lead role in protecting the United Kingdom from the use of false travel documentation is taken by the UK Border Agency Intelligence Directorate's National Document Fraud Unit (NDFU). As part of this role, the NDFU compiles statistics on all false identity documents used for international travel and detected by the UK Border Agency (and its predecessors). Current statistical collection methods do not allow for a distinction between biometric passports and non-biometric passports.

On this basis, the following table details the detections of false UK passports encountered by the UK Border Agency (and its predecessors). These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

	Detections
2004	985
2005	641
2006	409
2007	398
2008	312
Total	2,705

Police National Intelligence and Co-ordination Centre

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has allocated to the Police National Intelligence and Co-ordination Centre in each year since its establishment; and how many staff the centre has employed in each such year. [284133]

Mr. Hanson: The Police National Information and Co-ordination Centre (PNICC) was set up in 2003 by the Association of Chief Police Officers in order to coordinate the national mobilisation of police resources. Funding for PNICC is provided via contributions from police authorities rather than directly from the Home Office. This funding provides for three permanent PNICC staff and associated costs. Additional staff are seconded to PNICC to meet specific operational requirements, as required.

Police Pledge Publicity Campaign: Finance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total budget for marketing, public relations, communications and advertising is for the 2009 police pledge publicity campaign. [288847]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office ran a campaign in the spring of 2009 to raise awareness and understanding of the policing pledge, a set of promises to residents about the service they can expect from their local police.

The media spend on the advertising and marketing of the policing pledge in England and Wales in the 2008-09 financial year was £3,427,521.00.

Police: Gwent

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed in Gwent in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2008-09. [288799]

Mr. Hanson: There were 1,233 police officers in Gwent constabulary as at 31 March 1998.

The latest available information is at 30 September 2008, when there were 1,470 police officers in Gwent constabulary.

These figures are calculated on a full-time equivalent basis.

These and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

31 March 2009 figures are due to be published on 23 July 2009 on the same webpage.

Police: Journalists

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of incidents of police officers selling to journalists information obtained through their official duties his Department has received in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [288170]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Home Office does not hold records of any such reports. Any allegation of the selling of information is likely to be investigated and dealt with under the police discipline procedures and/or the criminal law depending on the circumstances of the case.

Police: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* police civilian staff were employed by North Yorkshire police force on the latest date for which figures are available. [285710]

Mr. Hanson: The requested data were published within the "Police Service Strength England and Wales, 30 September 2008, Statistical Bulletin" and are available at the following weblink:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

A copy of this publication has also been deposited in the House of Commons Library.

Annual 30 September figures are provided as interim figures to the more detailed 30 March figures which can also be found at the above link. 30 March 2009 figures are due to be published on 23 July 2009 on the same webpage.

Police: Torfaen

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers are employed in Torfaen. [288899]

Mr. Hanson: Police personnel data are not available by parliamentary constituency. Information for Gwent along with basic command unit (BCU) data for police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) as at 31 March 2008 are provided in the tables.

Police officer strength by basic command unit, Gwent, 31 March 2008[1]

Police force	BCU	Full-time equivalents Police officers
Gwent	Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent	469
	Newport	306
	Pontypool	300
	Central Services	412
Total		1,487

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police community support officer strength by basic command unit, Gwent, 31 March 2008[1]

Police force	BCU	Full-time equivalents Police community support officers
Gwent	Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent	42
	Newport	50
	Pontypool	47
	Central Services	0
Total		139

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners released from a mandatory life sentence in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 were deported or removed. [287737]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only by examination of individual files at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency continues to make considerable progress in delivering an effective deportation system. In 2008 we deported or removed nearly 5,400 foreign criminals, including 50 people found guilty of murder, attempted murder or causing death, around 260 sex offenders and 1,600 drug offenders.

The Chief Executive at the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide them with the most robust and accurate information available relating to foreign national prisoners. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

Right of Abode: European Economic Area

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken to process an application for an EEA residence permit was in the latest period for which figures are available. [283953]

Mr. Woolas: The time taken to process applications will depend on the type of application made and how it is submitted. There is currently a backlog of applications, and UK Border Agency is taking steps to address this situation as soon as possible. UKBA aims to be operating back within service standards from the beginning of December 2009.

Road Traffic Offences

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) between 17 and 24 years, (ii) between 25 and 30 years, (iii) between 31 and 35 years, (iv) between 36 and 40 years and (v) over 40 years have been (A) charged with and (B) convicted of failing to comply with an instruction given by a traffic signal in each year since 1997. [282197]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* Information on prosecutions and convictions for selected motoring offences covering the years 1997 to 2007, latest available, can be found in tables 1 and 2 as follows:

Table 1: Number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts for certain motoring offences, by sex and age group, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	1997 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	1998 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	1,635	8,447	1,035	764	1,892	13,804	266	1,507	163	131	393	2,460
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	537	2,445	409	322	1,110	4,823	605	2,073	584	433	1,538	5,233
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	572	2,302	252	188	434	3,760	498	2,068	264	180	412	3,433

Table 1: Number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts for certain motoring offences, by sex and age group, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	1997 prosecutions						1998 prosecutions					
		17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	266	*1,507	163	131	*393	2,460	263	1,008	177	135	330	*1,914
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	190	620	131	100	271	1,312	195	544	177	147	430	*1,493
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	47	*328	*37	*23	*59	494	44	277	33	29	65	*449

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	1999 prosecutions						2000 prosecutions					
		17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	1,491	5,283	1,079	818	1,972	10,661	1,297	4,561	900	769	1,763	9,306
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	550	1,561	636	561	1,567	4,875	697	2,505	1,106	974	3,116	8,402
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	545	1,671	367	248	628	3,476	454	1,316	319	223	511	2,846
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	223	818	143	142	355	1,681	179	805	124	132	285	1,525
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	156	424	177	132	323	1,213	226	670	303	244	527	1,970
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	63	257	68	51	144	585	53	195	53	44	100	445

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2001 prosecutions						2002 prosecutions					
		17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	1,124	3,599	788	705	1,456	7,682	1,045	3,378	717	627	1,468	7,252
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	735	2,063	1,145	1,081	3,234	8,260	653	2,345	821	685	2,040	6,547
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	439	1,271	260	185	348	2,538	453	1,560	202	159	396	2,805

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2001 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	2002 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	148	598	134	121	245	1,246	117	624	142	104	241	1,228
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	227	597	294	267	615	2,000	193	681	228	217	487	1,808
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	33	199	31	30	63	357	48	284	46	33	63	474

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2003 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	2004 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	1,155	3,060	872	774	1,849	7,724	1,029	2,819	709	640	1,564	6,768
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	563	1,879	618	594	1,649	5,306	429	1,278	638	596	1,823	4,764
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	602	1,426	302	243	455	3,092	1,212	1,747	783	596	1,547	5,968
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	179	515	161	164	389	1,408	132	515	119	113	243	1,122
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	144	537	169	141	361	1,352	111	248	164	165	320	1,008
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	32	217	50	42	101	443	146	332	143	121	384	1,129

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2005 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	2006 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	687	2,393	519	443	1,209	5,262	635	2,192	510	469	1,292	5,108
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	378	1,102	493	448	1,298	3,720	576	2,490	644	582	1,851	6,144
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	1,288	2,042	871	802	1,895	7,018	1,364	1,935	877	799	2,110	7,174
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	107	347	94	80	188	827	111	378	104	84	233	911

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2005 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	2006 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	107	253	120	101	268	849	156	624	179	172	409	1,540
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	192	405	175	172	377	1,322	220	460	194	210	503	1,588

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2007 prosecutions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males							
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	615	2,118	449	397	1,206	4,792
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	760	3,495	774	826	2,339	8,195
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	1,260	1,935	817	812	2,091	6,972
Females							
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	105	354	69	64	216	808
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	201	771	181	203	496	1,852
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	263	468	186	211	541	1,672

Table 2: Number of males and females found guilty at all courts for certain motoring offences, by sex and age group, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	1997 convictions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	1998 convictions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	1,502	7,601	907	669	1,689	12,375	1,487	5,794	1,032	717	1,827	10,864
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	507	2,290	386	313	1,071	4,567	549	1,905	526	397	1,350	4,727
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	481	1,996	213	163	377	3,236	408	1,803	213	156	357	2,943
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	244	1,392	150	121	374	2,281	241	935	167	125	308	1,777
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	184	585	125	93	260	1,247	182	488	157	128	389	1,344
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	45	295	35	19	54	448	41	237	33	24	61	396

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	1999 convictions						2000 convictions					
		17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	1,341	4,580	944	714	1,729	9,324	1,153	4,073	787	682	1,540	8,247
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	497	1,421	579	503	1,348	4,348	672	2,287	1,077	947	3,031	8,018
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	429	1,429	303	217	527	2,912	341	1,097	259	184	401	2,290
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	212	750	131	129	327	1,549	165	747	117	122	250	1,401
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	142	375	161	123	279	1,081	217	629	295	238	522	1,901
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	55	232	60	47	129	525	43	167	46	37	74	367

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2001 convictions						2002 convictions					
		17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	974	3,185	694	608	1,266	6,735	919	3,054	629	548	1,299	6,462
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	702	1,910	1,105	1,038	3,137	7,894	608	2,122	779	648	1,954	6,114
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	316	1,081	224	157	293	2,083	333	1,344	174	125	341	2,328
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	133	546	127	113	228	1,147	111	574	134	95	222	1,136
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	217	560	283	257	602	1,919	184	628	225	207	471	1,716
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	32	176	27	29	53	318	43	262	41	29	58	433

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2003 convictions						2004 convictions					
		17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	996	2,687	755	691	1,650	6,791	831	2,477	612	563	1,338	5,827

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2003 convictions						2004 convictions					
		17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	528	1,732	583	547	1,557	4,949	394	1,135	598	546	1,685	4,358
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	359	1,175	219	187	353	2,316	934	1,451	650	522	1,388	5,000
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	156	477	151	145	349	1,278	115	470	111	97	215	1,008
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	135	494	158	132	344	1,263	105	224	155	158	301	943
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	25	192	39	33	86	376	136	305	131	112	362	1,048

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2005 convictions						2006 convictions					
		17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages	17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	605	2,121	454	375	1,058	4,621	566	1,946	465	419	1,142	4,547
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	347	986	446	417	1,170	3,367	523	1,920	596	540	1,675	5,254
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	1,031	1,692	770	706	1,724	5,997	1,134	1,717	779	707	1,882	6,267
Females													
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	97	324	84	72	180	757	97	349	96	80	216	839
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	100	230	113	94	254	791	147	505	170	156	374	1,352
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	172	383	166	159	354	1,235	207	420	189	199	464	1,480

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2007 convictions					
		17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Males							
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	548	1,908	393	358	1,086	4,300
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	686	2,505	704	[illegible]	2,123	6,766
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	1,052	1,700	747	[illegible]	1,927	6,187

Offence description	Principal statute(s)	2007 convictions 17-24	25-30	31-35	36-40	41 and over	All ages
Females							
Failure to comply with signals/signs—not detected by camera	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1)	100	328	66	60	205	759
Offences detected by camera devices	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.36 (1)	188	616	167	184	452	1,607
Other offences of neglecting traffic directions	Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec.35 (1) & (2), 36(1) & 163 (3)	243	440	178	196	511	1,571

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] All ages column includes the age group 10 to 16.
Source:
Court proceedings database, Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis, Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Roads: Closures

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the Metropolitan Police closed Finchley road in London on 9 July 2009; on whose authority; and what efforts were made to notify motorists of the closure in order to avoid unnecessary congestion. [288416]

Mr. Hanson: The decision to close a road is an operational matter for the police. On this occasion, the Metropolitan police closed the road following a serious road traffic collision. The closure was necessary to ensure the safety of the public, to cut open the vehicles so that the drivers and passengers could be removed, to facilitate treatment for the injured and the removal of four casualties by the London ambulance service, and to carry out an investigation into the cause of the collision.

Transport for London were notified immediately of the closure and co-ordinated relevant announcements These which included local radio traffic updates to provide advance information of the closure and advice for motorists so that they could seek alternative routes as far in advance of the accident scene as possible.

Sexual Offences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate has been for cases of *(a)* rape and *(b)* sexual assault in each police force area in each year since 1997. [286041]

Alan Johnson: The available information is given in the tables.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in total detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstance. There are other changes affecting trends in detection rates that are discussed in section 3.5 of Volume two of Crime in England and Wales 2008-09, a copy of which has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Detection rates are a ratio of crime detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Table 1 Detection rates for offences of rape and sexual assault: 2000-01 to 2001-02[1]

Police force area	2000-01 Rape	2000-01 Sexual assault	2001-02 Rape	2001-02 Sexual assault
Avon and Somerset	43	48	27	32
Bedfordshire	33	54	25	42
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Cambridgeshire	50	59	46	51
Cheshire	85	84	81	76
Cleveland	59	68	65	69
Cumbria	70	85	74	69
Derbyshire	38	50	39	59
Devon and Cornwall	77	81	49	59
Dorset	36	52	39	48
Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	108	92	76	94
Essex	50	55	33	51
Gloucestershire	88	62	57	61
Greater Manchester	58	59	55	54
Gwent	98	90	93	89
Hampshire	n/a	n/a	53	56
Hertfordshire	66	65	62	75
Humberside	36	39	33	37
Kent	57	55	56	56
Lancashire	54	59	47	47
Leicestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lincolnshire	67	70	50	66
London, City of	50	29	22	68
Merseyside	74	66	53	54
Metropolitan Police	24	28	27	26
Norfolk	35	48	36	48
Northamptonshire	71	80	64	62
Northumbria	48	54	43	49

Table 1 Detection rates for offences of rape and sexual assault: 2000-01 to 2001-02[1]

Police force area	2000-01		2001-02	
	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault
North Wales	64	74	35	56
North Yorkshire	75	73	59	64
Nottinghamshire	50	41	36	42
South Wales	88	71	90	75
South Yorkshire	n/a	n/a	72	60
Staffordshire	38	39	35	33
Suffolk	35	57	30	51
Surrey	28	41	42	40
Sussex	34	47	35	48
Thames Valley	26	48	32	42
Warwickshire	52	46	30	57
West Mercia	57	55	44	50
West Midlands	54	51	45	51
West Yorkshire	n/a	n/a	55	62
Wiltshire	32	36	46	47
England and Wales[2,3]	42	47	41	45

n/a = Not available.
[1] The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not direct comparable with those for later years.
[2] For 2000-01 excludes British Transport Police, Durham, Hampshire, Leicestershire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.
[3] For 2001-02 excludes British Transport Police. Durham and Leicestershire.
Note:
Offences detected in any given year may have been initially recorded in a previous year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.

Table 2: Detection rates for offences of rape and sexual assault: 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

Police force area	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault
Avon and Somerset	22	26	21	26	18	19	22	24	20	22	25	23	21	23
Bedfordshire	29	35	21	25	23	38	23	25	15	37	18	20	16	26
British Transport Police	73	27	50	26	21	22	45	29	37	27	18	30	23	29
Cambridgeshire	29	32	15	30	21	30	22	30	15	30	19	23	23	33
Cheshire	48	55	29	47	28	43	28	39	30	36	31	37	26	38
Cleveland	41	44	31	41	22	40	38	40	34	35	30	41	37	40
Cumbria	64	58	30	48	30	41	36	49	47	42	25	43	21	42
Derbyshire	35	41	33	43	28	40	30	30	21	30	28	28	23	27
Devon and Cornwall	30	42	19	35	24	34	18	32	20	33	17	28	19	31
Dorset	25	44	17	27	16	35	17	30	27	28	18	22	11	30
Durham	68	54	71	71	60	63	26	41	43	43	43	47	44	47
Dyfed-Powys	91	89	25	48	31	39	18	42	28	38	20	32	31	49
Essex	32	41	29	39	27	41	25	33	25	40	19	32	19	29
Gloucestershire	31	42	28	35	28	34	19	31	21	34	30	26	23	34
Greater Manchester	46	49	32	40	30	29	31	37	31	35	38	25	31	26
Gwent	80	80	78	80	51	60	40	54	36	35	20	25	38	29
Hampshire	41	53	34	39	25	37	21	33	19	27	21	31	21	29
Hertfordshire	50	50	50	54	38	50	41	42	28	35	22	39	17	36
Humberside	23	38	20	31	19	33	23	35	24	29	22	33	28	31
Kent	38	44	27	38	22	32	21	31	23	26	26	30	22	35
Lancashire	52	54	35	41	37	43	35	44	37	42	30	44	36	42
Leicestershire	26	32	28	32	23	31	18	33	20	26	12	27	17	28
Lincolnshire	40	32	28	36	31	41	21	38	24	32	17	30	25	30
London, City of	100	41	—	28	—	52	—	43	—	33	—	19	100	59
Merseyside	47	52	43	45	35	44	24	41	28	42	22	33	29	34
Metropolitan Police	29	25	33	24	38	26	36	27	34	20	34	21	34	28
Norfolk	24	33	18	42	22	35	23	37	24	36	21	35	36	39
Northamptonshire	53	52	37	55	32	50	33	37	25	36	21	23	19	36
Northumbria	36	46	30	43	24	36	29	44	33	45	29	39	34	41
North Wales	26	34	29	39	27	42	25	47	16	39	17	34	18	36
North Yorkshire	43	55	41	51	35	48	29	50	41	44	26	40	27	35
Nottinghamshire	34	39	27	36	35	38	27	38	31	38	25	30	19	29
South Wales	62	56	53	49	59	40	29	36	28	30	42	37	39	36
South Yorkshire	40	42	38	42	29	37	24	34	27	28	34	30	38	33
Staffordshire	40	48	32	49	30	45	26	37	24	35	21	29	24	27
Suffolk	30	51	26	35	19	31	24	38	20	43	19	33	16	34

Table 2: Detection rates for offences of rape and sexual assault: 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

Police force area	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault	Rape	Sexual assault
Surrey	32	40	35	39	24	40	32	38	29	44	24	39	12	22
Sussex	26	39	24	39	14	32	20	34	15	36	21	30	19	29
Thames Valley	27	32	18	33	24	33	22	32	19	30	19	23	18	21
Warwickshire	27	45	19	30	25	36	19	40	16	31	22	30	28	27
West Mercia	37	46	35	48	29	43	27	48	20	35	22	31	23	32
West Midlands	41	36	32	32	26	27	30	29	23	27	25	27	30	34
West Yorkshire	42	44	31	33	25	34	25	22	19	32	24	25	22	23
Wiltshire	37	40	41	37	32	40	33	38	18	33	23	28	35	31
England and Wales	36	39	31	36	29	34	27	34	26	31	26	29	26	30

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Note:
Offences detected in any given year may have been initially recorded in a previous year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.

Terrorism: Afghanistan

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of known terrorist plots in the United Kingdom have a connection with Afghanistan; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the matter. [287425]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* It is the long held policy of successive Governments not to comment on ongoing investigations. As a member of Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (NSID), the Home Secretary regularly discusses the Government's policies on Afghanistan and Pakistan with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of known terrorist plots in the United Kingdom have a connection with Helmand province. [287426]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* It is the long held policy of successive Governments not to comment on ongoing investigations.

Travel: Personal Records

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1092W, on travel: personal records, what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the collection of advance passenger data on domestic air and sea journeys will focus only on crossings between Great Britain and Northern Ireland; [282395]

(2) when he plans to decide on whether to carry out a formal consultation on his Department's proposals to collect advance passenger data in respect of domestic air and sea journeys; and if he will make a statement. [282680]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are currently considering whether to hold a public consultation. Should we decide to proceed after the consultation a statutory instrument necessary to implement the power under section 14 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 would specify that the data collection would apply only to routes between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead dated 5 January 2009 on asylum seekers from Zimbabwe. [275375]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 20 July.

Vetting: Standards

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of criminal record certificates provided by the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last three years were enhanced criminal records certificates. [288857]

Mr. Hanson: The number of enhanced disclosures issued by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) in each of the last three years is shown in the following table:

Financial year	Number of enhanced disclosures issued
2006/07	2,948,734
2007/08	3,028,659
2008/09	3,457,410

Approximately nine out of every 10 disclosure applications received by the CRB are for enhanced disclosures.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by the Criminal Records Bureau to process a request for *(a)* a criminal record certificate and *(b)* an enhanced criminal record certificate was in the latest period for which figures are available. [288858]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80W.

Visas: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department was of issuing *(a)* short- and *(b)* long-term visitor visas in each country in each year since 2000. [285764]

Alan Johnson: The cost to my Department of issuing individual types of visa in each country is not available. To obtain the requested information would be at disproportionate cost.

Parliament agrees the fee for visit visas, most recently in the Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) Regulations 2009.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what revenue has been collected from *(a)* short- and *(b)* long-term visitor visa applicants from each country in each year since 2000. [285765]

Alan Johnson: The following table shows revenue collected from *(a)* short and *(b)* long-term visitor visa applications, from each country in each year since 2004. Reliable data are not available before 2004.

Visit visa income estimates FY 2004 -08

£

	FY 2004		FY 2005		FY 2006		FY 2007		FY 2008	
Country	*LTV*	*STV*	*LTV*	*STV*	*LTV*	*STV*	*LTV*	*STV*	*LTV*	*STV*
Albania	11,000	294,200	29,600	488,100	42,200	450,300	75,600	398,000	103,400	394,000
Algeria	150,800	192,200	148,700	286,400	147,700	340,900	256,100	610,200	218,300	539,300
Angola	22,600	94,600	31,700	131,300	29,900	147,800	64,500	217,500	38,000	173,600
Argentina	2,700	3,400	3,500	5,400	3,200	9,200	3,600	8,800	0	0
Armenia	8,500	31,200	9,100	51,400	10,500	63,000	23,200	87,500	26,000	104,600
Australia	5,200	74,000	11,400	115,400	9,200	120,900	18,600	156,900	35,200	173,600
Austria	39,400	61,700	46,600	82,900	27,000	89,000	37,900	92,000	0	100
Azerbaijan	39,400	108,700	64,100	161,900	94,600	165,100	192,600	235,600	216,100	244,900
Bahrain	165,300	210,100	256,000	279,700	321,300	289,700	491,900	425,700	804,200	393,000
Bangladesh	202,500	701,400	348,000	955,600	367,400	1,147,600	533,100	1,422,900	599,300	1,108,800
Barbados	7,600	19,700	12,500	23,000	23,500	28,000	33,500	38,100	14,300	8,000
Belarus	25,300	258,700	30,900	374,700	35,900	426,300	69,300	516,900	98,100	555,100
Belgium	52,000	140,200	89,900	213,200	86,600	233,200	199,300	248,600	0	0
Bolivia	300	3,100	300	3,100	300	5,500	400	6,000	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17,800	90,000	26,100	135,900	31,000	124,200	59,300	170,000	58,600	199,300
Botswana	6,300	35,400	9,600	46,800	8,300	46,700	10,700	57,500	0	600
Brazil	4,800	23,200	8,100	31,600	7,200	39,700	9,200	39,100	17,000	36,900
Brunei	3,200	16,300	5,700	46,000	7,500	35,300	11,700	16,200	9,000	19,400
Bulgaria	211,900	439,700	300,100	784,800	149,900	664,700	7,500	21,900	2,800	9,000
Burma	2,400	37,300	5,800	54,500	8,100	61,900	12,400	86,100	18,400	81,000
Cameroon	20,800	123,900	27,500	151,700	23,500	142,700	54,000	186,700	18,200	77,100
Canada	114,200	320,400	165,200	424,900	190,800	380,900	190,100	509,900	231,800	478,200
Chile	1,700	25,300	2,300	17,000	3,900	13,800	7,500	7,400	8,400	4,500
China	156,500	3,981,100	322,500	5,353,100	470,800	6,206,900	879,900	8,712,800	1,187,400	7,096,500
Colombia	49,700	370,500	59,200	549,900	70,300	584,900	182,000	708,300	270,000	683,300
Congo (Dem. Rep.)	17,100	120,000	25,200	167,900	33,000	138,400	90,700	156,600	0	0
Croatia	75,200	453,200	93,900	558,200	1,900	20,400	4,800	35,600	3,000	20,300
Cuba	3,400	109,300	2,900	138,300	2,900	109,600	5,700	100,900	9,000	88,800
Cyprus	17,500	137,300	30,900	208,100	30,500	318,300	56,100	283,300	52,100	243,300
Czech Republic	10,400	48,200	9,900	57,200	14,800	143,100	42,100	134,700	1,500	3,000
Denmark	19,400	92,300	19,600	127,400	26,900	136,700	36,900	165,100	47,200	186,600
Dominican Republic	6,100	38,600	3,900	70,600	5,700	59,300	17,000	84,800	0	0
Ecuador	9,600	70,400	12,700	96,000	13,400	117,400	34,300	125,300	58,000	75,600
Egypt	185,800	716,800	347,700	888,200	429,300	952,600	948,400	1,238,100	1,336,200	1,573,500
Eritrea	1,200	20,200	1,200	20,500	700	5,400	400	1,400	200	900
Estonia	800	18,300	1,600	32,700	2,100	43,800	2,500	50,600	0	0
Ethiopia	45,900	123,100	53,700	135,800	33,600	133,800	54,200	171,200	50,700	171,600
Fiji	4,100	34,200	4,500	35,800	2,700	34,300	4,400	67,300	6,700	52,500
Finland	3,000	29,100	3,100	46,300	7,400	56,200	17,200	69,300	11,000	58,400
France	308,600	779,800	391,900	1,002,800	478,000	1,050,800	537,700	1,070,200	700,300	1,386,600
Gambia, The	61,700	175,900	96,300	226,900	75,900	209,300	117,700	256,400	125,500	253,000
Georgia	23,300	86,000	31,600	142,500	47,800	159,600	100,500	205,400	158,400	212,200
Germany	288,600	821,800	348,800	1,030,500	363,200	915,600	427,600	901,800	617,900	1,171,500
Ghana	558,900	1,643,100	664,400	1,395,700	621,300	1,154,200	1,121,100	1,357,500	1,080,900	1,293,100

Visit visa income estimates FY 2004 -08

£

Country	FY 2004 LTV	FY 2004 STV	FY 2005 LTV	FY 2005 STV	FY 2006 LTV	FY 2006 STV	FY 2007 LTV	FY 2007 STV	FY 2008 LTV	FY 2008 STV
Greece	8,000	36,700	12,200	85,700	15,200	59,900	28,900	92,800	31,300	66,200
Guyana	14,000	76,800	22,100	127,200	21,700	129,600	38,900	124,300	0	0
Hungary	11,000	56,200	12,000	83,200	11,000	72,600	24,300	62,300	7,100	15,800
Iceland	1,900	6,400	3,000	9,800	2,000	11,000	3,400	10,900	2,200	9,200
India	2,653,100	7,797,200	4,386,200	11,996,700	4,721,300	13,901,100	5,042,400	17,971,300	7,418,400	16,731,700
Indonesia	33,100	460,900	46,500	601,300	69,000	653,300	111,600	933,300	158,200	864,000
Iran	235,500	996,000	337,900	1,451,100	476,700	1,598,500	884,100	1,894,200	930,700	1,902,400
Iraq	600	29,600	700	42,000	3,600	46,100	3,400	39,500	1,000	12,200
Irish Republic	321,500	232,400	487,700	366,300	484,600	418,700	569,800	572,500	631,400	598,700
Israel	14,200	75,600	17,300	100,000	16,600	87,400	32,200	105,200	0	300
Italy	131,600	472,600	170,500	636,500	143,100	573,000	187,200	493,300	236,700	560,200
Ivory Coast	20,300	98,400	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamaica	199,600	526,400	2,800	581,100	228,700	529,700	281,000	622,800	369,600	509,400
Japan	9,400	90,000	100	125,200	11,600	119,600	26,600	142,300	31,100	105,500
Jordan	232,700	392,900	3,300	552,300	272,100	525,300	349,500	634,200	628,200	858,900
Kazakhstan	52,500	201,700	1,200	351,700	155,200	535,600	78,300	370,500	0	0
Kenya	245,500	448,300	3,100	471,700	298,000	435,200	457,700	658,600	652,300	935,200
Korea	2,600	14,700	100	17,800	8,100	23,900	19,300	28,400	13,900	19,800
Kuwait	705,200	1,072,400	10,000	1,931,000	718,300	1,940,300	1,360,300	2,249,400	2,907,400	2,238,000
Latvia	5,200	52,500	100	58,300	8,000	76,500	13,000	102,600	1,900	10,300
Lebanon	180,800	210,600	2,100	330,100	166,700	274,400	343,000	456,200	404,100	383,600
Libya	39,200	332,800	700	452,400	74,700	414,400	139,900	514,800	247,300	619,700
Lithuania	1,000	6,500	0	7,900	2,100	11,200	2,300	15,900	0	0
Luxembourg	6,100	6,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Macedonia	14,600	195,000	300	4,800	52,600	259,400	77,300	346,500	86,100	347,000
Madagascar	2,000	8,400	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malawi	2,500	23,600	100	600	16,600	114,500	22,800	115,400	800	4,500
Malaysia	9,800	34,400	200	1,100	18,100	53,200	22,000	73,100	195,600	315,300
Malta	6,200	15,300	100	300	4,500	18,400	8,000	16,400	0	0
Mauritius	4,700	46,700	100	1,300	6,800	76,700	15,100	79,800	16,800	70,300
Mexico	5,000	29,100	100	1,000	5,000	49,000	7,300	49,900	4,100	23,200
Moldova	6,800	41,600	100	1,300	8,100	65,500	19,100	73,900	29,000	71,100
Mongolia	4,100	29,000	0	700	5,700	51,300	4,200	67,800	0	0
Morocco	130,800	331,100	2,100	10,900	159,900	507,900	175,100	451,000	223,600	394,500
Mozambique	6,100	24,900	100	600	0	0	0	0	0	0
Namibia	1,800	7,000	0	200	1,200	3,800	0	0	0	0
Nepal	13,000	115,300	200	4,400	27,300	356,400	32,900	299,900	0	0
Netherlands	68,800	300,200	1,000	5,700	81,800	274,800	153,700	349,200	138,400	239,000
New Zealand	800	20,300	0	700	1,400	24,100	2,900	28,000	7,300	27,700
Nigeria	5,910,500	4,511,600	78,200	106,000	5,514,500	6,461,500	8,454,500	6,406,300	9,688,000	6,528,600
Norway	8,300	108,700	100	2,800	15,500	137,400	24,900	151,400	43,800	180,400
Oman	109,800	213,100	2,000	5,700	167,500	282,800	245,200	437,900	353,900	547,000
Pakistan	1,856,900	3,847,900	32,400	95,900	3,345,400	6,225,800	4,732,900	6,474,200	3,711,900	4,041,900
Panama	700	6,700	0	100	0	11,000	0	12,700	0	7,700
Papua New Guinea	600	2,900	0	100	400	2,800	1,500	3,500	1,500	3,500
Peru	15,800	115,700	300	3,100	19,800	198,600	61,400	193,900	0	100
Philippines	100,800	568,200	1,300	17,900	156,500	882,100	239,800	1,064,900	284,600	1,042,000
Poland	2,900	61,700	100	800	5,800	46,800	23,900	63,200	189,900	341,200
Portugal	7,200	38,200	100	1,100	13,500	84,500	11,700	70,300	0	0
Qatar	197,600	273,500	4,300	7,800	492,800	504,700	622,300	862,100	1,239,800	864,900
Romania	190,200	787,000	4,100	24,500	185,900	1,151,300	22,200	53,800	26,600	62,600
Russian Federation	483,300	3,650,800	9,200	108,200	785,500	6,051,800	1,846,100	7,439,000	2,707,900	7,906,200
Saudi Arabia	612,900	1,046,400	12,300	28,000	1,400,400	1,572,200	2,561,200	2,365,600	4,500,400	2,689,300
Senegal	9,300	61,800	200	1,900	24,300	140,500	49,200	162,000	51,100	176,600
Sierra Leone	69,800	154,900	1,100	4,400	98,700	249,800	148,900	274,300	192,300	189,500
Singapore	29,900	108,600	800	2,900	75,300	161,900	160,600	234,800	1,300	1,900
Slovakia	300	5,300	0	200	900	9,500	0	11,500	0	100
South Africa	17,200	117,200	500	3,600	52,600	201,200	90,900	550,000	459,700	1,444,500
Spain	73,900	219,800	1,600	6,300	122,600	302,800	154,100	408,100	193,800	461,900

Visit visa income estimates FY 2004 -08

£

Country	FY 2004		FY 2005		FY 2006		FY 2007		FY 2008	
	LTV	STV	LTV	STV	LTV	STV	LTV	STV	LTV	STV
Sri Lanka	119,400	682,200	2,200	17,900	231,300	999,900	291,300	1,164,400	101,800	296,600
Sudan	60,000	149,400	900	4,300	95,600	300,800	204,000	346,300	1,900	17,800
Swaziland	300	3,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	10,900	137,400	200	3,800	28,700	170,100	37,500	181,300	44,200	209,600
Switzerland	86,200	299,200	1,500	8,100	138,400	400,300	215,900	474,200	254,700	501,000
Syria	45,100	164,500	900	5,000	68,600	331,300	66,200	79,800	45,800	41,700
Taiwan (China)	71,600	984,400	900	26,500	59,200	1,488,600	167,100	1,569,700	188,900	1,289,700
Tajikistan	52,500	201,700	1,200	7,100	155,200	537,100	262,000	744,600	414,300	694,000
Tanzania	54,300	215,100	900	4,800	92,900	243,600	124,800	321,400	142,100	251,500
Thailand	116,900	1,280,200	2,100	30,700	188,100	1,518,000	353,500	2,235,100	519,000	2,309,700
Trinidad and Tobago	4,300	18,000	100	600	6,600	29,400	21,600	43,000	10,800	6,000
Tunisia	33,700	258,700	800	6,300	69,400	285,900	92,100	313,600	78,100	173,400
Turkey	994,000	1,035,400	19,400	33,900	1,741,800	2,082,600	2,680,300	3,375,100	3,904,300	3,516,700
Turkmenistan	8,500	35,300	100	1,100	8,600	41,300	21,100	50,000	24,900	52,000
Uganda	78,000	413,100	1,100	8,300	123,900	303,900	156,800	439,200	158,800	444,000
Ukraine	147,600	631,700	2,500	19,000	214,900	1,154,900	565,400	1,600,500	633,200	1,750,900
United Arab Emirates	986,100	1,406,500	16,600	35,700	2,073,900	2,046,400	3,090,300	2,773,700	5,581,600	3,534,800
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	134,500	286,000
United States	924,300	1,762,400	14,900	44,300	1,277,100	2,211,600	1,262,300	2,787,500	1,621,600	2,847,500
Uruguay	0	300	0	0	300	700	800	200	0	0
Uzbekistan	12,800	60,800	100	1,000	4,800	47,800	11,700	97,400	22,700	158,400
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Venezuela	900	4,900	0	100	800	11,600	4,600	12,100	3,900	7,100
Vietnam	7,500	121,900	100	3,300	15,700	206,000	45,000	322,400	42,900	305,400
Yemen	50,700	70,300	400	1,600	51,300	93,400	69,900	144,700	100,900	90,600
Yugoslavia	133,800	370,600	1,900	10,800	170,000	582,400	209,400	758,800	283,100	909,900
Zambia	18,800	125,200	300	3,600	24,800	203,600	53,200	258,800	85,400	224,700
Zimbabwe	138,300	600,300	1,900	13,100	129,500	503,300	138,000	316,000	76,800	104,700

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of a *(a)* short-term visitor visa for (i) single and (ii) multiple entry and *(b)* long-term visitor visa for (A) one year, (B) two years, (C) five years and (D) 10 years in each year since 2000. [285767]

Alan Johnson: The following table shows the fee for *(a)* a standard six month visit visa and *(b)* visit visas valid for longer periods for the financial years 2002-09 (inclusive).

Visit visa duration	1999-2000 to 2001-02	2002-03 to 2004-05	2005-06 to 2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
6 month	45	36	50	63	65	67
2 years	55	60	[1]85	[1]200	[1]205	215
5 years	60	88	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	400
10 years	80	150	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	500

[1] Represents brace.

Note:
All visit visas are multiple entry visas. Any single visit cannot exceed six months, regardless of the validity of the visa.

Visas: Pakistan

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications were received by the visa section in Islamabad in each of the last 12 months. [285944]

Alan Johnson: Islamabad visa section received the following number of visa applications:

	Number
2008	
July	17,604
August	12,291
September	10,391
October	4,250
November	4,550
December	4,420

	Number
2009	
January	5,072
February	3,886
March	3,961
April	3,780
May	4,171
June	2,404

The volume of applications, month on month, reflects the partial closure of the visa operation following security incidents.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average elapsed between an applicant in Pakistan applying for each type of visa and a decision on that application being made in the latest period for which figures are available. [285945]

Alan Johnson: The current processing time on receipt of the visa application to decision for settlement applications is up to 60 working days. For all other types of applications the current average processing time is up to 15-20 working days from receipt of application to decision. Some cases can take considerably longer while further checks are carried out. Complex cases take longer.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer Question 259199 tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West on 23 February 2009 on the British Nationality (Honorary Citizenship) Bill; what the reasons are for the time taken to respond; what recent representations he has received from hon. Members on the time taken by his Department to respond to Questions for written answer; and if he will make a statement. [276873]

Mr. Woolas: I replied to the hon. Gentleman on 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 145W.

The Department makes every effort to respond to Members' questions within the deadlines set. Sometimes this is not possible. A few hon. Members have tabled written questions on the Department's PQ performance this session.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 273961, *(b)* 273962, *(c)* 273963 and (d) 273964, tabled on 5 May 2009, on the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow. [281288]

Mr. Woolas: I replied to the hon. Gentleman on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 905W.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer *(a)* Question 281217, tabled on 16 June 2009, on visa applications at Pristina, *(b)* Question 281218, tabled on 16 June 2009, on visa applications at Skopje, *(c)* Question 276908, tabled on 19 May 2009, on Gurkhas and *(d)* Question 273542, tabled on 5 May 2009, on Gurkhas. [284617]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* In respect of Parliamentary Question 281217, I replied to the hon. Member on 21 July 2009. In respect of Parliamentary Question 28128, I replied to the hon. Member on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 144W. I replied to the hon. Member on Parliamentary Questions 276908 and 273542 on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 930W.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 279500 and *(b)* 279501, on Demos, tabled on 11 June 2009. [283876]

Mr. Woolas: I replied *(a)* to the hon. Member on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 400W and my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson) replied *(b)* on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 909W.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to respond to question 275375 from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead on correspondence with the UK Border Agency on asylum seekers from Zimbabwe. [280754]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote in response to the hon. Member's letter on 20 July and I answered PQ 275375 on 21 July.

CABINET OFFICE

Cybercrime

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Office of Cyber Security plans to take to raise awareness of cyber security in the Government. [286998]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's Cyber Security Strategy, published last month, announced new governance structures and a cross-government programme of work in pursuit of the UK's strategic cyber security objectives. These objectives include reducing the risks and exploiting the opportunities from our use of cyber space through improving knowledge, capabilities and decision-making.

These objectives will be delivered through eight new workstreams, overseen by the Office of Cyber Security and supported by the Cyber Security Operations Centre:

Workstream 1: Safe, secure and Resilient Systems

Workstream 2: Policy, Doctrine, Legal and Regulatory Issues

Workstream 3: Awareness and Culture Change

Workstream 4: Skills and Education

Workstream 5: Technical Capabilities and Research and Development

Workstream 6: Exploitation

Workstream 7: International Engagement

Workstream 8: Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

These workstreams will build on existing work to take forward the Government's plans for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks. They also describe how the Government

would improve knowledge and awareness of the issues and the range of stakeholders who will be involved in the process, including the public.

As the strategy makes clear, this programme will be delivered through a partnership approach comprising Government, organisations across all sectors, and the public.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what percentage of employees in her Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay is of (i) male and (ii) female employees. [288624]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 632W.

Unemployment

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many jobseeker's allowance claimants aged *(a)* 18 to 21 and *(b)* 22 to 24 years old in each Jobcentre Plus district have been unemployed for up to (i) six and (ii) 12 months. [288705]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many jobseeker's allowance claimants aged (a) 18 to 21 and (b) 22 to 24 years old in each Jobcentre Plus district have been unemployed for up to (i) six months and (ii) 12 months. (288705)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The duration of claims is not available for 18 to 21 year olds or 22 to 24 year olds. As an alternative table 1 shows the number of JSA claimants aged 18 to 19 and 20 to 24 who have claimed for up to 26 weeks and more than 26 up to 52 weeks.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number[1] of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance in each Jobcentre Plus district by age and duration

	Up to 26 weeks	Over 26 and up to 52 weeks	Up to 26 weeks	Over 26 and up to 52 weeks
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	2,465	335	4,975	860
Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire	2,760	390	5,765	1,000
Essex	3,835	605	5,560	1,300
Hampshire	2,770	460	5,430	1,205
Kent	3,095	470	5,505	995
Surrey and Sussex	2,990	505	6,140	1,215
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	2,435	410	4,500	930
Norfolk	1,395	295	2,675	655
Central London	950	165	2,955	585
City and East London	1,515	260	4,440	1,020
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	1,255	155	3,665	725
London West	1,875	235	5,815	970

Table 1: Number[1] of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance in each Jobcentre Plus district by age and duration

	Up to 26 weeks	Over 26 and up to 52 weeks	Up to 26 weeks	Over 26 and up to 52 weeks
North and North East London	3,035	460	7,665	1,320
South London	3,070	420	7,345	1,135
Devon and Cornwall	2,470	430	4,740	1,075
Dorset and Somerset	1,570	205	2,795	465
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon	2,030	400	3,760	835
West of England	1,610	250	3,390	680
Birmingham and Solihull	3,790	690	7,995	2,190
Black Country	3,565	855	7,040	1,890
Coventry and Warwickshire	1,635	310	3,465	620
Marches	2,185	375	4,080	820
Staffordshire	2,105	435	4,225	925
Derbyshire	2,250	475	4,095	965
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	2,985	580	6,295	1,420
Lincolnshire and Rutland	1,300	255	2,360	495
Nottinghamshire	2,290	405	4,410	1,055
North and East Yorkshire and the Humber	3,340	700	6,965	1,605
South Yorkshire	3,630	810	6,965	1,815
West Yorkshire	5,510	1,030	11,090	2,405
Cheshire Halton and Warrington	1,815	380	3,670	860
Cumbria and Lancashire	3,615	615	7,200	1,515
Greater Manchester Central	2,225	355	5,155	905
Greater Manchester East and West	4,335	975	8,360	2,040
Merseyside	3,895	945	8,330	2,515
Northumbria	2,160	430	4,540	1,005
South Tyne and Wear Valley	2,705	660	5,340	1,490
Tees Valley	2,000	445	3,935	1,090
North and Mid-Wales	1,410	300	2,660	660
South East Wales	2,000	370	3,775	795
South Wales Valleys	2,150	685	3,685	1,330
South West Wales	1,500	280	2,825	605
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde	1,560	260	2,755	625
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	1,685	255	3,055	525
Forth Valley and Fife and Tayside	2,365	500	4,180	985
Glasgow	1,720	325	3,690	840
Highlands, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian	1,805	265	3,255	525
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	1,825	330	3,100	730
Northern Ireland	3,525	1,050	8,580	2,785

[1] Rounded to nearest 5.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which events in the Arts Council's 2010 Cultural Olympiad will take place in former coalfield communities *(a)* in Nottinghamshire and *(b)* elsewhere in the UK. [288209]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Cultural Olympiad is a national celebration of culture as part of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. It will harness the power of the Games to inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people and is designed to give everyone in the country a chance to be part of the Games and to leave a lasting legacy well beyond 2012.

Arts Council England has two major projects around the Cultural Olympiad: Artists Taking the Lead and Unlimited. In addition, the Arts Council and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be co-ordinating further activities all over England and elsewhere in the UK including in former coalfield communities.

Arts Council of England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England awarded in grants in 2008-09. [287881]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Arts Council England advises that it awarded £501,824,000 in grants in 2008-09.

Arts: Apprentices

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many apprenticeships have been created in the creative industries since the launch of his Department's Creative Britain strategy in February 2008; and which organisations have applied to be involved in the scheme. [288535]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 344W.

To date, over 150 organisations have expressed an interest in taking on apprentices in the creative industries. These include:

Bluecoat Display Centre
FACT
Hartlepool Museum, Arts and Events Service
Jack Drum Arts
Lincolnshire County Council—Heritage Services
Liverpool Biennial
Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse
National Museums Liverpool
Northampton County Council
Northern Stage
Royal Liverpool Philharmonic
Tate Liverpool
The Customs House
The Sage Gateshead
Tyne and Wear Museum
Unity Theatre
The Arcola
The Victoria and Albert Museum
London Transport Museum
Live Nation
Ryedale Folk Museum
Bradford Council
Royal Exchange Theatre
Walsall Art Gallery
Beam Gallery
Sheffield Gallery and Museums Trust
North Yorkshire County Council
Birmingham Hippodrome
Royal and Derngate Theatre
Wolverhampton Art Gallery
The Hat Factory
Royal Opera House
Historic Royal Palaces
Plymouth Museum and Archives
Colston Hall
Lyric Theatre Hammersmith
Universal Music
Creative Alliance
BLT
Ditto Music
Old Smithy
JJM Studios
Dudley Performing Arts
Wiltshire Dancing
DV8
Rising Tide
Manchester City Council
Colchester Mercury
Jabadao
Carling Academy
National Media Museum
Beatrix Potter Gallery
The Old Laundry Theatre
Duke's Theatre
Lancaster Theatre
Theatre by the Lake
Brewery Arts Centre
Apples and Snakes
City of Westminster College
New College, Nottingham
Theatre Royal, Stratford East
The Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
Museum of East Anglian Life
The Albany
Theatre Peckham

Arts: Economic Situation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on the creative industries. [288533]

Mr. Simon: My Department is monitoring the performance of the creative industries utilising reports and evidence directly from individual sectors.

At the same time my Department is seeking to ensure that the creative industries receive the maximum level of Government support possible.

Arts: Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards creating a 14-to-25 academic hub for the creative industries. [288532]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 612W.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards developing the five centres of excellence in creative skills announced as part of his Department's Creative Britain strategy. [288534]

Mr. Simon: The following progress has been made towards developing the five centres of excellence in creative skills:

World class centre of excellence and finishing school in animation

A feasibility study funded by South West Regional Development Agency for a 'world class centre of excellence and finishing school in animation' has recently ended with agreement between the partners that the originally envisaged facility should not proceed at this time.

Couture academy

Skillfast-UK anticipates that the first partnership between higher education and employers will be established in the new year.

National Skills Academy for the creative and cultural industries

Creative and Cultural Skills Sector Skills Council received support from the Learning and Skills Council to set up a National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills in May 2008.

National centre of excellence for computer games

A feasibility study, commissioned by the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA), into a video games centre of excellence was produced in March 2009. DCMS and BIS officials have been working together with Industry and the NWDA to \take the project forward.

UK Design Skills Alliance

The UK Design Skills Alliance launched in September 2008.

Arts: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the monetary value of exports of services by the creative industries was in each of the last five years; and what the estimated monetary value of exports from such industries is for 2009-10. [288527]

Mr. Simon: The total monetary value of exports of services by the UK creative industries in each of the last five years for which data is available is as follows:

	Total (£ million)
2002	11,300
2003	11,600
2004	13,000
2005	14,600
2006	16,000

Source:
DCMS Creative Industries Economics Estimates, January 2009

These totals exclude crafts and designer fashion as figures are not available for every year.

No future estimates have been made.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the contribution of the creative industries to the UK's gross domestic product in each of the last five years; and what the estimated contribution for 2009-10 is. [288530]

Mr. Simon: The contribution of the creative industries to the UK's gross value added (GVA) in each of the last five years for which data are available is as follows:

	Total (£ million)
2002	45,000
2003	49,200
2004	53,600
2005	57,700
2006	57,300

Source:
DCMS Creative Industries Economics Estimates, Jan 2009

These totals exclude crafts and design as gross value added figures are not available for these sectors.

No future estimates have been made.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the economic growth rate in the creative industries has been in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the likely rate of growth in 2009-10. [288531]

Mr. Simon: The gross value added (GVA) of the UK creative industries grew by an average of 4 per cent. per annum between 1997 and 2006. This compares to an average of 3 per cent. for the whole of the economy over this period.

The annual change in G VA for the creative industries over the last five years for which data are available is as follows:

	Annual growth (percentage)
2001-02	-2
2002-03	6
2003-04	6
2004-05	5
2005-06	-3
Average 1997 to 2006	4

Source:
DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimate, January 2009

All figures exclude crafts and design as annual gross value added figures are not available for these sectors.

No future estimates have been made.

Arts: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies in the creative industries in the last 12 months. [288528]

Mr. Simon: I have made no estimate of the number of redundancies in the creative industries in the last 12 months.

The Government's Future Jobs Fund aims to create 150,000 places in total and will create real jobs in interesting and socially worthwhile industries so people can get the skills and qualifications they need for jobs for the future.

The DCMS has announced it will contribute at least 10,000 jobs through its sectors, at least 5,000 of which will be in the cultural and creative industries.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have been employed in the creative industries in each of the last five years. [288529]

Mr. Simon: Total creative employment in Great Britain in each of the last five years for which data are available is as follows:

	Total
2002	1,830,700
2003	1,878,800
2004	1,825,000
2005	1,824,400
2006	1,906,300
2007	1,978,200

Source:
DCMS Creative Industries Economics Estimates, January 2009

Total creative employment includes all employment in the creative industries and additional employment in creative occupations in businesses outside the creative industries.

Bookmakers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on bookmakers, whether the outstanding issues have been resolved following the local negotiations; and if he will make a statement. [288003]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Local negotiations have taken place between a number of racecourses and the bookmakers who use them. However, these have not as yet resulted in the outstanding issues being resolved or agreements being reached on the allocation of pitches and the parties' duties and responsibilities from 1 September 2012.

I am encouraged by the recent proposal from Northern Racing to on-course bookmakers at its nine racecourses of a commercial deal to 2042. I believe this shows there is still room for local negotiations to result in agreements without the need for further Government intervention.

I am looking for racecourses and bookmakers to achieve meaningful progress and intend to reconvene the working party in due course to take stock.

Boxing: Diabetes

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of restrictions on participation in boxing at competition level by people with insulin-dependent diabetes. [287525]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Amateur Boxing Association of England's Medical Commission along with Diabetes UK have recently drafted a set of conditions on participation in boxing at competition level by people with insulin-treated diabetes. These conditions have been accepted, and adopted as rules, by the Amateur Boxing Association of England's Boxing Council.

Under these rules, all individuals with diabetes can compete as long as a diabetic specialist or doctor is in attendance who will care and monitor the diabetic participant.

Broadband: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to provide the universal service obligation in respect of access to a broadband connection in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas of North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [286064]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

In the Digital Britain White Paper, the Government set out their plan of how the Universal Service Commitment in relation to broadband will be achieved, committing an anticipated £200 million of public funds to help deliver this with the remainder of the costs been met from the private sector through in-kind contributions, competitive commercial pricing through tender contract and design, and contributions from other public sector organisations.

The process will be delivered through an arms-length body, the Network Design and Procurement Group, who will be responsible for managing the procurement process and prioritising which areas receive additional support to enable them to reap the benefits of universal broadband access. The Government hope to confirm the appointment of a CEO for the Group in the autumn.

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 139-40W, on casinos: licensing, when he plans to issue guidance to licensing authorities on definitions of a gaming table in operation and ratios of gaming tables in use. [287909]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Regulations to define what will constitute a gaming table for the purposes of section 172(3) to 172(5) of the Gambling Act 2005 will be laid shortly. Should additional guidance be required then the Department will liaise with the Gambling Commission and licensing authorities on the best method for doing so.

Cricket: Schools

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have cricket as part of their physical education curriculum. [288779]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Children, Schools and Families have advised that the PE and sport survey collects data relating to the percentage of schools which offer certain sports for their pupils.

In this context, the last survey (2007-08) showed that 90 per cent. of all schools offer cricket for their pupils. This can be broken down into 88 per cent. of primary schools, and 98 per cent. of secondary schools. This has remained fairly constant over the last three years.

Culture: Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards every child taking part in five hours of cultural activity each week; and what estimate he has made of the number of school children who participate in five hours of cultural activity each week. [288458]

Barbara Follett: The Find Your Talent Pathfinder areas are trialling ways to deliver five hours of high-quality cultural experience to children and young people in their areas. They are almost one year into their three-year programmes. The Pathfinder activities run in parallel with a diverse range of national cultural education programmes, including significant investment in music education.

The figure for the numbers of children currently doing five hours across the whole country will be available from the results of the DCMS Taking Part Survey in October 2009. The Pathfinder areas are developing their own baseline figures for participation against which to compare this national figure.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287397]

Mr. Bradshaw: Never.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288907]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The percentage of invoices paid within 10 days in June 2009 by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport was 84 per cent.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [287087]

Mr. Sutcliffe: *(a)* The Department has a policy of promoting flexible working arrangements. These are agreed at team and sector level and as such records of these arrangements are not kept centrally with human resources.

(b) There is currently one job share employment contract in place. This represents less than 1 per cent. of the total number of employees in the Department.

(c) 21 employees, or 4.5 per cent. of the total number of employees in the Department, currently work from home for more than four hours a week.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what procedures his Department and its agencies have to assess the cost-effectiveness of grants which they make. [281238]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ninety-seven per cent. of the Department's budget is allocated to the public bodies that help us to deliver our strategic aim and objectives. These bodies agree a high level three-year funding agreement with the Department, which explains what they will deliver for the funding allocated to them. The agreement summarises strategic priorities, key activities and outputs to be delivered, and is regularly reviewed.

The most up-to-date information about performance against departmental strategic objectives and public service agreements can be found in the Department's annual report and accounts, which were laid on the 16 July by HM Treasury.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 49W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) permanent secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288996]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department's (A) Permanent Secretary runs Internet Explorer 6 on their desktop machine, the (B) chief information officer runs Internet Explorer 8, Firefox 3.51 and Chrome 2 on their desktop and laptop machines, the (C) head of communications runs Internet Explorer 6 on their desktop machine and their laptop machine and the (D) head of finance runs Internet Explorer 7 on their laptop machine.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many interns work in his Department; what terms of reference apply to their appointment; what remuneration they receive; and how long on average an intern appointment lasts. [286825]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS does not currently have any interns working in the Department.

Digital Broadcasting

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent progress has been made in modifying television transmitters in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the rest of the UK for the digital switchover; and if he will make a statement. [286950]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is as follows:

(a) Switchover in Wales starts at the Kilvey Hill transmitter on 12 August 2009 and finishes at Wenvoe on 31 March 2010. Mast and antenna work has been completed at Wenvoe, Kilvey Hill, Preseli, Carmel, Llanddona, Moel y Pare and Long Mountain and is scheduled for completion at Blaenplwyf next month. Transmitter installations, relay upgrades, other works and testing will continue until around one month before the switchover dates for each transmitter group.

(b) For the rest of the UK, the transmitters at Selkirk, Beacon Hill and Stockland Hill and their dependent relays have completed switchover. Modification of the transmitters at Douglas, Huntshaw Cross, Caldbeck, Redruth and their dependent relays has been completed and the first stage of switchover has been completed at each. Various stages of mast, antenna and transmitter works are under way in all other UK regions.

EC Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible, which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281868]

Barbara Follett: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of legislation that stems from the European Union.

The Secretary of State estimates that between 5 and 10 per cent. of legislation for which DCMS is responsible derives from or implements European Community obligations.

This estimate is based on approximate page counts of the relevant statutes and secondary legislation. It includes: (a) provisions that implement Community obligations even where these have super equivalent effect; (b) provisions that are now relied upon as implementing Community obligations even where the UK had adopted the same or similar provisions before those obligations took effect.

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately 1/3 of the total administrative burden.

In the Government's view the quality, rather than the source of regulations is the most important issue. All regulations, irrespective of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. Regulations should be risk-based, proportionate and well designed, so as to achieve their objectives while also keeping costs to a minimum. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

English Folk Dance and Song Society

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will have discussions with the English Folk Dance and Song Society on promoting England's traditional folk culture; and if he will make a statement. [288748]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State has no plans at present to meet the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Arts Council England is the national development agency for the arts in England, distributing public money from Government and the National Lottery. The Council's remit includes both dance and music, and its portfolio of Regularly Funded Organisations includes Folk Arts England, the national development agency for folk, roots and traditional music and Folk South West, the folk arts development organisation for the South West of England.

English Heritage: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate English Heritage has made of the likely effects on its level of expenditure from changes to the terms and conditions of employment for its historic sites staff, including changes to pay, allowances and future pension entitlement. [288408]

Barbara Follett: This is primarily a matter for English Heritage, which has advised that any possible changes to the terms and conditions of employment for its staff at historic sites, including changes to pay, allowances and future pension entitlement, are currently the subject of discussions with trade unions. I have made no assessment of the likely effect of any potential changes.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to reallocate savings arising from changes in the terms and conditions of English Heritage staff working at its historic sites; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of such changes on *(a)* staffing levels at historical sites in deprived areas and *(b)* on regeneration in those areas. [288693]

Barbara Follett: This is primarily a matter for English Heritage, which has advised that any possible changes to the terms and conditions of employment for its staff at historic sites, including changes to how their pay is structured, are currently the subject of discussions with trade unions. I have made no assessment of the likely effect of any potential changes.

Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects his Department to finalise its conclusions on the measures required to ensure a level playing field for British gambling operators. [288457]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I will report to Parliament with findings on this work by the end of December 2009, as stated in my announcement on 30 April 2009.

Gaming Machines: Taxation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he had with HM Treasury on the regulation of the use of Category C amusement machines between his Department's announcement of new stake prize limits on Category C amusement machines in January 2009 and the announcement in Budget 2009 of a consultation on the tax treatment of amusement machines. [288383]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has regular discussions with HM Treasury about a range of gambling issues, including on the regulation of the use of Category C gaming machines prior to the announcement in Budget 2009 of a consultation on the tax treatment of amusement machines.

Heritage and Culture Sector Club

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 637-8W, on Heritage and Culture Sector Club: Visit Britain, how many officials of his Department provide support for the Heritage and Culture Sector Club; and on what date the club last met. [287554]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Heritage and Culture Sector Club was one of a number of clubs set up by VisitBritain to engage with different sectors of the tourism industry. The club no longer exists and last met on 20 November 2007, this was a VisitBritain-led initiative and DCMS officials were not involved.

Hotels: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on bed and breakfast proprietors of the implementation of VisitBritain's concierge licence scheme. [286916]

Barbara Follett: The "concierge licence scheme" or "DVD Concierge Licence", is not a VisitBritain scheme. It is run by an independent business called Filmbank, which collects licence fees, under existing copyright legislation on behalf of a number of the major film studios. Other such schemes exist to help bed-and-breakfast owners comply with copyright law. Neither VisitBritain nor VisitEngland endorse this or any other particular licence services.

Under copyright law, businesses such as bed-and-breakfast accommodation should purchase a licence if DVDs are made available to guests. A licence is not required if DVDs are not provided by the establishment, or if guests bring their own.

ITV

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the residual value of the ITV licence after digital switchover. [288614]

Mr. Simon: It is the Government's view, supported by Ofcom, that the residual value of the existing Channel 3 licences will decline further between now and the completion of digital switchover, meaning the benefits for ITV of remaining a PSB—public service broadcaster—will be outweighed by the obligations imposed on it.

That is why, in the Digital Britain White Paper, we set out a clear direction of travel for the liberalisation of the Channel 3 licences.

ITV: Public Service Broadcasting

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the cost to ITV of its *(a)* public service obligation and *(b)* public service obligation in respect of regional news provision. [288653]

Mr. Simon: The analysis contained in Ofcom's second public service broadcasting review shows the 2009 pattern for regional news services in England and Wales costs over £50 million. The cost of ITV's other public service obligations are commercially sensitive.

Licensed Premises

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many premises in Greater London have had a licence to sell alcohol withdrawn since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [288123]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, DCMS has been collecting Alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment statistics on an annual basis by financial year from licensing authorities. During the period April 2006 to March 2007 for licensing authorities in Greater London, 225 premises licences were surrendered, 21 lapsed, and six were suspended, (based on between 29 to 26 returns, out of 35, from licensing authorities in the Greater London Area). For the same period, eight club premises certificates were surrendered, none lapsed and none were withdrawn. There were also an additional 31 premises licences revoked or club premises certificates withdrawn following a completed review. Under the Licensing Act 2003, premises licences and club premises certificates are not confined to just authorise the sale or supply of alcohol; they also can provide regulated entertainment and/or late night refreshment. Therefore some of these closures may be for premises that are not authorised to sell or supply alcohol.

The April 2007 to March 2008 bulletin reported for licensing authorities in Greater London that, 463 premises licences were surrendered, 39 lapsed, three were suspended by a court, and 17 were subject to a closure notice (based on returns from 33 or 32 of the 35 licensing authorities in the Greater London Area). For the same period, 15 club premises licences were surrendered, none lapsed and 1 was withdrawn. There were also an additional 41 premises licences revoked or club premises certificates withdrawn following a completed review.

Music: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the £500,000 funding announced in December 2007 to set up music rehearsal spaces has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent in each region. [288459]

Mr. Simon: So far, £72,434 of the £500,000 pledged to set up music rehearsal spaces has been spent. In the North West (Liverpool) expenditure has been £39,074, and in the South West (Bristol) expenditure has been £30,376. The total expenditure includes £2,984 paid to Sound Connections for the administration of the scheme.

In total, we are seeking to establish 10 pilot music rehearsal spaces in England. Although their grant allocations have yet to be finalised, those we plan to open over the next few months will be in Hastings, Washington, St. Austell, rural Norfolk, and Nottingham.

National Lottery: Grants

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Lottery funding for good causes has been awarded to organisations operating in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* England in the last 12 months. [289159]

Mr. Simon: The total value of Lottery grants awarded across the UK in the last 12 months to 30 June 2009 was £854.74 million. The amount awarded in that period in *(a)* the Sunderland local authority area was £2.08 million and in *(b)* England was £596.64 million.

This information is drawn from DCMS's Lottery Grants database. The database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

Olympic Games 2012: Football

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the eligibility of players from the four home nations for selection for a Great Britain football team at the London 2012 Olympics. [287700]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* I have not received any recent representations about eligibility of players from the four home nations for selection for a Great Britain football team at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

This is a matter for the home nation Football Associations and the British Olympic Association.

Pay Television

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects Ofcom *(a)* to conclude its pay TV market investigation and *(b)* to publish its final remedies regarding the pay TV market. [279627]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

Ofcom's investigation into the pay TV market is a matter for Ofcom. My officials have discussed this investigation with Ofcom. Ofcom published its third consultation document on their website on 26 June which calls for views on proposed remedies for the pay TV market. Ofcom's document can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/third_paytv/summary/

Renaissance Programme for Museums: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the income and expenditure accounts of the Renaissance programme for museums for each year since 2002. [288372]

Barbara Follett: The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has advised that it has only ever published Renaissance income and expenditure as part of its overall accounts, and that to provide the information in the format requested could be done only at disproportionate cost. The Renaissance review, to be published in July 2009, will contain detailed financial information about the Programme's past finances. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council is committed to publishing an annual report for Renaissance from 2010 onwards which will include detailed accounts for the Programme.

Ryder Cup: Wales

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to meet the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss the hosting of the Ryder Cup tournament in 2010. [288801]

Mr. Sutcliffe: While I wish The Ryder Cup 2010 all the success possible, The Ryder Cup 2010 is a matter for the Welsh Assembly and Ryder Cup Wales. However, the Secretary of State is due to visit The Celtic Manor Resort shortly, and meet with the Welsh Heritage Minister.

Sports: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provisions in *(a)* his Department's funding agreement with Sport England and *(b)* Sport England's guidance to national governing bodies concern management of capital funding; and if he will place in the Library a copy of Sport England's guidance. [287415]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All national governing bodies are required to govern their affairs properly as a condition of Sport England funding.

Earlier this year, Sport England provided guidance to national governing bodies on managing their capital funding, based on best practice developed over five years delivering the Community Club Development Programme. This guidance—the 2009-13 National Governing Body Funding Memorandum of Agreement for Capital Build—has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Sports: Young People

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to encourage young people to participate in sport in the last 12 months. [288448]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Through the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) and as part of our London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic promises, we have extended our ambition for PE and sport and are creating a world-class system that will offer five hours of PE and Sport a week for 5-16 year olds and three hours a week for 16 to 19 year-olds.

In total, we are investing over £2.4 billion in the eight years to 2011, including £783 million from 2008-11. This will help to develop and sustain the nationwide infrastructure for sport in schools, which covers every maintained school in England, and from 2008 we began creating and sustaining a new network of Further Education Sports Co-ordinators (FESCOs) to realise our ambitions for 16 to 19 year-olds.

We are also building capacity of the system by training PE teachers, recruiting and deploying more coaches and reinvigorating inter-school competition through our new network of Competition Managers.

As well as revitalising PE and school sport, we are delivering more opportunities in community settings by working with 34 national governing bodies of sport to strengthen links between schools and community clubs and by focusing investment through our new exciting 'Sport Unlimited' programme to reach semi-sporty children and young people, attracting them into a greater range of sustainable sporting activities.

Swimming

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which local authorities have applied for funding under the Government's free swimming initiative. [288280]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* I have arranged for a list to be placed in the House Libraries of those local authorities who have received funding under the Government's free swimming initiative.

Full information about which local authorities are offering free swimming and the grants awarded is available at the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/sport/5810.aspx

Telecommunications: Disclosure of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many requests for communications data were made by Ofcom to communication service providers (CSPs) under the *(a)* Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949, *(b)* Telecommunications Act 1984 and *(c)* Communications Act 2003 in (i) 2000, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2002, (iv) 2003, (v) 2004, (vi) 2005, (vii) 2006, (viii) 2007 and (ix) 2008; and how many of these requests resulted in the requested communications data being disclosed by the relevant CSP. [284867]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The matters raised are the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Television: Finance

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether implementation of his Department's proposals for a contained contestable element of the television licence fee would require the enactment of primary legislation. [288652]

Mr. Simon: Primary legislation is not required for introducing a contained contestable element within the television licence fee but may be necessary depending on how the contained contestable element is spent and will be considered as part of the Government's proposed Digital Economy Bill.

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether implementation of his Department's proposals for the allocation of a proportion of the projected digital switchover help scheme underspend to test a range of pilots testing different models for the creation of contestable funding for news before 2012 would require *(a)* the enactment of legislation and *(b)* approval by the BBC Trust. [288654]

Mr. Simon: The allocation of an underspend in relation to the switchover help scheme is dealt with in schedule 1 to that scheme. While the BBC Trust's approval of this spend is not specifically required, the Government will be discussing the use of the television licence fee with the BBC Trust during the current consultation period. Whether primary legislation is needed or not will depend on how the underspend is spent, and will be considered as part of the Government's proposed Digital Economy Bill.

Theatre: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free theatre tickets have been given out to young people in each region since the launch of the A Night Less Ordinary Scheme in February 2009. [288460]

Barbara Follett: Data is still being collected, but the number of tickets given away in each region in the first three months of the A Night Less Ordinary scheme (16 February-30 April 2009) is set out in the following table:

Arts Council England region	*Tickets issued*
East	1,109
East Midlands	3,816
London	[1]15,961
North East	949
North West	[1]4,775
South East	[1]5,921
South West	2,862

Arts Council England region	Tickets issued
West Midlands	8,281
Yorkshire	3,293
North East and North West	[2]472
Total	[3]47,439

[1] Awaiting results from one theatre
[2] As part of Rural Highlights Touring Scheme
[3] Awaiting results from three theatres

Tourism: Finance

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated for development of the tourism sector in each region of England in each year since 2003. [285393]

Barbara Follett: DCMS invested £49.9 million in VisitBritain and VisitEngland in 2008-09, toward marketing Britain overseas and marketing England domestically.

Responsibility for tourism in the regions was taken over by the regional development agencies (RDAs) in 2003. Funding for the RDAs is not ring-fenced for particular economic sectors, such as tourism.

In each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08, DCMS contributed £3.6 million to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Single Programme budget (the "Single Pot") in respect of regional tourism responsibilities. The Single Pot, which was set at approximately £2.2 billion, £2.2 billion and £2.1 billion in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, is allocated among the RDAs by DBIS. DCMS's contribution will be £3.5 million, £3.4 million and £3.3 million in these years.

In 2007-08, the nine English RDAs invested almost £70 million in tourism.

World Cup: Football

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budget is for the *(a)* office, *(b)* staffing costs and *(c)* other expenditure of the Prime Minister's Special Representative to the 2018 World Cup Bid in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [288278]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Prime Minister's Special Representative's role is an honorary role.

My Department does not hold a separate budget for the Prime Minister's Special Representative for the 2018 World Cup Bid. His administrative cost are met, where necessary, by my Department.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the responsibilities of the Prime Minister's Special Representative to the 2018 World Cup Bid are; and if he will make a statement. [288279]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Prime Minister appointed the World Cup ambassador on 27 June 2007 with the purpose of working closely with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the English Football Association, to promote our bid to host the 2018 World Cup.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many overseas visits the Prime Minister's Special Representative for the 2018 World Cup Bid has undertaken; at what cost; and what visits are planned prior to May 2010. [288338]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Prime Minister's Special Representative for the 2018 World Cup has undertaken six overseas visits at a cost to the Department of £7,538.02.

All these costs were incurred before the formation of the England 2018 board. All future travel costs will be met by England 2018.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Crimes of Violence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the police have been called out to accident and emergency departments in each NHS trust area because of disorderly conduct by patients in each of the last five years. [287759]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescriptions of drugs for the treatment of alcohol dependency were dispensed in each of the last five years; [283728]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women were diagnosed as alcohol-dependent in each of the last five years; [283729]

(3) how many and what proportion of *(a)* men aged over 65 years and *(b)* women aged over 65 years was diagnosed as alcohol-dependent in each of the last five years; [283739]

(4) how many and what proportion of under 18 year old *(a)* males and *(b)* females were diagnosed as alcohol-dependent in each of the last five years. [283740]

Gillian Merron: There are a number of drugs that can be used to treat, or that are used in the treatment, of alcohol dependency. The vast majority of these drugs are used to treat a range of other conditions and data on their use cannot be broken down to show use by disease group, therefore providing this data would be misleading. However, Dusulfiram (Antabuse) and Acamprosate Calcium (Campral EC) are used only in the treatment of alcohol dependency and the following table gives the combined number of prescription items for Dusulfiram (Antabuse) and Acamprosate Calcium (Campral EC) dispensed in the community in England over the last five years.

Number of prescription items for Acamprosate Calcium (Campral EC) and Disulfiram (Antabuse) dispensed in the community in England, 2004-08

	Items
2004	110,057
2005	109,170
2006	115,924
2007	122,828
2008	134,477

Note:
Prescriptions are written on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

The information on the number of men and women diagnosed as alcohol-dependent is not collected centrally and information on the proportion of men and women diagnosed as alcohol-dependent is not available in the format requested.

Information on the proportion of men and women in England who showed 'any dependence' on alcohol is available for 2000 and 2007 as part of the NHS Information Centre for health and social care report "Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007". However, data on alcohol dependence is available for the following age groups 16 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, 65 to 74, and not the age groups requested.

This report provides useful trend data, comparing 2007 with 2000, however it is important to note that it uses a definition of 'any dependence', which will have included a number of people with mild dependence who either did not require intensive specialised treatment or whose dependence would resolve without any intervention.

Epidemiological analysis of alcohol dependence by independent academics, including that provided in the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP) commissioned from St. George's university in 2004, included use of a different methodology for estimating the most clinically relevant level of alcohol dependence in the population, taking into account the reliability and robustness of using the cut-off chosen in their study.

The cut-off used in the ANARP study, for example, was used to identify either moderately or severely dependent drinkers, as opposed to the identification of "any dependence" used for the "Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007" report sample.

ANARP conducted their research over a period of six months between September 2004 and February 2005, and found an overall prevalence figure for alcohol dependence of 3.6 per cent. in those aged between 16 and 64, which equated to 1.1 million people with alcohol dependence for England.

The "Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007" report, shows the proportion of men and women, by age, who showed any dependence on alcohol in 2000 and 2007. A copy of the "Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007" report has been placed in the Library.

Analgesics

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on analgesic drugs in each of the last three years. [288241]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table provides the net ingredient cost (NIC) of analgesic drugs for both primary and secondary care. The primary care figures are for those drugs as listed in section 4.7 of the British National Formulary. The secondary care NIC figures are for drugs in the following Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) European Pharmaceutical Market Research Association (EPhMRA) sections: N02A0 Narcotic Analgesics, N02B0 Non-Narcotic Analgesics and N02C0 Anti-migraine Preparations.

Analgesic drugs—NIC

£000

	Primary care	Secondary care
2006	411,167.5	50,390.1
2007	450,805.6	53,672.7
2008	426,166.4	52,069.7

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) and Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index held by IMS Health

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 574-5W, on blood: contamination, what steps he has taken to identify the reasons for the destruction of legal waivers indemnifying the Government against any further litigation signed by registrants of the MacFarlane Trust; and if he will make a statement. [288168]

Gillian Merron: Further to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 574W, the Department has identified 247 waivers on file. As explained in the previous answer, a number of waivers going back to 1989 were inadvertently destroyed with the files in which they were held.

Cardiovascular System: Children

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on new techniques for identifying cardiovascular risk in children; and at what locations such research is being carried out. [288386]

Gillian Merron: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is funding a study via its Health Technology Assessment programme on pulse oximetry as a screening test for congenital heart disease in newborn babies. The chief investigator responsible for the study is based at Birmingham University. The NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and University College London Institute of Child Health is also undertaking relevant research as part of its work on the molecular basis of childhood disease.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to assist the screening of children for cardiovascular problems. [288387]

Ann Keen: The Government's Healthy Child Programme recommends that by 72 hours all babies should have a clinical examination of the heart. Those with a suspected abnormality of the heart on examination, or who are at

risk of an abnormality, should have an appropriate diagnostic assessment and start treatment for the condition as soon as indicated. The examinations are usually performed by doctors, but can also be carried out by midwives and specialist nurses. The aim of the clinical examination is to pick up a problem as early as possible, so that any treatment can start as early as possible. The examination record is included in the Red Book under "Colour, pulses, heart sounds and murmurs" for newborns and "Murmur, Cyanosis, Femorals" for the six to eight weeks examination carried out by general practitioners or trained health visitors. The Red Book provides a record of child development, growth, immunisations and the results of examination and screening tests, and should be given and explained to all parents soon after their baby is born.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Norfolk of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2165-66W, on cardiovascular systems: screening, whether his Department is monitoring the location of settings from which vascular checks are being commissioned in each primary care trust area; and if he will make a statement. [288885]

Ann Keen: Currently, no data are collected centrally by the Department on which settings primary care trusts (PCTs) are commissioning NHS health checks to take place in. We are working to establish a national minimum data set on NHS health checks, in order to help PCTs and strategic health authorities observe progress of the NHS health check programme locally.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will develop national templates to assist primary care trusts in delivering vascular checks in *(a)* general practice surgeries, *(b)* community pharmacies, *(c)* walk-in centres and *(d)* other settings. [288886]

Ann Keen: The Department has produced a number of national guidance documents, templates and other resources to support primary care trusts deliver the NHS health check (previous called vascular checks). Most recently, in conjunction with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, it has produced a national template designed to help primary care trusts who wish to commission NHS health checks from community pharmacy. It is available at:

www.pcc.nhs.uk/302

In association with primary care contracting, it has also developed a primary care service framework to assist primary care trusts in delivering NHS health checks in general practice surgeries, walk-in centres and other settings. This can be found at:

www.pcc.nhs.uk/news/531

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes obtained each score against each of the national minimum standards in the latest year for which figures are available. [288600]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that the scores against each national minimum standard (NMS) for care homes, for the year ending 31 March 2008—the latest year for which information is available—are as shown in the following tables.

Performance of care homes against each NMS for care homes for older people as at 31 March 2008

	Standard not met with major shortfalls		*Standard not met with minor shortfalls*		*Standard met*		*Standard exceeded*	
	No. of homes	*% of homes*	*No. of homes*	*% of homes*	*No. of homes*	*% of homes*	*No. of homes*	*% of homes*
Information	198	2	1,778	18	7,362	76	380	4
Contract	136	1	1,269	14	7,720	84	115	1
Needs assessment	138	1	1,079	10	8,466	82	670	6
Meeting needs	257	3	1,171	13	7,230	80	336	4
Trial visits	18	0	218	2	8,503	95	211	2
Intermediate care	80	4	157	7	1,798	84	101	5
Service user plan	367	4	3,541	34	5,691	55	782	8
Healthcare	186	2	1,551	15	7,760	75	882	8
Medication	415	4	3,044	29	6,665	64	250	2
Privacy and dignity	87	1	860	8	8,566	83	854	8
Dying and death	64	1	867	10	7,214	84	481	6
Social contact and activities	178	2	2,194	21	6,452	62	1,557	15
Community contact	6	0	246	2	9,157	88	962	9
Autonomy and choice	55	1	808	8	8,692	84	813	8
Meals and mealtimes	83	1	1,205	12	7,718	74	1,371	13
Complaints	89	1	920	9	8,983	87	390	4
Rights	34	0	273	3	7,975	96	49	1
Protection	203	2	1,597	15	8,316	80	264	3
Premises	264	3	2,532	24	6,530	63	1,057	10
Shared facilities	106	1	1,051	11	7,421	81	601	7
Lavatories and washing facilities	242	3	1,695	19	6,866	75	359	4
Adaptations and equipment	212	2	1,703	19	6,910	76	232	3
Space requirements	54	1	604	7	7,839	88	403	5
Furniture and fittings	133	1	1,659	18	7,010	75	493	5

Performance of care homes against each NMS for care homes for older people as at 31 March 2008

	Standard not met with major shortfalls		Standard not met with minor shortfalls		Standard met		Standard exceeded	
	No. of homes	% of homes	No. of homes	% of homes	No. of homes	% of homes	No. of homes	% of homes
Heating and lighting	305	3	1,917	21	6,679	73	255	3
Hygiene and infection control	169	2	1,694	16	7,693	74	822	8
Staff complement	273	3	1,636	16	7,950	77	519	5
Qualifications	100	1	1,510	15	7,456	72	1,236	12
Recruitment	473	5	2,064	20	7,478	72	350	3
Staff training	249	2	2,197	21	7,087	68	835	8
Day to day operations	284	3	1,663	16	7,176	69	1,249	12
Ethos	199	2	842	9	6,959	78	945	11
Quality assurance	287	3	2,193	21	7,017	68	858	8
Financial procedures	172	2	769	9	7,108	88	63	1
Service user money	70	1	649	6	9,255	91	192	2
Staff supervision	443	5	2,494	26	6,345	67	192	2
Record keeping	440	5	2,559	29	5,789	65	116	1
Safe working practices	386	4	2,703	26	6,878	66	415	4

Source:
CQC database

Performance of care homes against each NMS for care homes for younger adults as at 31 March 2008

	Standard not met with major shortfalls		Standard not met with minor shortfalls		Standard met		Standard exceeded	
	No. of homes	% of homes	No. of homes	% of homes	No. of homes	% of homes	No. of homes	% of homes
Information	123	2	1,403	20	5,125	73	349	5
Needs assessment	73	1	567	8	6,175	83	668	9
Meeting needs	139	2	599	9	5,487	84	297	5
Introductory visits	35	1	200	3	5,985	91	359	5
Contract	195	3	1,161	17	5,148	78	131	2
Service user plan	162	2	1,716	23	4,567	61	1,074	14
Decision making	57	1	614	8	5,939	79	907	12
Participation	55	1	533	8	5,436	83	505	8
Risk taking	116	2	1,160	15	5,561	74	677	9
Confidentiality	53	1	507	8	5,633	90	96	2
Personal development	62	1	420	6	5,337	82	682	10
Education and occupation	40	1	567	8	5,670	75	1,234	16
Community links and social inclusion	45	1	491	7	5,915	79	1,064	14
Leisure	72	1	676	10	5,145	75	948	14
Relationships	4	0	158	2	6,560	87	782	10
Daily routines	38	1	382	5	6,186	82	895	12
Meals and mealtimes	43	1	564	8	6,167	82	733	10
Personal support	43	1	451	6	6,155	82	868	12
Healthcare	55	1	711	9	5,898	78	856	11
Medication	160	2	1,865	25	5,193	69	299	4
Ageing and death	76	1	686	12	4,901	83	259	4
Concerns and complaints	31	0	701	9	6,427	85	367	5
Protection	146	2	1,229	16	5,839	78	312	4
Premises	207	3	1,947	26	4,714	63	669	9
Space requirements	55	1	456	7	5,748	87	381	6
Furniture and fittings	84	1	878	13	5,355	80	336	5
Toilets and bathrooms	170	3	1,072	16	5,123	77	266	4
Shared space	74	1	733	11	5,469	83	338	5
Adaptations and equipment	92	1	616	10	5,255	85	189	3
Hygiene and infection control	68	1	841	11	6,161	82	462	6
Roles	78	1	459	7	5,621	90	120	2
Qualities and qualifications	79	1	1,109	15	5,486	73	796	11
Staff team	228	3	1,373	20	4,951	72	289	4
Recruitment	257	3	1,288	17	5,567	75	340	5
Training and development	130	2	1,470	20	5,239	70	624	8
Supervision and support	179	3	1,211	18	5,046	75	312	5
Day to day operations	152	2	1,273	17	5,231	70	863	11

Performance of care homes against each NMS for care homes for younger adults as at 31 March 2008

	Standard not met with major shortfalls		*Standard not met with minor shortfalls*		*Standard met*		*Standard exceeded*	
	No. of homes	*% of homes*	*No. of homes*	*% of homes*	*No. of homes*	*% of homes*	*No. of homes*	*% of homes*
Ethos	109	2	434	7	5,176	81	679	11
Quality assurance	177	2	1,657	22	5,061	67	603	8
Policies and procedures	106	2	1,193	19	4,891	78	87	1
Record keeping	223	3	1,629	26	4,423	69	103	2
Safe working practices	182	2	1,843	25	5,185	69	302	4
Conduct of the service	182	3	964	16	4,783	80	70	1

Source:
CQC database

Carers

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to assist carers. [287981]

Phil Hope: 'Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities' sets out a number of commitments that are being delivered over the next three years (2008-09 to 2010-11). A copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

The Carers Grant is currently £240 million a year. It enables local authorities to develop innovative and personalised outcomes reflecting the needs of their local carers. It includes £25 million that councils can use to provide emergency cover for carers when they are suddenly unable to care. This means that, by 2011, we will have invested over £1.7 billion in supporting carers.

We are investing over £255 million to support carers in the short term. This includes £150 million for planned breaks from carers, up to £38 million to enable carers to be better able to combine paid employment with their caring role through enhanced flexible working opportunities and increased skills training opportunities, and over £6 million to support young carers. This extra funding recognises the value of carers in today's society and their ever-growing importance in the future

In the last couple of months, we have formally launched a national information service, Carers Direct. The Carers Direct helpline and website enables carers to access a wide range of information and advice on sources of support.

On 15 July 2009, we announced the 25 primary care trusts and local authorities that have been selected to be the Carers Strategy Demonstrator Sites. These will provide evidence of good practice in respect of providing breaks for carers, health and well-being checks and national health service support for carers.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that primary care trusts use funding provided for respite for carers; [288076]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of carers of people with Parkinson's Disease who had no respite break in the last 12 months. [288077]

Phil Hope: Additional funding of £150 million for respite care is included in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations. This is in addition to the Carers Grant paid to councils across England which is worth £240 million in 2009-10 and which they can use to support carers with breaks and other services.

The NHS Operating Framework 2009-10 states that PCTs should work with their local authority partners and publish joint plans on how their combined funding will support breaks for carers, including short breaks.

However, the actual level of spend in each year is for PCTs to decide locally in the light of their local circumstances, and priorities as set out in the NHS Operating Framework and Vital Signs. This includes a vital sign on the proportion of carers receiving a carer's break.

The NHS Information Centre does not hold information on carers of people with Parkinson's Disease.

Carers: Young People

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of young carers; and if he will make a statement. [285918]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The 2001 census, which is the only source of national data on the number of carers of all ages, indicated that there were some 175,000 children and young people aged under 18 across the UK who were offering some care to family members, neighbours, friends or others.

The census records young people who are described by the adults in the household as offering care to their families or communities. This includes young people who are responsible for the care of a family member (which is how young carers are usually defined) plus others who may provide more occasional support for neighbours and friends.

Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment spent on staffing in each of the last five years; [289054]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* part-time staff are employed the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment; [289056]

(3) when Ministers in his Department last met staff of the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment; [289061]

(4) what the budget of the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment has been in each of the last five years; [289062]

(5) what the cost of the office premises of the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment was in each of the last five years; [289063]

(6) what the salary of each member of the board of the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment was in each of the last five years. [289064]

Gillian Merron: The Committee on Carcinogenicity in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC) does not employ staff. Ministers have not held meetings with members of COC in the last five years.

Since 2006 the Health Protection Agency (HPA) have provided a secretariat for COC. The HPA meets the costs of several advisory committees. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs for this committee.

The COC does not occupy office premises. COC meetings are either held in premises provided by the HPA or the Department.

COC does not have a board. Members of the COC are not paid a salary. An attendance allowance £158 for the chairman and £123 for members, a reading fee £40 for the chairman and £30 for members and travelling expenses are provided.

Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* part-time staff are employed by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment; [289017]

(2) when Ministers in his Department last met staff of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment; [289043]

(3) what the budget of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment has been in each of the last five years; [289044]

(4) what the cost of the office premises of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment was in each of the last five years; [289045]

(5) what the annual salary of each member of the Board of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment was in each of the last five years; [289046]

(6) how much the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment has spent on staffing in each of the last five years; [289047]

(7) how much the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment has spent on external consultancy in each of the last five years. [289138]

Gillian Merron: The Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) does not employ staff. Ministers have not held meetings with members of COMARE in the last five years.

Since 2005 the Health Protection Agency (HPA) has provided a secretariat for COMARE. The HPA meets the costs of several advisory committees. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs for this committee.

COMARE does not occupy office premises. COMARE meetings are either held in premises provided by the HPA or the Department.

COMARE does not have a board. Members of COMARE are not paid a salary. An attendance allowance (£141.50 for the chairman and £98.50 for members, a reading fee £28.50 for the chairman and £25 for members) and travelling expenses are provided.

COMARE has not employed external consultants in the last five years.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the salary of each member of the Board of the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants was in each of the last five years; [289019]

(2) how much the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants spent on staff in each of the last five years; [289020]

(3) how many staff the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants employs; and how many are *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time; [289021]

(4) how much the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants spent on external consultancy in each of the last five years; [289022]

(5) when Ministers in his Department last met staff of the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants; [289040]

(6) what the budget of the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants was in each of the last five years; [289041]

(7) what the cost of the office premises for the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* London was in each of the last five years. [289042]

Gillian Merron: The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) does not employ any staff. Ministers have not held meetings with members of COMEAP in the last five years.

Since 2006 the Health Protection Agency (HPA) have provided a secretariat for COMEAP. The HPA meets the costs of several advisory committees. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs for this committee.

COMEAP does not occupy office premises. COMEAP meetings are either held in premises provided by the HPA or the Department.

COMEAP does not have a board. Members of COMEAP are not paid a salary. An attendance allowance (£158 for the chairman and £123 for members, a reading fee £40 for the chairman and £30 for members) and travelling expenses are provided.

COMEAP employed external consultants in 2007 to produce peer reviews of the latest report on "Long term exposure to air pollution: Effect on mortality" at a total cost of £4,000.

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to patient and service user groups on claiming for travel costs associated with attendance at meetings of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence between 5 March and 5 June 2009. [288579]

Ann Keen: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State does not issue any guidance to patient and service user groups on claiming for travel costs associated with the attendance at meetings of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence. However, guidance available on the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence website in March 2009 was revised in May 2009 to bring it in line with the Department's best practice guidance 'Reward and Recognition'. The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence pays reasonable travel expenses to attend meetings and events (excluding their Council meetings) to those who are self financing or unemployed.

Counselling: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist counselling services the NHS provided in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in the latest period for which figures are available. [289153]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he last met Mr Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287402]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has not met with Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his ministerial duties.

Dementia: Drugs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the report on prescribing of anti-psychotic medication commissioned by his Department; what steps his Department plans to take to reduce reliance on inappropriate use of medication in the management of people with dementia; and if he will make a statement. [288576]

Phil Hope: The report from Professor Sube Banerjee on the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia has now been received by officials in the Department. The report will be published shortly, following normal peer review procedures.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future level of funding for dementia research; and what matters relating to such funding will be discussed at the forthcoming research summit held with the Medical Research Council. [288082]

Gillian Merron: The dementia research summit to be held on 21 July will bring together a range of experts to help shape the future direction of dementia research in the United Kingdom. It will aim to identify gaps in existing knowledge and prioritise new areas for research investment. In addition to helping to develop a more clearly prioritised research agenda, the summit will also focus on better ways to support the current science base and sharpen its impact.

The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the Medical Research Council is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Future levels of expenditure on dementia research will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

Dental Health: Children

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide guidance on dental hygiene to children. [288702]

Ann Keen: The Department has just published a revision of "Delivering Better Oral Health: An evidence based toolkit for prevention". The aim of the toolkit, which has been distributed to all dental practices in England, is to ensure that dentists and members of dental teams give consistent, evidence based advice to patients and their families on the prevention of dental disease. The toolkit contains advice specific to children 0 to six years, children and young adults from age seven as well as for adults. Guidance includes tooth brushing, use of correct toothpaste and dietary advice. While access to national health service dentistry is improving and the toolkit advises parents and carers to take young children to the dentist, we have also taken initiatives to promote oral health in a community setting. For example, under the Brushing for Life scheme families with young children in areas with higher levels of dental decay are issued with a free pack of fluoride toothpaste and a toothbrush—supported by advice on oral hygiene—when they attend child health clinics, Surestart Children's Centres and other health and pre-school facilities.

"Delivering Better Oral Health: An evidence based toolkit for prevention" has been placed in the Library, and is also available online at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_102331

Dental Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients received dental treatment on the NHS in *(a)* St Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [288204]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of patients registered with a national health service dentist, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex A of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006. Information is provided by strategic health authority and primary care trust, as well as at a national level.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ("patients seen") over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2008 is available in Table D3 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 3; 31 December 2008 report. Information is provided by PCT and SHA, as well as at a national level.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q3

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of employees in his Department are on a *(a)* flexible working contract and *(b)* job share employment contract. [287096]

Phil Hope: The Department recognises that flexible working allows staff to combine employment and a career with other responsibilities as well as meeting personal needs. The Department encourages staff to work flexibly through providing opportunities such as part time working, job sharing, term time only working and the use of flexitime. It also provides the technology to allow staff to work at home on occasions and has in place specific arrangements to allow parents, adopters, guardians and foster carers of children under 16 (or disabled children under 18) to apply to work flexibly.

Managers have the discretion to agree flexible working arrangements locally, without making contractual changes. These arrangements are not recorded centrally so the percentage of staff working flexibly is not available but is likely to be a large fraction of the work force.

According to the Department's centrally held records (the Business Management System) at 1 April 2009 approximately 0.3 per cent, of civil servants in the Department were in job share arrangements. Approximately 9 per cent. were working part-time and approximately 0.2 per cent. were working in term time only.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288739]

Phil Hope: The Department has spent the following amounts on Royal Mail in the last two years:

	Total spend (£)
2007-08	170,608.43
2008-09	138,416.00

Diabetes: Health Education

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide guidance for people with diabetes on eating recommended daily amounts of fresh fruit and vegetables. [288641]

Ann Keen: The Department has no plans to issue specific nutritional guidance for people with diabetes. We recommend that everybody, including those with diabetes, should eat a healthy balanced diet, which includes five servings of fruit and vegetables a day. Eating a healthy balanced diet, and taking regular physical activity are key parts of good diabetes management, and can help to prevent or delay the onset of long-term complications of the condition.

Driving Under Influence

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drug-related finished hospital admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of road traffic accidents there have been for *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 18, (ii) between 18 and 25, (iii) between 26 and 30, (iv) between 31 and 50, (v) between 51 and 70 and (vi) over 71 in each (A) region and (B) primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [286837]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* This information is not collected centrally.

There is no way of identifying whether a patient's admission was drug related or not. For example, a patient may have a drug poisoning code recorded on their episode of care, but this could be due to the over-prescription of a drug while in hospital, and does not necessarily signify that the patient came into hospital intoxicated. For these reasons the joint appearance of a drug poisoning code and a road traffic accident (RTA) code on a record of an episode of care does not signify that the patient was intoxicated at the time of the RTA.

Drugs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with pharmaceutical manufacturers on the availability of medicines; and if he will make a statement. [288893]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers have had no recent meetings with pharmaceutical manufacturers on this subject. Departmental officials have frequent contact with manufacturers about shortages and discontinuations of drugs.

Drugs: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on the implementation of drugs policies in each category in each of the last 10 years. [286733]

Gillian Merron: The following table sets out the Department's spending on the implementation of drug policies over the last nine years. Data for 2000-01 are unavailable. The table includes funding for the national treatment agency for substance misuse (NTA).

Department of Health expenditure (£ millions to one decimal place)

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Adult PTB	142.0	191.0	236.0	253.0	300.0	385.0	398.0	398.0	406.0
Mainstream funding (PCT)	145	131	200	204	208	212	202	208	[1]—
Young people's PTB	0.0	0.0	0.0	15	24	24.6	24.7	24.7	24.7
Prison clinical services (IDTS)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8	11.5	23.2	39.7
NTA central costs	2.1	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.7	10.5	11.6	11.6	11.6
Frank (DH contribution)	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.6	1.3	3.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Focal Point[1]	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

[1] Not finalised

Notes:
PTB—pooled drug treatment budget,
PCT—primary care trust,
IDTS—integrated drug treatment system.

The UK Focal Point collates data and information on drug misuse in the UK and reports it to the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction.

This table does not include central voluntary sector funding, staff costs, and central programme costs, as these are more difficult to segregate out to demonstrate drugs specific expenditure.

Drugs: Misuse

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported incidents of overdoses of prescription drugs there have been of under 18 year olds in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North-East and *(c)* Teesside in each of the last 10 years. [285194]

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* under five, *(b)* five to nine, *(c)* 10 to 16 and (d) 17 to 18 years live in a household where (i) one or (ii) both parents have a substance abuse problem; and if he will make a statement. [286738]

Gillian Merron: Although the data requested are collected via the National Drugs Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) has identified problems with the quality of this data and it believes that releasing this data in their current form would be misleading. The NTA is addressing these data quality issues and expects to publish this data, with an assessment of its quality, alongside their annual statistics release later in this financial year.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatments are provided by the NHS for problem drug users; and if he will make a statement. [287688]

Gillian Merron: The National Health Service provides a range of treatments for drug misuse. 'Models of Care for Treatment of Adult Drug Misusers', published by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in 2006, sets out a national framework for the provision of drug misuse treatment services. Types of interventions described include:

substance misuse related advice and information;

harm reduction interventions;

community prescribing interventions: general practitioner prescribing and specialist prescribing;

structured psychosocial interventions;

structured day programmes;

in-patient drug treatment;

residential rehabilitation; and

aftercare.

These interventions are provided as part of a package of care for individuals, and one person may receive a number of these interventions during their time in treatment.

In addition the NHS works in partnership with other agencies to support the social reintegration of problem drug users to help underpin the process of their becoming drug-free.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 478W, on drugs rehabilitation, how many people in each age group dependent on each drug in each year were resident in each region. [286418]

Gillian Merron: The data for 2003-04 are not available centrally. There is no regional breakdown for 2004-05, as regional data were not available for every region that year. The information available, is for 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, and has been placed in the Library.

Epilepsy

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Services to strategic health authorities on epilepsy. [288423]

Ann Keen: A copy of the letter, which is expected to be sent out in the next few days, has been placed in the Library.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on

matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available; [281863]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283475]

Ann Keen: The information is as follows.

The Working Time (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/1567)—which implement Article 17(5) third subparagraph of Directive 2003/88/EC concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time.

Estimate of costs: Nil

Any costs arising from these changes to the average maximum working week will fall to the national health service, not to the Department. Any additional work for the Department arising from this would be met within existing resources.

Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) and Blood Safety and Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/941)[1]

Medicines for Human Use (Prescribing by EEA Practitioners)Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1692)[2]

Medical Devices (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/2936)[1]

Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations Etc.) Amendment Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3097)[2]

[1] To give effect to new EU obligations

[2] To give effect to existing EU obligations

Estimate of costs: Nil.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency activities are mostly based on EC legislation they are already funded to do the work either through the medicines fees system or the Departments funding for devices. Therefore the MHRA would do the work within existing resources.

Exercise

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the economy of physical inactivity since 2002. [288086]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Department included estimates of the cost of physical inactivity, to the wider economy of England, of £8.2 billion a year in "At least five a week—Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health", published in 2004.

More recently, a study of the primary and secondary health care costs attributable to physical inactivity was commissioned and published an estimate of these costs for every primary care trust in England as an Annex to "Be active, be healthy—A plan for getting the nation moving", published in February 2009.

Copies of both publications have already been placed in the Library.

Eyesight: Testing

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in Hemsworth have received free eye tests since they were introduced. [288663]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of national health service sight tests, by patient eligibility, in England in 2007-08 is available in Table B3 of Annex C of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales: Year Ending 31 March 2008" report.

Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA) but is not available by parliamentary constituency. Information on the number of NHS sight tests by patient eligibility is only available at a local level from 2007-08.

This report, published on 20 November 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gosactivity0708p2

The number of NHS sight tests, by patient eligibility, in England, from 1996-97 to 2007-08 is available in Table A3, Annex B of the same report. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care is due to publish information for 2008-09 on 19 August 2009.

From 1 April 1999, eligibility for an NHS sight test was extended to everyone aged 60 or over. Patients may qualify for an NHS sight test on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60, with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate. Patients may also have had more than one sight test in the specified time period.

Food: Chemical Analysis

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will have discussions with Tower Hamlets Council on its budgetary provision for the chemical analysis of food. [285694]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has reviewed the Tower Hamlets annual monitoring returns and is satisfied that budgetary provision is being made by Tower Hamlets for chemical sampling, and that the council are fulfilling the responsibilities for sampling set out in the Statutory Food Law Code of Practice. FSA monitoring returns since 2006 for Tower Hamlets shows that sampling has been carried out for a range of issues including composition, contamination and labelling of food in addition to microbiological sampling. On this basis, discussions with Tower Hamlets on budgetary provision for the chemical analysis of food are considered unnecessary.

Food: Safety

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the reduction in the number of public analysts in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [285213]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency believes that there are two main factors that have led to the decline in overall numbers of public analysts in

the United Kingdom. First, public analysts are retiring at a faster rate than they are being recruited; 60 per cent., of the current population are over 50 years and the rate for successful completion of the MChemA qualification is only one per year. Secondly, as the number of public analyst laboratories is falling there maybe less incentive for people to undertake the MChemA (which is a required qualification to become a public analysts and takes an average of six years to complete).

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Food Standards Agency's review of public analyst services has not been completed; when he expects it will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [285214]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) commenced a review of the public analyst service in 2007 (in consultation with the Association of Public Analysts) to address concerns over the decline in the public analyst service. Although the majority of the work on issues was completed in 2007, the refocusing of resources within the FSA resulted in a delay in carrying out a full public consultation.

The FSA is now putting together a stakeholder working group to look at reviewing and amending the Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) Regulations 1990 in order to enable suitably qualified people, other than those holding a Masters in Chemical Analysis, to become official food analysts. The FSA is making these proposals as part of requirements under European Union food and feed law to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of suitably qualified and experienced staff; and appropriate facilities and equipment to undertake official controls within the United Kingdom.

The results of this work will be published later this year.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of local authorities in monitoring food safety and enforcing food safety standards. [285693]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) assesses the performance of local authorities on food safety matters on an annual basis. The last assessment was done in February 2009, and the Board paper which makes up the assessment and shows the local authority enforcement activities can be found at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/info090201.pdf

Each year the FSA Board assesses local authority performance on food safety matters. The FSA Board examines data reports from monitoring and audit checks to assess local authority performance in enforcing food safety legislation. FSA powers to carry out these activities are set out in under the Food Standards Act 1999.

The FSA Board examine both national trends and the position of individual authorities.

Where an individual local authority reports figures which are not considered to be acceptable, further inquiries are made of that authority, and the FSA will, if appropriate, use its powers formally to audit that authority's services.

General Practitioners: Home Visits

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage GPs to make home visits outside surgery hours. [288371]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not issued specific guidance on home visits for general practitioner (GPs) working during the out-of-hours period—6.30 pm to 8 am on weekdays, and the whole of weekends and Bank Holidays. The decision to undertake a home visit is a matter of clinical judgment at any time.

All out-of hours services must be delivered to the National Quality Requirements, ensuring patients have access to consistently high quality and responsive care, regardless of where they live.

The Requirements stipulate that:

patients will be guaranteed a GP consultation—including a home visit if there is a clinical need;

patients are treated by the clinician best equipped to meet their needs in the most appropriate location; and

services will be regularly audited to ensure that patients are receiving quality care.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England are closed at lunchtimes on weekdays. [288370]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data on general practitioner (GP) practices' opening hours is not collected centrally, but under the nationally negotiated general medical services (GMS) contract, GP practices are responsible for delivering primary medical care services to their patients from 8am to 6:30pm Monday to Friday, except Good Friday, Christmas day or bank holidays. Practices can place information of their opening times for patients to access on the NHS Choices website.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288931]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no current plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer recess.

Haemophilia: Compensation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing in full the recommendation of the Archer Inquiry into Contaminated Blood and Blood Products on compensation for haemophiliacs infected through contaminated blood products; and if he will make a statement. [288175]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* No estimate has been made of the cost of implementing in full the recommendation of the Archer Inquiry into

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products on compensation for haemophiliacs infected through contaminated blood products as Lord Archer's report did not quantify the levels of compensation he was recommending.

Haemophilia: HIV Infection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many haemophiliacs known to have been infected with HIV through contaminated blood products were alive on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [288176]

Gillian Merron: As at 31 March 2009 346 haemophiliacs, known to have been infected with HIV through contaminated blood products, are still alive.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to respond to the results of his Department's consultation on proposals on eligibility of overseas visitors for free primary medical services; what the reasons are for the time taken to respond; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the unpublished consultation responses. [286924]

Gillian Merron: A summary of the responses to the 2004 consultation Proposals to Exclude Overseas Visitors from Eligibility to Free NHS Primary Medical Services was published on 10 June and can be viewed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_100608

A copy has been placed in the Library.

The complex issues raised in the complete responses to the 2004 consultation needed to feed into the joint Department of Health and Home Office review enforcing the rules: A new strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws.

The Government's final conclusions and its associated finding were announced in the written ministerial statement on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 97WS.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill 1990

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file INW0014/0030/0008/VO1 HF&E Bill 1990 Lords Consideration of Commons Amendments; and if he will make a statement; [285545]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file INW0014/0030/0010/VO1 HF&E Bill 1990 Various Papers; and if he will make a statement; [285546]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file INW0014/0030/0005/VO1 HF&E Bill 1990 Commons 2nd Reading; and if he will make a statement; [285550]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file INW0014/0030/0006/VO1 HF&E Bill 1990 Commons Committee; and if he will make a statement. [285551]

Gillian Merron: The Department does hold these files. It will take some time to review the information requested and we shall endeavour to do so within 20 working days, (the period of time that would apply had the hon. Member submitted the questions as Freedom of Information requests). I will write to the hon. Member in due course and place a copy of my letter in the Library.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions of patients of each age group there were in Suffolk where the primary or secondary diagnosis was drug-related in each of the last five years. [286260]

Gillian Merron: The number of total admissions to hospital in the Suffolk primary care trust area, which the primary or secondary diagnosis of the patient was drug related, broken down by age for 2003-04 to 2007-08 are shown in the following table.

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Year (of end of first period of care in patient's hospital stay)				
Age	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Under 15	127	137	164	221	178
15 to 64	1,559	1,559	1,564	1,514	1,732
65+	552	606	579	529	489
Unknown	3	—	1	—	—

Notes:

1. There is no way to distinguish between illegal and legal drugs and although the patient may be given a drug related diagnosis.

2. Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

3. Data Quality

Hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

4. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected from the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

5. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis—drug related

These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

6. The ICD-10 codes used to identify a drug related diagnosis are as follows (alcohol and tobacco codes have been removed as requested). Please note: A 'drug' can be defined, broadly speaking, as any substance that alters normal bodily function. Therefore we have included codes relating to noxious substances and solvents. It is not possible to identify in ICD-10 all diseases caused by drugs (legal or illegal) and there is no way to guarantee, that the admission was drug related. For example, a patient admitted for inguinal hernia surgery may also be dependent on a drug.

F11—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids
F12—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids
F13—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics
F14—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cocaine
F15—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine
F16—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of hallucinogens
F18—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of volatile solvents
F19—Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances
F55—Abuse of non-dependence-producing substances
K71.0 Toxic liver disease with cholestasis
K71.1 Toxic liver disease with hepatic necrosis
K71.2 Toxic liver disease with acute hepatitis
K71.3 Toxic liver disease with chronic persistent hepatitis
K71.4 Toxic liver disease with chronic lobular hepatitis
K71.5 Toxic liver disease with chronic active hepatitis
K71.6 Toxic liver disease with hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K71.7 Toxic liver disease with fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
K71.8 Toxic liver disease with other disorders of liver
K71.9 Toxic liver disease, unspecified
T36—Poisoning by systemic antibiotics
T37—Poisoning by other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics
T38—Poisoning by hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified
T39—Poisoning by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
T40—Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens]
T41—Poisoning by anaesthetics and therapeutic gases
T42—Poisoning by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs
T43—Poisoning by psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
T44—Poisoning by drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system
T45—Poisoning by primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified
T46—Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system
T47—Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system
T48—Poisoning by agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system
T49—Poisoning by topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs
T50—Poisoning by diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
T52—Toxic effect of organic solvents
T53—Toxic effect of halogen derivatives of aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons
T54—Toxic effect of corrosive substances
T55—Toxic effect of soaps and detergents
T56—Toxic effect of metals
T57—Toxic effect of other inorganic substances
T58—Toxic effect of carbon monoxide
T59—Toxic effect of other gases, fumes and vapours
T60—Toxic effect of pesticides
T61—Toxic effect of noxious substances eaten as seafood
T62—Toxic effect of other noxious substances eaten as food
T63—Toxic effect of contact with venomous animals
T64—Toxic effect of aflatoxin and other mycotoxin food contaminants
T65—Toxic effect of other and unspecified substances
X40—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
X41—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
X42—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], not elsewhere classified
X43—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system
X44—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X46—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to organic solvents and halogenated hydrocarbons and their vapours
X47—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other gases and vapours
X48—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to pesticides
X49—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances
X60—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
X61—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
X62—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], not elsewhere classified
X63—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system
X64—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X66—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to organic solvents and halogenated hydrocarbons and their vapours
X67—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other gases and vapours
X68—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to pesticides
X69—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances
Y40—Systemic antibiotics
Y41—Other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics
Y42—Hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified
Y43—Primarily systemic agents
Y44—Agents primarily affecting blood constituents
Y45—Analgesics, antipyretics and anti-inflammatory drugs
Y46—Antiepileptic and antiparkinsonism drugs
Y47—Sedatives, hypnotics and antianxiety drugs
Y48—Anaesthetics and therapeutic gases
Y49—Psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
Y50—Central nervous system stimulants, not elsewhere classified
Y51—Drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system
Y52—Agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system
Y53—Agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system
Y54—Agents primarily affecting water-balance and mineral and uric acid metabolism
Y55—Agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system
Y56—Topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs
Y57—Other and unspecified drugs and medicaments
Y58—Bacterial vaccines
Y59—Other and specified vaccines and biological substances
T80.0 Air embolism following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.1 Vascular complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.2 Infections following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.8 Other complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.9 Unspecified complication following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T88.0 Infection following immunization
T88.1 Other complications following immunization, not elsewhere classified
T88.2 Shock due to anaesthesia
T88.3 Malignant hyperthermia due to anaesthesia
T88.5 Other complications of anaesthesia
T88.6 Anaphylactic shock due to adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered
T88.7 Unspecified adverse effect of drug or medicament
Z71.5 Drug abuse counselling and surveillance
T96.X Sequelae of poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
T97.X Sequelae of toxic effects of substances chiefly non-medicinal as to source
Z50.3 Drug rehabilitation

7. Suffolk PCT of residences
From 2006-07 onwards Suffolk as a whole was a PCT. Prior to this, Suffolk was made up of four PCTs. Reference should be made as follows for details.
2006-07 onwards
5PT—Suffolk PCT
Pre 2005-06
5JR—Suffolk Coastal
5JQ—Ipswich
5JT—Central Suffolk
5JW—Suffolk West
8. Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Sources:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care
NHS Information centre for health and social care.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital admissions and *(b)* finished consultant episodes there were (i) in England and (ii) at (A) Ashford Hospital, (B) Hillingdon Hospital, (C) Ealing Hospital, (D) West Middlesex University Hospital and (E) Teddington Memorial Hospital in each of the last five years. [288419]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data on hospital admission are not collected at individual hospital level. The information collected is at national health service trust or primary care trust (PCT) level. Data on hospital admissions in the relevant provider NHS trusts and PCT and for England are shown in the following tables.

Count of Finished Admission Episodes and Finished Consultant Episodes for England and Selected NHS Trusts: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	England		*Ashford and St. Peter's NHS Trust*		*Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust*	
	Finished admission episodes	*Finished consultant episodes*	*Finished admission episodes*	*Finished consultant episodes*	*Finished admission episodes*	*Finished consultant episodes*
2007-08	13,479,828	15,359,062	64,454	68,405	55,673	59,939
2006-07	12,976,273	14,784,581	59,689	62,272	53,645	57,757
2005-06	12,678,628	14,423,506	61,623	65,593	50,810	55,353
2004-05	12,101,986	13,706,450	60,939	65,743	46,414	51,304
2003-04	11,809,017	13,295,166	58,857	64,299	42,224	45,788

	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust		*Richmond and Twickenham PCT*	
	Finished admission episodes	*Finished consultant episodes*	*Finished admission episodes*	*Finished consultant episodes*
2007-08	41,471	47,567	361	361
2006-07	38,171	43,195	416	416
2005-06	33,428	36,329	444	444
2004-05	31,211	33,692	470	470
2003-04	29,912	32,233	355	355

Notes:
Finished admission episodes (a)
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Finished Consultant Episode (FCE) (b)
A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
Data quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Hospital Providers
A provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (e.g. NHS Trust or PCT). Hospital providers can also include Treatment Centres (TC). Treatment Centres (also known as Diagnostic Centres) provide elective (planned) surgery for a range of conditions, mainly for day surgery or short-term hospital stay patients.
Some Treatment Centres are attached to hospital trusts and HES enables data for these to be separately identified from the rest of the healthcare provider's data. It does this by adding TC to the Trust code; if there is more than one per Trust T1, T2, T3 etc are suggested unless already in use by the Trust. Activity performed in the remainder of the Trust is identified by the health care provider code being followed by an 'X'.
Hospital providers beginning with an 'N' indicates an independent sector health care provider.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* in-patient admissions and *(b)* first outpatient appointments was in each speciality in (i) Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust and (ii) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [288795]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect in-patient and out-patient data at specialty level, except for trauma and orthopaedics. The latest data for May 2009, showing in-patient and out-patient median waiting times for Derbyshire County primary care trust (PCT) and England is shown in the following tables.

Median in-patient waiting time for elective admission (weeks) May 2009 (commissioner based)

Specialty	*Derbyshire County PCT*	*England*
Trauma and Orthopaedics	5.2	5.4
All Specialties	3.6	4.3

Source:
Department of Health Monthly Waiting List Collection MMRCOM

Median out-patient waiting time for elective admission (weeks) May 2009 (commissioner based)

Specialty	*Derbyshire County PCT*	*England*
Trauma and Orthopaedics	2.4	2.9
All Specialties	2.3	2.8

Source:
Department of Health Monthly Waiting List Collection MMRCOM

Hospitals: Working Hours

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken into levels of availability of medical services in hospitals at weekends. [288760]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not funded any research into the levels of availability of medical services in hospitals at weekends.

Human-Animal Hybrid Embryos

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legislative provisions govern the examination of human admixed embryos which have been stored in licensed premises for the purposes of investigating an offence under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990. [288617]

Gillian Merron: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, provides that no one shall bring about the creation of an human admixed embryo or keep or use such an embryo except in pursuit of a licence from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. This includes where human admixed embryos are being kept, examined or stored in connection with the investigation of, or proceedings for, an offence under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008). Therefore, examination, keeping or use of such an embryo must take place at licensed premises.

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many staff the Independent Reconfiguration Panel employs; and how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* part-time staff there are; [288968]

(2) how much the Independent Reconfiguration Panel spent on external consultancy in each of the last five years; [288969]

(3) how much the Independent Reconfiguration Panel spent on staffing in each of the last five years; [288970]

(4) what the salary of each member of the board of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel was in each of the last five years; [288971]

(5) what the cost of office premises occupied by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel was in each of the last five years; [288972]

(6) what the budget of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel was in each of the last five years. [288973]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) is an advisory non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Health and does not employ any staff directly. The Panel has a part-time chair who is a public appointment, a full-time chief executive employed by the NHS Business Services Authority, a full-time secretary to the panel employed by the Department, and one agency administrative staff.

As stated in previous responses to the hon. Member 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 79W and 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2062W; all expenditure associated with the running of the IRP is met by the Department. Expenditure on IRP functions is not separately identified or reported on within Departmental costs. The Department does not set an annual budget with the IRP. Since its inception in 2003, IRP expenditure has been authorised by the Department for annual costs to reflect expenditure reasonably incurred to address ad hoc and irregular requests from the Secretary of State for Health to the Panel for authoritative advice on contested service changes, referred to him by local Overview and Scrutiny Committees in line with the Panel's terms of reference.

An exercise was undertaken recently to look at the detail of expenditure associated with the IRP's activity in 2008-09, some of the results of which are summarised in response to your questions.

The total expenditure, including employment costs, of the IRP in 2008-09 was approximately £930,000.

For the staff listed, the approximate total cost of salaries in 2008-09 was £250,000. The IRP has a number of members, details of whom can be found on the IRP's website:

www.irpanel.org.uk/view.asp?id=47

These members do not receive a salary but are entitled to claim a fee of £140 per day and normal expenses in line with Civil Service rates when they are engaged on IRP activity. The approximate total cost of members' fees was £22,000 in 2008-09. The Panel appoints external contractors to support specific reviews at an approximate cost of £312,000 in 2008-09.

The approximate total of all costs associated with the IRP offices, including rates and utilities, was £130,000 in 2008-09. The approximate total of all costs relating to the provision of media and communications services was £80,000 in 2008-09.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers in his Department last met staff of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. [288974]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Alan Johnson, as Secretary of State for Health, met Dr. Peter Barrett, chair, and Richard Jeavons, chief executive, of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) on 1 June 2009.

An introductory meeting between Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Health, Dr. Peter Barrett and Richard Jeavons is planned shortly.

Influenza: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public awareness campaigns his Department has undertaken in respect of the *(a)* interim and *(b)* full National Pandemic Flu Service; what steps he has taken to measure public awareness; how much each campaign has cost; and what estimate he has made of levels of public awareness of each service. [282161]

Gillian Merron: The Department of Health is carrying out an awareness campaign to publicise the interim National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS) which it is anticipated will be launched in late July in England. As the differences between the interim and full service are technical and will not significantly affect the public's experience of the service, the publicity will not refer to these differences.

The campaign, which it is anticipated will start in late July, includes national press and radio advertising and digital search activity.

The cost of the campaign is around £2.4 million.

Levels of awareness of the service are being measured by tracking research which is being carried out to check awareness, knowledge and understanding of swine flu by the public.

Kidneys: Health Education

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 868W, on kidneys: health education, what plans he has to promote the Knowing the symptoms of Kidney disease self assessment tool on the NHS Choices website; and what plans he has to link it to other relevant websites offering information on kidney disease. [288464]

Ann Keen: The kidney disease self assessment tool on the NHS Choices website is being promoted via editorial features, clinical information articles, blogs, news stories and links across the national health service website and partner websites including primary care trusts. The self-assessment tool can be found at:

www.nhs.uk/tools/pages/kidneydisease.aspx

It is also included within the NHS Health Check area of the website and has been the lead story on the NHS home page on two occasions—at launch in January and in March to support World Kidney Day.

The tool is published via a syndication programme on a growing number of partner websites including popular lifestyle websites such as iVillage, and AOL.

KPMG

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to KPMG in each month of the last five years. [286699]

Phil Hope: The following table specifies the total payments from the Department to KPMG by month and year. The table will include all services provided by KPMG including management consultancy as well as finance, tax and audit services.

£

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	—	121,906	318,791	707,812	676,065	594,755
February	—	194,128	2,490,903	300,824	144,181	336,490
March	—	534,310	1,661,831	335,898	393,844	1,894,728
April	123,507	316,839	637,985	740,423	153,774	1,140,818
May	628,152	456,454	952,587	897,818	384,591	795,688
June	850,813	330,429	459,434	498,333	313,807	154,509
July	31,725	348,490	658,102	344,328	0	—
August	183,217	352,860	455,245	523,052	447,809	—
September	1,048,185	1,098,623	759,560	589,571	111,625	—
October	169,815	570,328	131,270	279,110	275,364	—
November	459,627	540,022	134,092	186,671	39,269	—
December	502,110	470,994	303,796	133,597	90,223	—
Total	3,997,151	5,335,383	8,963,595	5,537,436	3,030,552	4,916,987

Meat Hygiene Service: Redundancy

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were made redundant from the Meat Hygiene Service in the last 12 months. [287389]

Gillian Merron: In the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, 124 people left the Meat Hygiene Service on redundancy or early retirement terms. Of these, 85 left voluntarily and 39 left on a compulsory basis.

Methadone: Admissions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions for methanol poisoning were recorded in each region in each of the last five years. [285447]

Gillian Merron: Data have been given by year, and not by region, to prevent any identification of individuals.

Number of hospital admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of methanol poisoning[1], in England, from 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Number
2003-04	38
2004-05	34
2005-06	37
2006-07	31
2007-08	47

Notes:

[1] Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. The data above is where the primary diagnosis is of T51.1 Toxic effect of alcohol - methanol

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department agreed to support Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust in its application for foundation trust status; which Minister took this decision; and if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's analysis used as the basis for making that decision. [269098]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The application from Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust secured the then Secretary of State's support on 22 June 2007. The decision was taken on her behalf by the then Minister of State for Delivery and Reform.

We are placing in the Library the following analyses from May/June 2007:

an "application assessment"; this is a completed template summarising relevant information about the applicant;

a note containing unpublished provisional data on Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *C. difficile*; this is an extract from a longer note containing similar information about other applicants considered at the same time;

a table summarising the trust's position in respect of three questions; the table has been redacted to remove the details of other applicants considered at the same time;

a financial due diligence report prepared by an external accounting firm; the report has been redacted to remove commercially sensitive information; and

a submission from officials to the Minister which includes a recommendation to support the application; the submission has been redacted to remove (i) a "Restricted" marking, (ii) information about applicants other than Mid Staffordshire, and (iii) the names of junior officials.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the membership was of his Department's Applications Committee at the time at which the Committee discussed foundation status for the Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust. [279209]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's Applications Committee was chaired by Andrew Cash, the then Director General of Provider Development, and would have included officials involved in the NHS Foundation Trust process.

Monitor

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Monitor has spent on external consultancy services in each of the last five years. [289060]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the chairman of Monitor, (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts), that the amount spent on external consultancy services in each of the last five years is as follows.

	Monitor spend on external consultancy services (£000)
2004-05	7,880
2005-06	6,259
2006-07	3,099
2007-08	1,536
2008-09	1,901

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Monitor has spent on staffing in each of the last five years. [289068]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the chairman of Monitor, (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts), that it has spent the following amounts on staffing in each of the last five years.

	Monitor spend on staff (£000)
2004-05	1,903
2005-06	4,859
2006-07	6,274
2007-08	6,539
2008-09	8,036

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* part-time staff are employed by Monitor. [289069]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the chairman of Monitor, (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts), that Monitor employed 88 full-time staff and six part-time staff (total number 94) as at 31 March 2009.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers in his Department last met staff of Monitor. [289073]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers often meet with staff from Monitor. The most recent meeting was on 9 July this year, when I met Stephen Thornton, non-executive director of Monitor, and Adrian Masters, its director of strategy.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of Monitor, the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts, was in each of the last five years. [289074]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the chairman of Monitor, (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts), that Monitor's budget in each of the last five years was as shown in the following table.

	Budget (£000)
2004-05	16,011
2005-06	17,744
2006-07	12,552
2007-08	13,500
2008-09	16,175

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the office premises for Monitor was in each of the last five years. [289075]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the chairman of Monitor, (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts), that Monitor has spent the following amounts on office premises.

Monitor	
	Cost of office premises (£)
2004-05	513,294
2005-06	386,542
2006-07	354,083
2007-08	370,597
2008-09	358,292

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary of each member of the board of the Monitor was in each of the last five years. [289106]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the chairman of Monitor, (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts), that Monitor's executive chairman is the only full-time salaried member of the Monitor's board of directors. Monitor's four non-executive directors are remunerated for their attendance of board meetings and other work related commitments. Details of the remuneration of all Monitor's board members is published each year in Monitor's Annual Report and Accounts, which is laid before Parliament. An extract from Monitor's Annual Report 2008-09 including salary and remuneration of board members is set out in the following table. Copies of all previous annual reports and accounts are available on Monitor's website.

		£000
	2008-09 Salary Band	2007-08 Salary Band
William Moyes Executive Chairman	235 to 240	215 to 220
Non-executive directors		
Christopher Mellor	15 to 20	20 to 25
Jude Goffe	25 to 30	15 to 20
Elaine Murphy	15 to 20	15 to 20
Stephen Thornton	10 to 15	15 to 20

Neurology: Research

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on research into *(a)* Parkinson's Disease and *(b)* all degenerative neurological conditions in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [288078]

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS research budget for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 was spent on research into (i) Parkinson's Disease and (ii) all degenerative neurological conditions. [288271]

Gillian Merron: National health service support for degenerative neurological disorder research amounted to 4.5 per cent. of the departmental research and development allocations made to NHS organisations in 2006-07 and to 5.1 per cent. of the allocations made in 2007-08.

Details of NHS expenditure on research specifically concerned with Parkinson's Disease is not available.

NHS Blood and Transplant

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct NHS Blood and Transplant to adopt pathogen inactivation for *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military blood supplies; and if he will make a statement. [288749]

Gillian Merron: Pathogen inactivation is one of the options the independent Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs has been considering for further reducing the infection risk from platelets (a blood component). Ministers will wait for a recommendation from the Committee on the issue. There are no pathogen inactivation systems currently available for red cells, the most widely transfused blood component.

NHS Business Services Authority

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers in his Department last met staff from the NHS Business Services Authority. [289031]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, (Ivan Lewis) met with Nick Scholte, chief executive of the NHS Business Services Authority on 18 January 2007.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of the NHS Business Services Authority was in each of the last five years. [289032]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is shown in the following table.

NHS Business Services Authority—net operating revenue budget (excluding one-off funding, capital charges and capital expenditure)

	£000
2006-07	121,400
2007-08	114,500
2008-09	113,100

NHS Business Services Authority was established in 2006 and therefore figures can only be prepared for the last three years.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of office premises for the NHS Business Services Authority was in each of the last five years. [289033]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is shown in the following table.

NHS Business Services Authority—cost of premises

	£000
2006-07	[1]6,426
2007-08	7,009
2008-09	8,247

[1] 2006-07 is an estimated cost of premises based on current and previous years percentage of premises and fixed plant.

NHS Business Services Authority was established in 2006 and therefore figures can only be prepared for the last three years.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary of each member of the board of the NHS Business Services Authority was in each of the last five years. [289034]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is shown in the following table.

NHS Business Services Authority—board member salaries

Name	Start date	End date	£ 2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Nicholas Paul Scholte	—	—	142,106.99	146,081.67	157,460.77
Alistair McDonald	—	—	101,088.35	103,540.80	110,995.68
William John Smith	—	—	101,505.01	103,540.80	110,995.68
Jim Orr	3 July 2006	—	87,068.81	119,071.92	127,645.12
Roberta Barker	29 September 2008	—	0.00	0.00	53,083.33
Mike Siewich	—	30 September 2008	88,279.26	88,080.45	52,831.20
Paul Rich	—	—	60,000.00	60,780.00	62,117.16
David Hulf	—	—	12,500.04	12,642.52	12,941.04
David Teale	—	—	7,500.00	7,597.56	7,764.72
Jeremy Strachan	—	—	7,500.00	7,597.56	7,764.72
Anne Galbraith	—	—	7,500.00	7,597.56	7,764.72
Michael John Harling	—	—	7,500.00	7,597.56	7,764.72

NHS Business Services Authority was established in 2006 and therefore figures can only be prepared for the last three years.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Business Services Authority spent on staff in each of the last five years. [289035]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is shown in the following table:

NHS Business Services Authority—cost of staff

	£000
2006-07	93,310
2007-08	74,673
2008-09	72,674

NHS Business Services Authority was established in 2006 and therefore figures can be prepared only for the last three years.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff the NHS Business Services Authority employs; and how many of those are *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time. [289036]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The NHS Business Services Authority has a total staff headcount of 2,911 as at 17 July 2009. Of this figure, 2,112 are full time and 799 are part time.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Business Services Authority spent on external consultancy in each of the last five years. [288037]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is shown in the following table.

NHS Business Services Authority—expenditure on external consultancy

	£000
2006-07	181
2007-08	121
2008-09	738

NHS Business Services Authority was established in 2006 and therefore figures can only be prepared for the last three years.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls NHS Direct has received in each week of 2009. [288398]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of calls NHS Direct has received each week in 2009 is displayed in the following table.

Week beginning	*Calls received*
1 January 2009	114,494
8 January 2009	100,451
15 January 2009	102,342
22 January 2009	103,254
29 January 2009	102,719
5 February 2009	104,587
12 February 2009	103,438
19 February 2009	103,445
26 February 2009	103,972
5 March 2009	103,251
12 March 2009	101,961
19 March 2009	102,308
26 March 2009	104,093
2 April 2009	96,043
9 April 2009	118,387
16 April 2009	92,978
23 April 2009	95,256
30 April 2009	118,466
7 May 2009	113,443

NHS Healthcare Innovation Expo

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 217-8W, on the NHS Innovation Expo, how many NHS staff attended the event; and how much delegates were charged to attend. [286419]

Gillian Merron: A total of 5,040 delegates attended the healthcare innovation Expo over the two days. We do not hold information on how many of those delegates were national health service staff; attendees came from a range of backgrounds, including NHS and social care chief executives, clinicians, front-line staff, managers, patients, voluntary organisations, academia and industry.

In the majority of cases, no charge was made for attendance from the public sector.

NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual salary of each member of the board of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement was in each of the last five years. [288685]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Annual salaries are as set out in the following table. It should be noted that salaries are reported in bands of £5,000 and in £000, as recorded in NHS Institute annual reports. Notes appear as follows.

Board member	*Role*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Bernard Crump	Chief Executive	100-105	155-160	160-165	175-180
Simone Jordan	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer	60-65	120-125	115-120	130-135
Helen Bevan	Chief Officer Service Transformation	120-125	120-125	120-125	130-135
Maire Smith	Director of Technology and Product Innovation	65-70	115-120	115-120	[1]100-105
Michael Cawley	Director of Finance and Business Services	55-60	110-115	110-115	[2]35- 40
Paul Allen	Director of Leadership	60-65	110-115	110-115	115-120
Roderick Anthony	Acting Chief Finance Officer	n/a	n/a	n/a	[3]80-85
Yve Buckland	Chair and Chair of Shadow Nominations Committee	45-50	60-65	60-65	60-65
David Bower	Non-executive Director	0-5	5-10	5-10	5-10
Tony Butterworth	Non-executive Director	0-5	5-10	5-10	5-10
Mike Collier	Vice Chair and Chair of the Audit Committee	0-5	10-15	10-15	10-15
Michael Deegan	Non-executive Director	0-5	5-10	5-10	5-10
Nouruzman Rashid	Non-executive Director	n/a	n/a	[4]0-5	5-10
Carol Black	Non-executive Director	n/a	5-10	5-10	5-10
Andrew Smith	Non-executive Director	n/a	n/a	5-10	[5]5-10
Joe Liddiard	Non-executive Director	n/a	n/a	n/a	[6]0-5

Board member	Role	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Michael Lander	Non-executive Director	n/a	n/a	n/a	[7]0-5
Dennis Sherwood	Non-executive Director	0-5	[8]0-5	—	—

[1] Maire Smith left her post on 31 January 2009. in addition to basic salary, other contractual remuneration and benefits in kind received during the year, she also received an additional payment of £20,000 on termination of her contract.
[2] Michael Cawley left his post on 31 July 2008 on secondment to East Midlands Strategic Health Authority.
[3] Roderick Anthony commenced in post on 1 August 2008.
[4] Noorzaman Rashid commenced his post on 1 October 2007
[5] Andrew Smith left his post on 31 January 2009
[6] Joe Liddane commenced his post on 1 March 2009
[7] Michael Lander commenced his post on 1 March 2009
[8] Dennis Sherwood resigned from his post on 31 October 2006

It should be noted that salaries for 2005-06 are not, in many cases for the full year as the NHS Institute was not fully established until July 2005 and so some salaries are for part year only.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement spent on staffing in each of the last five years. [288687]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is set out in the following table:

Staff costs (including seconded, contract and agency staff)	£
2005-06	8,553,000
2006-07	9,297,000
2007-08	10,567,000
2008-09	12,937,000

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers in his Department last met staff of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement. [289038]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Dame Yve Buckland, Chair of the NHS Institute met with my noble Friend Lord Darzi on 21 April 2009.

Professor Bernard Crump, CEO met with my noble Friend Lord Darzi on 3 June 2009 at the Department of Health.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement was in each of the last five years. [289039]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is set out in the following table:

Annual budget	£
2005-06	61,912,000
2006-07	56,231,000
2007-08	73,531,000
2008-09	[1]80,790,000
2009-10	69,730,000

[1] Inc. National Library for Health costs, since transferred out.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement has spent on external consultancy services in each of the last five years. [289097]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is set out in the following table:

	External consultancy fees (£)
2005-06	n/a
2006-07	515,137
2007-08	872,827
2008-09	2,274,634

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* part-time staff the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement employs. [289098]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at May 2009 the NHS Institute has 184 total headcount—23 are part time staff and 161 are full-time equivalent.

NHS Litigation Authority

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers in his Department last met staff of the NHS Litigation Authority. [289023]

Ann Keen: Ministers in the Department last met staff of the NHS Litigation Authority on 11 October 2005.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the budget of the NHS Litigation Authority was in each of the last five years; [289024]

(2) what the salary of each member of the board of the NHS Litigation Authority was in each of the last five years. [289027]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority publishes the information requested in its annual Report and Accounts. Copies are available in the Library.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the office premises for the NHS Litigation Authority in *(a)* Holborn and *(b)* Harrogate was in each of the last five years. [289025]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority provided the information requested in the following table.

		£
	Holborn Rent	Harrogate Rent
2008-09	653,000	49,800
2007-08	653,000	49,800

	£	
	Holborn Rent	*Harrogate Rent*
2006-07	653,000	49,800
2005-06	653,000	49,800
2004-05	653,000	49,800

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff the NHS Litigation Authority employs; and how many of those are *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time. [289028]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority employs 145 staff, of which 121 are full-time and 24 are part-time.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the annual accounts for the NHS Litigation Authority for 2008-09 will be published. [289029]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority will publish their annual Report and Accounts for 2008-09 in August 2009.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Litigation Authority spent on external consultants in each of the last five years. [289030]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority provided the information requested in the following table.

	Consultancy expenditure (£)
2008-09	127,213
2007-08	15,207
2006-07	3,319
2005-06	1,025
2004-05	3,691

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency spent on external consultancy services in each of the last five years. [289072]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The figures from April 2004 until March 2009 are shown as follows:

	Spent on external consultancy services (£ million)
2004-05	0.5
2005-06	1.8
2006-07	2.9
2007-08	2.3

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency was in each of the last five years. [289085]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The net operating cost for NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency in each of the last five years is as follows.

	£
2004-05	24,617,000
2005-06	26,779,000
2006-07	26,698,000
2007-08	24,713,000
2008-09	24,492,000

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the *(a)* Chester, *(b)* London office and *(c)* Reading office premises of the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency was in each of the last five years. [289086]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The cost for Chester is included within estates north which included Sheffield and South Normanton offices.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Estates north	370,573	532,444	289,978	343,877	350,973
London office	—	—	76,11	43,715	—
Reading office	837,726	755,043	745,134	792,537	941,735

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary of each member of the board of the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency was in each of the last five years. [289087]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The salaries of the senior management board for the last five years are provided in the following table.

		2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*Leaving date*
Argyle	N	0	0	75,168	73,904	71,405	31 October 2006
Brindle	M	0	82,741	80,611	78,756	74,298	31 August 2008
Brohier	C	77,703.36	72,791	0	0	0	—
Cooper	J	110,475	98,462	88,317	78,756	74,298	—
Eaton	D	0	0	110,853	108,989	106,331	30 June 2006
Gerner	A	0	0	69,613	67,100	0	1 January 2007
Jackson	E	0	0	0	0	111,490	5 April 2005
MacCarthy	H	72,295	63,283	61,349	60,000	0	—
Rudd	A	83,074	74,041	71,778	70,200	0	—
Sutton	R	0	116,548	113,664	On loan	106,167	27 September 2007
Theaker	C	73,589	72,146	69,613	67,100	0	—

		2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	Leaving date
Uden	C	116,611	114,325	110,830	108,393	105,749	—
Warrington	J	72,258	70,841	68,990	67,100	0	—

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency spent on staffing in each of the last five years. [289088]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table provides the staff costs for NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency over the last five years.

	£
2004-05	16,088,000
2005-06	17,873,000
2006-07	15,823,000
2007-08	15,816,000
2008-09	16,293,000

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* part-time staff are employed by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. [289089]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The whole time equivalent staff employed by NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency is 264.9 as of 30 June 2009 of which 37 are part time.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers in his Department last met staff of the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. [289091]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers have met with staff of the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency on a number of occasions relating to their responsibilities over the year for example:

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Andrew Burnham) was shown around the HealthCare Associated Infection exhibition stand at the NHS Innovation Expo on 18 June.

Officials attended a meeting with my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Ann Keen) and an NHS supplier on 24 June.

Officials have also met with my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Lord Darzi) on a number of occasions over the last six months regarding Innovation in Procurement.

NHS: Accountancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 692W, on NHS accountancy, what assessment he has made of the effects on the revenue of NHS organisations of the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards in relation to *(a)* accounting for private finance initiative deals, *(b)* accounting for local improvement finance trust schemes and *(c)* the accounting treatment of lease arrangements. [288571]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In preparation for the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), from 2009-10, the Department has estimated the recurring additional revenue impact should all NHS local improvement finance trust (LIFT) and private finance initiative (PFI) schemes come onto the public sector balance sheet. For 2009-10 it is estimated that this would amount to £36 million and £148 million respectively. No similar assessment has been performed for lease arrangements but we expect the introduction of IFRS to have a minimal net financial impact.

We are currently considering the Treasury Consolidated Budgeting Guidance published in June 2009, which deals with aspects of IFRS accounting, to determine how it should be applied to national health service. We are also in discussion with the audit Commission around the likely effect of IFRS on the revenue of NHS organisations.

NHS: Drugs

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his response is to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency consultation MLX357, on the medicines' supply chain, completed in March 2009. [287813]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has reviewed the responses to the public consultation MLX357 and has now published those responses, together with an account of how the Government propose to take account of them. All these documents can be found on the MHRA's website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Consultations/Medicinesconsultations/MLXs/CON033660

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have a pharmaceutical needs assessment in place. [288887]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally. Primary care trusts were advised in 2004-05 to prepare and to publish pharmaceutical needs assessments in advance of reforms introduced through the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 from 1 April 2005.

NHS: Finance

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his policy that the balance of the £750 million of capital expenditure for community hospitals over five years announced by his predecessor the right hon. Member for Leicester West is to be spent; what the monetary value of that balance is; and over what period he plans to spend such balance. [288031]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government continue to ensure that we provide support for the community hospital programme. Investment in community services remains a high priority for us. 28 projects have secured elements of the funding to a value of at least £250 million.

The money has contributed to a range of services, including community hospitals, and more generally to other important and welcome community projects. I can confirm that the Department of Health and the Treasury will continue to consider schemes for community hospitals. They will be subject to the same approval process as all capital investment, thus ensuring that any further spending is affordable and that it provides value for money. For projects due to start in 2010-11, decisions will be subject to the strategies that PCTs produce for the development of their estates and the outcomes of the next spending review.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the community hospital capital projects which have been approved under the £750 million of capital expenditure for community hospitals over five years announced by his predecessor the right hon. Member for Leicester West since the approval given in June 2008 to St Thomas', Stockport, New Build, stating in each case *(a)* the name of the community hospital and its location, *(b)* a brief description of the capital works, *(c)* the capital cost approved and *(d)* the date of approval. [288032]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The 2005 Labour Manifesto promised a new generation of state of the art community hospitals. The 'Our health, our care, our say' (January 2006), reiterated the manifesto commitment and pledged to invest £750 million capital in modern community hospitals over five years from 2006-07. Policy details were set out in Our health, our care, our community: investing in community hospitals and services. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Since 'Our health, our care, our say', around £250 million of the £750 million has been allocated to 28 schemes.

The following table outlines:

the name and location of each community hospital;

a description of the capital works;

the amount of the Department's capital allocated to each scheme; and

the date each scheme was approved.

Strategic Health Authority	*Primary Care Trust*	*Name of scheme*	*Funding Model*	*Date scheme approved*	*Total Department of Health Funding (£ million)*
North East	Sunderland Teaching PCT	Washington Primary Care Centre	Public Capital	December 2006	8.95
North East	Hartlepool PCT	Hartlepool Primary Care facility	Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT)	December 2007	3.0
North West	Stockport	St Thomas	Public Capital	May 2008	26.6
Yorkshire and Humber	Calderdale PCT Kirklees PCT	Calderdale and Kirklees Community Services	Public Capital	April 2007	13.08
Yorkshire and Humber	Rotherham PCT	Rotherham Primary Care Centre	Public Capital	April 2007	0.96
Yorkshire and Humber	North Yorkshire and York	Selby Health and Community Campus	Public Capital	December 2007	13.0376
Yorkshire and Humber	East Riding of Yorkshire	East Riding Community Hospitals	Public Capital	December 2007	17.0
East Midlands	Nottingham County Teaching PCT	Ashfield Community Hospital	Public Capital	April 2007	1.149
West Midlands	Worcestershire PCT	Malvern Community Hospital	Public Capital	December 2007	19.22
East of England	Suffolk PCT	Felixstowe General Hospital	Public Capital	April 2007	1.76
London	Haringey PCT	Hornsey Community Hospital	LIFT	April 2007	1.7
London	Barking and Dagenham	Barking Hospital	Public Capital	April 2007	5.0
London	Richmond and Twickenham	Teddington Health and Social Care Centre	Public Capital	April 2007	3.98
London	Kensington and Chelsea	St Charles Hospital, London	Public Capital	December 2007	10.5
London	Barnet	Finchley Memorial Hospital	Public Capital	May 2008	9.9
London	Greenwich	Eltham and Mottingham	Public Capital	May 2008	4.58
South East Coast	Hastings and Rother	Hastings Primary Health Care Centre	Public Capital	April 2007	12.29
South East Coast	Eastern and Coastal Kent	Health and Social Care at Kings Avenue	Public Capital	May 2008	9.0

Strategic Health Authority	Primary Care Trust	Name of scheme	Funding Model	Date scheme approved	Total Department of Health Funding (£ million)
South Central	Hampshire	Gosport War Memorial Hospital	Public Capital	December 2006	6.122
South Central	Southampton	Royal South Hants Hospital	Public Capital	April 2007	6.079
South Central	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	St Mary's Community Hospital	Public Capital	December 2007	17.1
South Central	Buckinghamshire	Thame	Public Capital	May 2008	4.0
South West	Gloucestershire	Yate Community Health Centre	Public Capital	December 2006	5.0
South West	Somerset	Minehead Healthy Living Park	Public Capital	December 2006	24.5
South West	Bristol	South Bristol Community Hospital	LIFT	April 2007	3.9
South West	Bath and North Somerset	Keynsham Health Park	Public Capital	December 2007	5.8
South West	Gloucestershire PCT	Berkeley Vale	Public Capital	December 2007	6.44
South West	Gloucestershire PCT	North Cotswolds	Public Capital	December 2007	13.23

NHS: Foreign Workers

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to validate the qualifications of clinicians from outside the EU who seek to work in the NHS. [288697]

Ann Keen: The validation of qualifications of overseas clinicians wishing to work in the NHS is not the responsibility of the Department.

In the United Kingdom, the health professions regulatory bodies are the competent authorities to assess whether an overseas clinician possesses relevant qualifications to work in the UK—whether within the NHS or the private sector.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Minister signed off each business case for the NHS IT programme approved since 2002. [283263]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested on which Minister signed off each business case for the NHS IT programme approved since 2002 is in the following table:

Number	Case	Date approved	Minister
1	Spine, plus each of the five local service provider (LSP) clusters, delivering care record service (CRS)—six approvals	December 2003	Minister of State for Health and Secretary of State.
2	Choose and book original contract	September 2003	Minister of State for Health
3	Adding PACS (picture archiving and comms systems) to the clusters [Note: Ministerial approval required only for the North East and Eastern clusters.]	August 2005	Minister of State for Delivery
4	GP systems of choice (patient record in general practice, linked to NP)	December 2006	Minister of State for Reform
5	Choose and book extension of contract	October 2008	Minister for State for Health Services
6	Extension of BT LSP contract to cover elements of the Southern programme for IT	March 2009	Minister for State for Health Services
7	Reset ('renegotiation') of the three LSP cluster contracts held by CSC	March 2009	Minister for State for Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which organisations his Department has sought advice on the NHS national IT programme; and what advice each such organisation has provided. [288403]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has always prioritised the building of awareness of the national IT programme, and two-way communication with influential stakeholders including clinicians, senior national health service managers and information management and technology staff, the medical professional representative and health regulatory bodies, voluntary and patient organisations, the commercial sector, and suppliers.

Before the programme's inception, a consultation document, 'Delivering 21st Century IT support for the NHS : National Specification for Integrated Care Records Service -consultation draft, issued in July 2002, that outlined the requirements for a national patient care records service and the national standards and specification which would underpin it, resulted in almost 200 responses from organisations and individuals. These were taken into account in drawing up the specification for the NHS care records service. Subsequently, in the programme's procurement and delivery process, and particularly in the development and testing phases, representative stakeholders have been routinely consulted to ensure that their requirements and concerns are taken into account.

More recently, in 2006, the NHS Connecting for Health Evaluation Programme was set up with a view to assessing the usability, actual usage, functions and impact of pilot and delivered systems and services, and more generally to providing high quality, objective, third-party insights into the lessons learned and how systems can be improved. The University of Birmingham was commissioned to manage the programme, including the independent procurement of evaluation services, and day-to-day management of the independent organisations conducting the evaluations.

Further information about the process by which consultation and other aspects of public engagement is conducted on the development, implementation and evaluation of electronic health information services in the NHS is available at:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/engagement/public

NHS: Pay

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in performance-related bonuses to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* non-departmental public bodies which his Department sponsored and *(c)* in the NHS in each of the last five years. [286698]

Phil Hope: The amounts paid in non-consolidated performance-related payments in the core Department in the past five years are presented in the following table.

Non-consolidated performance-related payments

	£
2004-05	643,744
2005-06	900,255
2006-07	1,073,151
2007-08	1,461,062
2008-09	1,895,150

The total sum of non-consolidated performance-related payments paid to staff in non-departmental public bodies which the Department of Health sponsors, is as follows.

	Total (£)
2004-05	10,319
2005-06	76,531
2006-07	144,718
2007-08	176,296

Non-consolidated performance-related payments for senior staff in national health service special health authorities, strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts, is subject to the national Very Senior Managers' Pay Framework. Under that framework, the performance-related pay fund is limited to 5 per cent. of the total pay bill. For 2008-09, the total pay bill for relevant staff was £160 million, and the performance-related pay fund was £8 million. Figures for previous years are not available although it is expected that more detailed figures covering this areas of NHS pay will be available in future years, following improvements to the Electronic Staff Record.

Although NHS staff groups other than Very Senior Managers (VSMs) can be paid "performance related bonuses", a specific fund for that purpose is only set aside for VSMs. Any other performance related bonuses paid out are subject to local agreement and/or other contractual arrangements between employers and staff and must be paid from existing local funding. Details of any such performance related bonuses paid to these NHS staff are not collected centrally.

NHS: Working Hours

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is in accordance with Government policy that NHS managers who reduce doctors working hours to 48 hours to comply with the European Working Time Directive should receive a bonus. [288033]

Ann Keen: This Government's policy is that the payment of bonuses to national health service managers is at the discretion of their employers.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he has received that NHS managers are exerting pressure on doctors to state that their working hours are compliant with the 48 hours maximum permitted by the European Working Time Directive when they are not. [288034]

Ann Keen: This Government's policy is that the payment of bonuses to national health service managers for reducing doctors working hours to comply with European Working Time Directive is at the discretion of their employers.

Obesity

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make copies of the publication on medical management during effective weight loss available to NHS staff working with the obese; and if he will make a statement. [286331]

Gillian Merron: National health service staff can currently refer to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children.

The Department was not consulted about this publication, but officials will discuss the publication with the national obesity forum, to consider its availability to NHS staff.

Obesity: Surgery

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days were taken up by patients with a diagnosis code of *(a)* E660, *(b)* E661, *(c)* E662, *(d)* E668 and *(e)* E669 in each (i) region and (ii) primary care trust in each of the last five years. [286843]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Data are available from the NHS Information Centre on the number of bed days taken up by patients with a primary diagnosis of selected ICD-10 codes. This information has been placed in the Library.

The NHS Information Centre has not provided data at a primary care trust (PCT) level because in order to protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five at PCT level would need to be suppressed. Where it is possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) would also need to be suppressed. As a result, the majority of the numbers at PCT level would need low number suppression, and would make the data meaningless. Therefore the data have been provided at strategic health authority level only.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis codes of *(a)* E660, *(b)* E661, *(c)* E662, *(d)* E668 and *(e)* E669 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 18, (B) between 18 and 30 and (iii) over 30 years old in each (x) region and (y) primary care trust in each of the last five years. [286844]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Data are available from the NHS Information Centre on the number of finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of selected ICD-10 code. This information has been placed in the Library.

The NHS Information Centre has not provided data at a primary care trust (PCT) level because in order to protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five at PCT level would need to be suppressed. Where it is possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) would also need to be suppressed. As a result, the majority of the numbers at PCT level would need low number suppression, and would make the data meaningless. Therefore the data have been provided at strategic health authority level only.

Palliative Care: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by NHS healthcare commissioners to determine the demand for specialist palliative and neurological care in Tamworth constituency. [283228]

Gillian Merron: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including South Staffordshire PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities (SHA) are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient. The information sources used by PCTs to make these decisions are a matter for local commissioners to determine. My hon. Friend may wish to approach the chief executive of South Staffordshire PCT for these details.

To support implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy for adults, published in July 2008, the NHS Operating Framework 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These reviews have been helpful to PCTs as they have prepared their local strategic plans to deliver on the SHA visions for end of life care developed as part of the NHS Next Stage Review.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs.

Pharmacy: Pay

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with pharmacists on his Department's proposals to replace the prescription item threshold system with a scale of remuneration for pharmacists. [287814]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There have been no discussions on the specific question as yet.

Prescription Drugs

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to specify medicines to be excluded from the provisions of his Department's proposed generic substitution arrangements. [288424]

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will exempt anti-epileptic drugs from the requirements of his Department's guidelines on generic substitution to be introduced in January 2010. [287994]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Members to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart) on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 524W.

Rehabilitation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money his Department has spent on the treatment of *(a)* drug, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* smoking and *(d)* gambling addictions in each of the last five years. [288777]

Gillian Merron: The following table sets out the Department's expenditure on drug treatment for the last five years.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Adult PTB	300.0	385.0	398.0	398.0	406.0
Mainstream Funding (PCT)	208	212	202	208	[1]—
Young people's PTB	24	24.6	24.7	24.7	24.7
Prison Clinical Services (IDTS)	0.0	7.8	11.5	23.2	39.7

[1] Not finalised

Note:

Abbreviations: PTB - Pooled drug treatment budget, PCT - Primary Care Trust, IDTS - Integrated Drug Treatment System.

The information requested on smoking addiction treatment is not available in the exact format requested.

The costs associated with the NHS Stop Smoking Services in each of the last five years can be found in Table 4.6 on page 43 of 'NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April to March 2008.

This publication has been placed in the Library.

Primary care trusts are responsible for providing local health services, including gambling and alcohol addiction treatments, and together with their strategic health authorities are responsible for deciding which services to plan, commission and develop to meet the health needs of their local communities. Information on this spend is not collected centrally.

Respiratory System

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 479W, on the respiratory system, if he will break down the figures provided by age group. [288418]

Ann Keen: A table containing a break down by age group for patients with diseases of the respiratory system has been placed in Library.

Sexual Dysfunction

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions of each type of drug for the treatment of erectile dysfunction were dispensed in each of the last five years. [287765]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table provides the number of prescription items dispensed for drugs to treat erectile dysfunction, as listed in section 7.4.5 of the British National Formulary (BNF), written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community, in England.

Drugs used to treat erectile dysfunction (BNF section 7.4.5)

	Number of prescription items (thousand)				
BNF chemical name	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Alprostadil	77.1	74.6	75.8	76.3	75.6
Apomorphine Hydrochloride	21.6	16.6	7.1	0.0	0.0
Other Preparations[1]	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Papaverine Hydrochloride	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.0
Papaverine Hydrochloride/ Phentolamine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Papaverine Sulphate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
Sildenafil (Erectile Dysfunction)[2]	1,024.3	1,015.0	1,042.4	1,112.2	1,185.4
Tadalafil	266.3	370.4	438.1	503.0	569.5
Vardenafil	74.0	112.6	136.1	146.5	153.3
Yohimbine Hydrochloride	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Grand total	1,464.8	1,590.4	1,700.4	1,838.7	1,984.1

'—' Indicates no prescription items.
'0.0' indicates less than 50 items
[1] Includes Invicorp-1 injection solution auto-injector, Invicorp-2 injection solution auto-injector and Invicorp-2 injection solution 1 ml amp.
[2] Does not include Revatio as this should only be prescribed to treat pulmonary hypertension (BNF 2.5.1).
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA)

We do not know the intended purpose for which prescription items are prescribed. Some drugs within BNF section 7.4.5 can be used to treat other conditions. There are drugs in other BNF sections which may be prescribed to treat erectile dysfunction.

Smoking: Young People

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of tobacco displays in shops on rates of smoking amongst young people. [288611]

Gillian Merron: The Department of Health has not directly commissioned or evaluated any specific research on the effect of tobacco displays on young people.

The Department has assessed the role of tobacco displays on smoking in young people based on a variety of research and evidence. These are detailed in the impact assessment that accompanies the Health Bill, in the consultation on the future of tobacco control, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, in the presentations made to MPs during the passage of the Bill and in the factsheets sent to peers and MPs.

Swine Flu

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the National Pandemic Flu line in 2009-10; and how many staff he expects will be employed to answer calls to the line. [284196]

Gillian Merron: The Department has been planning for a flu pandemic for some time and this solution has already been subject to a substantial economic and business case analysis. Any such commitments the Department enters into are still subject to the usual tests for value for money and affordability. While cost estimates have been prepared based on a range of possible pandemic durations and attack rates, these cannot be released as the contract details are commercial in confidence. The number of staff employed to answer calls is subject to finalisation based on the attack rate. Current plans are based around needing an average of 2,000 agent seats per week.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his oral statement of 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 503-04, on swine flu update, against what criteria primary care trust readiness has been assessed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the assessment made in respect of each primary care trust. [286417]

Gillian Merron: The emergence of swine influenza in April interrupted the strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) self-assessment process.

National health service (NHS) and the Department's resources that would, in normal circumstances, have been allocated to collecting and validating these assessments, are currently being directed towards managing the current outbreak and ensuring that the Department and NHS are fully prepared for any potentially more severe outbreak over the autumn or winter.

There is a full programme of work led by the National Director for NHS Flu Resilience, to ensure NHS Pandemic Influenza Plans fully reflect the current understanding of the swine flu virus. This includes a programme of

testing the plans to be coordinated by the 10 SHAs across England, the results of which will in effect succeed the audit.

This work is already under way and should be completed by early autumn. We will publish summary reports on each of the ten exercises. Once finalised, copies of these reports will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of local authority resilience and civil contingency planning in relation to the swine influenza outbreak. [286513]

Gillian Merron: The Government make no detailed assessment of preparedness of local authorities—it is for them to decide how to meet their legal obligations to plan for an influenza pandemic under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Local authority compliance with the Civil Contingencies Act duties is assessed by the Audit Commission as part of their comprehensive area assessment process.

As members of Local Resilience Forums (LRFs), local authorities have played a full part in the development of local multi agency pandemic influenza plans. Over the last year, these plans have undergone validation by local responders and Government offices and at least one LRF plan per region has been tested via a table top exercise. Lessons identified will be shared locally.

Plans are available on local LRF websites and can be accessed through the UK Resilience pages of the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/pandemicflu/plans/regional_plans.aspx

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will direct each mental health and learning disability trust to publish its contingency plans to deal with swine influenza. [288012]

Gillian Merron: National health service organisations that provide mental health and learning disability services have Flu Pandemic Plans that are already in action as part of the local response being led by primary care trusts. It would not be the best use of NHS resources at this time to direct NHS organisations to publish these plans. In addition, these plans are being continuously reviewed and, where necessary, updated informed by the latest expert scientific and medical advice of the current swine flu pandemic. Publication of contingency plans by mental health and learning disability trusts will, therefore, not be requested.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to the public on those groups which are most vulnerable to contracting swine influenza. [288234]

Gillian Merron: We publish a range of guidance on the NHS Choices website that is updated daily at:

www.nhs.uk/news/2009/04April/Pages?Swineflulatest.aspx

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of which groups of workers in the public sector are most vulnerable to contracting swine influenza. [288235]

Gillian Merron: Influenza viruses are transmitted by respiratory droplets and direct or indirect contact with the virus, for example by touching a surface contaminated with the virus as a result of a sneeze.

In the early stages of the pandemic, when there were few people infected with the virus, public sector workers delivering frontline health and social care to those patients were potentially at greater risk of becoming infected than the general population. However, this risk could be reduced by effective use of infection control procedures.

With widespread transmission of the virus in the community, it is unlikely that any one population group is more likely than another to be infected by swine influenza.

For those public sector staff working in front-line health and social care with known or suspected influenza patients, personal protective equipment including facemasks and gloves have been provided. There is also guidance for organisations on infection control procedures for staff to implement in their clinical practice.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the ability of primary care trusts to cope with swine influenza outbreaks in their areas. [288236]

Gillian Merron: The emergence of swine influenza in April interrupted the strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) self-assessment process.

The national health service and the Department's resources that would, in normal circumstances, have been allocated to collecting and validating these assessments, are currently being directed towards managing the current outbreak and ensuring that the Department and NHS are fully prepared for any potentially more severe outbreak over the autumn or winter.

There is a full programme of work led by the National Director for NHS Flu Resilience, to ensure NHS pandemic influenza plans fully reflect the current understanding of the swine flu virus. This includes a programme of testing the plans to be coordinated by the 10 SHAs across England, the results of which will in effect succeed the audit.

This work is already under way and should be completed by early autumn. We will publish summary reports on each of the 10 exercises. Once finalised, copies of these reports will be placed in the Library.

The Department has been working closely with PCTs across the country to ensure their plans are robust, and so far the response from PCTs, particularly in areas of sustained transmission, has been very good in challenging circumstances.

Swine Flu: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many courses of antivirals have been dispensed for the treatment of swine influenza since 2 July 2009; and how many of these have been given to *(a)* patients with swine influenza and *(b)* contacts of patients with swine influenza. [288599]

Gillian Merron: Information on courses of antivirals given to patients is currently being collected. I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available and will place a copy in the Library.

Swine Flu: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been given to primary and secondary schools in Lancashire on swine influenza. [288237]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

The Department had issued guidance in 2006 to all local authorities on contingency measures for pandemic flu, which we supplemented with guidance on infection control (2007) and remote learning in the event of a school closing for an extended period (2008). The Department sent out reminders to all local authorities in the week commencing 27 April that the guidance is available. We have since updated our questions and answers and Swine Flu messages and have sent these to schools and local authorities on 5 May, 27 May, 11 June and 14 July. Our Teachernet website has also been regularly updated with lines to take and advice for schools, local authorities and parents.

Swine Flu: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of swine influenza had been diagnosed in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency by the latest date for which figures are available. [287979]

Gillian Merron: As of 10 July, a total of seven laboratory confirmed cases of swine flu (H1N1v) had been identified in the North Lancashire primary care trust area, which includes Morecambe and Lunesdale.

Swine Flu: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of swine influenza have been confirmed in each North West primary care trust area. [288233]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* As of 10 July, there have been a total of 195 laboratory confirmed cases of swine flu in the north-west. The breakdown, by primary care trust (PCT), is as follows:

Health protection unit	*PCT name*	*Confirmed*
Cheshire and Merseyside	Central and Eastern Cheshire	13
	Halton and St Helens	11
	Knowsley	7
	Liverpool	13
	Sefton	10
	Warrington	5
	Western Cheshire	5
	Wirral	8
	Unknown	0
Cumbria and Lancashire	Blackburn with Darwen	9
	Blackpool	0
	Central Lancashire	8
	Cumbria	4
	East Lancashire	13
	North Lancashire	7
	Unknown	2
Greater Manchester	Ashton Leigh and Wigan	2
	Bolton	3
	Bury	4
	Heywood Middleton and Rochdale	6
	Manchester	20
	Oldham	8
	Salford	12
	Stockport	11
	Tameside and Glossop	3
	Trafford	7
	Unknown	4
Total for north-west		195

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects a programme of vaccinations against swine influenza to begin. [288446]

Gillian Merron: The manufacturers have advised that they will be delivering the first supplies of the vaccine at the end of August. The vaccine will need to satisfy regulatory requirements before it can be used. The regulatory issues, the timetable and the licensing process, are matters for the European Medicines Agency.

Tobacco

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's consultation document on the future of tobacco control. [288597]

Gillian Merron: The "Consultation on the future of tobacco control" was published on 31 May 2008 and closed on 8 September 2008. The consultation report was published on 8 December 2008 and is available on the departmental website, and can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085114

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Vulnerable Adults: Protection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* membership and *(b)* remit is of the (i) Programme Board and (ii) Advisory Board for the No Secrets review; on what dates each board has met; and if he will make a statement; [287878]

(2) what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date was for his Department's No Secrets consultation; whether his Department's response has been drafted and published in accordance with the timescale set out in the code of practice on consultation; and if he will make a statement; [287879]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to comply with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation in relation to the No Secrets Review; what the *(a)* membership, *(b)* remit and *(c)* dates of meetings are of the Programme and Advisory Boards for the No Secrets Review; and if he will make a statement. [288577]

Phil Hope: The membership of the Programme Board and Advisory Group is published in the consultation document, "Safeguarding Adults: A consultation on the review of the 'No Secrets' guidance"—Department of Health, October 2008. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The remit of the Programme Board was to review the effectiveness of present multi-agency safeguarding and adult protection guidance in producing positive outcomes for individuals at risk of abuse in the light of emerging information from recent cases, recent inspections and in the context of the Government's overall policy agenda in both health and social care, and to carry out a national consultation on these issues. The Advisory Group's remit was to advise on issues relevant to the consultation. The Programme Board met on 21 May 2008, 25 June 2008 and 9 October 2008. The Advisory Group met on 7 May 2008, 26 September 2008 and 12 November 2008.

The consultation opened on 16 October 2008 and closed on 31 January 2009. The analysis of the consultation responses was published on 17 July 2009. The time taken to publish the analysis reflected the fact that some 12,000 people, including those with learning difficulties, older people, those with mental health problems and people from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, participated in the consultation.

The Department is a signatory to the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation and follows the code closely.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were on the barred list maintained under the Protection of Vulnerable Adults scheme in each of the last five years; [287920]

(2) how many people have been added to the barred list maintained under the Protection of Vulnerable Adults scheme by the Independent Safeguarding Authority since January 2009. [287921]

Phil Hope: The number of people confirmed as being unsuitable to work with vulnerable adults that have been placed on the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) list over the past five years, is shown in the table.

	Number of people confirmed on list
2004	41
2005	237
2006	407
2007	976
2008	377
Total	2,038

Source:
Department for Children, Schools and Families Customer Relationship Manager database

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) does not have the power to add names to the POVA list. Decisions whether to confirm individuals on the POVA list are made by the Secretary of State for Health, following receipt of advice from the ISA.

Since January 2009, the number of people confirmed on the Adult Barred List maintained by the ISA, is 576.

Wakefield NHS Trust: Manpower

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by Wakefield NHS Trust in each year since 1996-97. [288657]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The information as is available is shown in the following table.

NHS staff in specified organisations by main staff groups. Shown as full-time equivalents and as at 30 September each year—2002-08

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust total	5,748	5,733	5,746	6,079	5,897	5,861	6,060
HCHS Medical and Dental Staff	544	543	597	641	654	686	686
All HCHS Medical and Dental Consultants	194	197	209	220	225	246	242
Of which:							
Medical Consultant	190	192	205	215	220	241	237
All HCHS Other Medical and Dental staff	350	347	388	421	429	440	444
Of which:							
Medical Other	343	343	380	414	421	430	435
All non-medical staff	5,204	5,190	5,149	5,438	5,244	5,176	5,375
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2,433	2,436	2,435	2,536	2,532	2,512	2,504

NHS staff in specified organisations by main staff groups. Shown as full-time equivalents and as at 30 September each year—2002-08

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,785	1,769	1,750	1,828	1,797	1,756	1,719
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST&T) staff	648	667	684	709	736	755	785
Qualified Allied Health Professions	318	336	337	357	373	391	423
Qualified Healthcare Scientists	0	118	175	182	188	187	187
Other Qualified Scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	330	213	172	170	175	177	176
Support to clinical staff	1,875	1,878	1,835	2,016	1,827	1,827	2,014
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,530	1,535	1,482	1,651	1,455	1,479	1,625
Support to ST&T staff	345	343	353	365	372	348	389
NHS infrastructure support	891	868	871	877	876	829	849
Central functions	327	297	325	326	282	265	269
Hotel, property and estates	487	485	455	448	489	462	482
Managers and senior managers	76	86	92	103	105	102	99
Other staff or those with unknown classification	5	7	8	9	8	8	8
Wakefield District PCT total	1,012	1,149	1,294	1,352	1,483	1,500	1,628
HCHS Medical and Dental Staff	19	19	23	22	22	29	26
All HCHS Medical and Dental Consultants	7	5	8	8	7	11	11
Of which:							
Medical Consultant	7	5	8	8	7	11	11
All HCHS Other Medical and Dental staff	12	13	14	14	15	18	15
Of which:							
Medical Other	8	8	9	8	8	12	9
All non-medical staff	687	787	943	995	1,100	1,116	1,274
Professionally qualified clinical staff	373	381	432	449	502	542	617
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	312	318	356	364	395	428	486
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	60	63	76	84	107	114	131
Qualified Allied Health Professions	53	54	61	68	79	83	86
Other Qualified Scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	7	9	15	17	27	32	44
Support to clinical staff	155	228	327	347	386	412	457
Support to doctors and nursing staff	125	192	288	300	326	354	395
Support to ST&T staff	30	35	39	47	60	58	62
NHS infrastructure support	159	177	184	199	212	161	201
Central functions	67	139	146	151	161	120	150
Hotel, property and estates	2	3	4	5	5	7	9
Managers and senior managers	90	36	34	44	46	34	36
All General Practitioners	209	211	212	218	231	225	233
Practice Nurses	97	133	116	116	130	130	94

Notes:

1. The structure of NHS trusts in the Wakefield area has changed over the period the data are requested for. In April 2002, the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust was formed from the partial-merger of the Pinderfields and Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust and the Dewsbury Health Care NHS Trust.
2. In 2006, Wakefield District Primary Care Trust (PCT) was formed from a complete merger of Eastern Wakefield PCT and Wakefield West PCT. Most General Practitioners are not employed directly by the PCT, but perform NHS work within the PCT areas.
3. Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Wakefield NHS Trust: Waiting Lists

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* elective in-patient admission and *(b)* first out-patient appointment in each speciality at Wakefield NHS Trust in each year since 1996. [288656]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is contained in a table that has been placed in the Library.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of Ofgem's ruling of March 2009 on biodiesel, glycerol and the Renewables Obligation on the production of bio-fuels from used cooking oil; and if he will make a statement; [288039]

(2) what incentives his Department provides for the production of biofuels from used cooking oil; and if he will make a statement; [288040]

(3) what his Department's policy is on the use of recycled waste materials in the biofuel production process. [288041]

Mr. Kidney: Recycled waste biomass is an important source of renewable energy for transport fuel, and heat and electricity generation. The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) requires suppliers of fossil fuel to ensure that a proportion of the fuel they supply is renewable. Under the RTFO, biofuels made from waste materials such as used cooking oil are eligible fuels and certificates can be issued for their supply. The Renewable Fuels Agency, the administrator of the RTFO, has published data in their fourth quarterly report indicating that 37 million litres, or 3 per cent. of the biofuel used in the first year of the obligation, was made from used cooking oil. The Renewable Energy Directive requires that biofuels made from waste, including used cooking oil, receive double rewards under biofuel support schemes and it is intended that the RTFO will be amended accordingly following consultation. The Government also intend to provide financial support for the creation by industry of a biofuels demonstration plant in England, which would use organic waste material to produce bioethanol and renewable power.

Fuels produced from used cooking oil continue to be eligible for the Renewables Obligation if they meet the requirements of section 32M of the Electricity Act 1989. In practice, the ruling by Ofgem is not expected to alter the production of biofuels from used cooking oil to a great extent. We are currently considering whether the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive into national law has implications for the treatment of biodiesel under the Renewables Obligation.

British Gas

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) with reference to paragraph 6 of the notes to editors of his Department's press release of 2 April 2008, whether each British Gas scheme involves *(a)* discounts on council tax bills and *(b)* cash back cheques; [288964]

(2) with reference to paragraph 6 of the notes to editors of his Department's press release of 2 April 2008, what funding his Department has provided to assist the 75 local schemes; and whether participating local authorities are required to subsidise the schemes; [288975]

(3) with reference to paragraph 6 of the notes to editors in his Department's press release of 2 April 2008, what estimate has been made of *(a)* the cost to the public purse of the energy saving measures offered by British Gas including the council tax discount and *(b)* the prices charged by companies other than British Gas for the same measures. [289018]

Mr. Kidney: The scheme referred to is a private scheme run by British Gas to help it meet its household carbon saving obligation set by Government under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). CERT is an obligation on all suppliers with more than 50,000 domestic customers. Suppliers meet their targets by promoting and encouraging consumers to take up energy efficiency measures such as loft insulation and cavity wall insulation and thereby save energy and money. Suppliers are responsible for meeting the costs of CERT, which are expected to be some £3.2 billion over the course of the three-year scheme to March 2011. Suppliers use a number of innovative schemes and partnerships to meet their targets, including linking up with local authorities, registered social landlords and charities.

Buildings: Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the levels of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from *(a)* heating for buildings and *(b)* air conditioning in buildings per head of population (i) in each region and (ii) in England. [288811]

Joan Ruddock: Emissions resulting from heating and cooling buildings can be assessed at a UK-wide level, but they are not currently disaggregated into constituent counties or regions.

In June 2007, the Department of Trade and Industry estimated CO_2 emissions from all heat use in the domestic and services sectors of the UK to be 27 per cent. of total UK CO_2 emissions, equivalent to 150 Mt CO_2, or around 2.5 tonnes CO_2 per capita.

Building Research Establishment (BRE) estimates the current annual CO_2 emissions from cooling non-domestic buildings in the UK to be approximately 3 Mt CO_2, equivalent to around one twentieth of a tonne of CO_2 per capita annually. Residential sector cooling is not thought to make a significant contribution to UK CO_2 emissions at present.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term plans the Government have to contribute towards meeting the goal of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent. by 2050; and what steps the Government plan to take in co-operation with other developed nations to reduce levels of such emissions. [288072]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Government's framework for managing and responding to climate change is set by the 2008 Climate Change Act. The Act sets a target for the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to at least 80 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2050, and the Government are required to set and meet five-year carbon budgets to define the pathway to this target.

The 2050 target was adopted in October 2008, following advice from the Committee on Climate Change. The Committee advised that this was an appropriate UK contribution to a global deal aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to between 20 billion tonnes and 24 billion tonnes by 2050 (between 50 and 60 per cent. below current levels).

The Act was also amended earlier this year to require us to set the third carbon budget, covering the period 2018-22, at a level that is equivalent to a reduction in emissions of at least 34 per cent. below 1990 levels, as an important interim target towards 2050. The first three carbon budgets were approved by Parliament in May. On 15 July, we published the 'UK Low Carbon Transition Plan', which sets out how we will meet those carbon budgets through investment in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies such as renewables, nuclear, and carbon capture and storage. It also committed us to producing a longer term roadmap for the transition to a low carbon UK for the period 2020 to 2050 by next spring.

Internationally, the UK is working with other developed countries to agree at the United Nations framework convention on climate change meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009 a comprehensive, global and long-term framework for addressing climate change that puts us on the right pathway for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent. by 2050. The Government's proposals are set out in 'The Road to Copenhagen' (Cm 7659), copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Following a new and ambitious international agreement, the Government will tighten the level of the UK carbon budgets, taking into account the outcome of the EU's effort sharing negotiations and further advice from the Committee on Climate Change.

Carbon Trust: Energy Saving Trust

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 497W, on the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust, (1) how much had been spent by the Carbon Trust on payments to *(a)* Weber Shandwick, *(b)* TLG Communications Ltd and *(c)* Greyling Political Strategy on the latest date for which figures are available; [288943]

(2) how much had been spent by the Energy Saving Trust on payments to *(a)* Postif Politics, *(b)* Stratagem, *(c)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs and (d) Geromino Commuications on the latest date for which figures are available. [288944]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust are both private companies limited by guarantee, therefore details of payments made are a matter for the Trusts' Boards.

Coal Investment Aid

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to introduce a new scheme to replace the Coal Investment Aid Scheme. [285086]

Mr. Kidney: No.

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1407/2002 on State Aid to the hard coal industry under which Coal Investment Aid was offered does not provide for the introduction of a replacement scheme.

The European Commission is currently consulting on how to replace the Regulation when it expires on 31 December 2010. The consultation closed on 15 July 2009.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288928]

Joan Ruddock: 100 per cent.

Departmental Campaigns

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what public campaigns have been undertaken by his Department since its establishment; and what the *(a)* resource, *(b)* capital expenditure and *(c)* staffing costs of each were of each such campaign. [288762]

Joan Ruddock: Since September 2008 to June 2009, DECC has spent approximately £4.8 million exclusive of VAT on the Act On CO_2 marketing campaign.

DECC has not incurred any capital expenditure costs or additional staffing costs on the campaign.

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287799]

Joan Ruddock: It is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what discussions he has had with his special adviser on feed-in tariffs as part of his Department's new Climate Change Strategy; [288065]

(2) how many meetings in his Department his special adviser on feed-in tariffs has attended since appointment. [288064]

Mr. Kidney: DECC Ministers have frequent meetings with parliamentary colleagues. My hon. Friend the Member for Nottingham, South (Alan Simpson) has not held meetings with officials. My hon. Friend is not employed as a special adviser but has had discussions with my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. O'Brien) on the subject of feed-in tariffs since the passage of the Energy Act.

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287137]

Joan Ruddock: Our procurement service provider (Department of Business, Information and Skills—BIS) is considering how best to utilise the www.supply2.gov.uk portal for advertising tenders until the opportunities portal is available at the end of 2010 (Glover Report Recommendation 1) and how to identify small and medium-sized enterprise expenditure data (Recommendation 12) in an efficient manner.

The Department is currently preparing an Innovation Procurement Plan (Recommendation 8).

Along with BIS, the Department is waiting for the Office of Government Commerce guidance on the implementation of the remaining recommendations.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W, on departmental public relations, what the monetary value is of the contract with Kreab Gavin Anderson to provide public relations advice to his Department. [288681]

Joan Ruddock: The Kreab Gavin Anderson contract is for up to £320,000 for the period 9 May 2008 to 31 March 2010 inclusive. Kreab Gavin Anderson are contracted to provide expert advice and support on the renewable energy finance community including on the impact of proposed measures on renewable finance and investment prospects. As part of this contract they also support the Department's work by arranging seminars, meetings with investors, and wider awareness raising with investors and media on developments in renewable energy policy.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party since its inception. [284973]

Joan Ruddock: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code.

Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust. Information on numbers of civil servants from this Department that have had such an attachment is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many interns work in his Department; what terms of reference apply to their appointment; what remuneration they receive; and how long on average an intern appointment lasts. [286823]

Joan Ruddock: DECC currently has one intern. DECC's terms of reference for interns are still being developed, and are based on giving an individual a personal development opportunity and introducing them to the civil service, while completing a meaningful piece of work.

Remuneration for this contract is based on £29,191 (pro rata) which is in line with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs HEO starting salary.

This contract is for three months.

E.ON: Corporate Hospitality

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of his Department's employees accepted corporate hospitality from E.ON in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; how many have done so in 2009 to date; and what hospitality was received in each case. [271825]

Mr. Kidney: Since 2007 DECC's employees have received corporate hospitality from EON on the following occasions:

	Nature of hospitality
2007	
5 July	Lunch
December	Lunch
2008	
24 January	Dinner and private viewing at the Royal Academy
29 January	Light buffet supper (received from Eon Ruhrgas)
20 February	International Petroleum week Dinner (received from Eon Ruhrgas)
9 June	Royal Academy of Engineering Awards Dinner (received from Eon Engineering)
19 November	Dinner
2009	
11 May	Guest at Eon sponsored reception

	Nature of hospitality
4 June	DECC staff visit to Eon Rushcliffe on Soar power station and Research and Development Centre (7 DECC participants). Sandwich lunch, small gift bag and transport to and from the station.

Hospitality received by my officials follows Civil Service Guidance that any hospitality should be "conventional, normal and reasonable".

Energy Supply

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what monitoring his Department is undertaking of the effects on *(a)* payment method preference, *(b)* levels of debt and *(c)* levels of disconnections of domestic energy consumers of (i) recent and (ii) anticipated increases in energy prices; and how much funding his Department has allocated to provide domestic energy customers with energy efficiency advice and information. [289136]

Mr. Kidney: DECC analyses data from a number of sources on conditions in the household energy supply markets. DECC monitors and publishes data on average bills by payment method, and on numbers of customers on different payment methods. Ofgem monitors and publishes data on levels of debt and on disconnections.

The Government provide the Energy Saving Trust with annual grant funding (circa £37 million in 2009-10) to manage the Act on CO_2 helpline and advice centres. This provides consumers a central free source of impartial advice on energy efficiency, microgeneration and renewable energy, low carbon transport, water efficiency and waste reduction, as well as easy access to a range of energy efficiency offers.

Energy: Meters

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what evidence his Department has received from the Energy Retail Association on the costs of those smart metering; and what further steps his Department has taken to establish implementing costs. [289217]

Mr. Kidney: The Department published Impact Assessments on 11 May, which set out the costs and benefits of different options for rolling out smart meters to both domestic and small and medium-sized enterprise public sector energy consumers. In preparing these assessments my Department took into account information on costs and benefits from a wide range of sources, including information provided by energy supply companies who are members of the Energy Retailers Association.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which energy providers supply smart meters to their residential customers free of charge. [289218]

Mr. Kidney: The provision of intelligent metering to domestic customers and the terms on which such metering may be offered is currently a matter for energy supply companies. The Department does not collect information about this matter.

Energy: Prices

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many households were on a social tariff from their energy supplier in each of the last five years; [283249]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of households in receipt of a social tariff from their energy supplier who paid less than they would on the cheapest non-social tariff offered by that supplier in each of the last five years. [283250]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem monitors the energy suppliers' social programmes on behalf of Government. They have published data on the number of customer accounts on a social tariff from their energy supplier for each of the last two years to 31 March 2008. Their latest report also estimated that, as at the end of October 2008, over 800,000 customer accounts were on a social tariff. In addition this report compared the range of savings between a supplier's social tariff and their cheapest non-social tariff offered during 2007-08. Numbers of customers on social tariffs and the range of savings from them are set out in the following table:

Supplier/tariff name	*Energy type*	*Total customer accounts on a social tariff as at 31 August 2007*	*Total customer accounts on a social tariff as at 31 March 2008*[1]	*Range of savings over supplier's best offer, 2007-08*[2]
British Gas/Essentials	Electricity	83,000	113,584	-59[3]
	Gas	197,000	200,845	-9
	Total	280,000	314,429	—
EDF Energy/Energy Assist	Electricity	45,154	46,130	46 to 55
	Gas	14,825	15,742	67 to 91
	Total	59,979	61,872	—
E.ON (Powergen)/Social StayWarm	Electricity	—	26,833	Because of the structure of this tariff it is not possible to compare it for this analysis.
	Gas	—	25,495	
	Total	10,373	52,328	

Supplier/tariff name	Energy type	Total customer accounts on a social tariff as at 31 August 2007	Total customer accounts on a social tariff as at 31 March 2008[1]	Range of savings over supplier's best offer, 2007-08[2]
Npower/First Step	Electricity	1,415	2,108	7 to 28
	Gas	1,042	1,398	17 to 38
	Total	2,457	3,506	—
Scottish Power		Social tariff launched on 1 April 2008		
SSE/Energy Plus Care	Electricity	7,538	15,282	36 to 50
	Gas	4,983	11,077	32 to 56
	Total	12,521	26,359	—
Total[3]	Electricity	137,107	203,937	n/a
	Gas	217,850	254,557	—
	Total	365,330	458,494	—

[1] To 31 March 2008, Ofgem defined a social tariff as needing to be at least equal to the supplier's standard direct debit tariff. Going forward, to qualify as a social tariff it has to be at least as good as the lowest tariff that supplier offers in the customer's area.
[2] As these savings were calculated over the year 2007-08 and the numbers on a social tariff were given as at 31 March 2008, the exact numbers benefiting from a social tariff, below a supplier's best offer, cannot be estimated.
[3] Negative figures illustrate the average cost disadvantage of the social tariff over the best offer from the same supplier.

Copies of these reports can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Review%20of%20suppliers%20voluntary%20initiatives.pdf

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/CSRupdateopenletter23507.pdf

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Monitoring%20Suppliers%20Social%20Spend%20171.08.pdf

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on *(a)* the adequacy of notice given to energy consumers of energy price rises and *(b)* the length of time they are given to switch supplier after a price increase. [286255]

Mr. Kidney: The Department receives a number of representations on a range of consumer matters, including on communications by energy suppliers to customers.

Ofgem is responsible for setting the rules governing notifications. The rules include the timing in which suppliers must notify customers after a tariff change has been put in place, and the timing for customers to notify suppliers if they wish to terminate their supply contract and start the transfer process to another supplier.

Ofgem carried out a review into the price notification period earlier this year, and is expected to publish its findings soon.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the performance of Ofgem in its regulation of British Gas tariff changes; and if he will make a statement. [287704]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Following its Energy Supply Probe, Ofgem has made a number of proposals for amending regulation governing: information to consumers, time periods relating to notifications of tariff changes, the structure of tariffs and overarching standards for suppliers. Ofgem is also seeking improvements in suppliers' management of direct debits. We support Ofgem's work to pursue improvements to regulation where necessary.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 719-20W, on energy: prices, if he will estimate the number of people in fuel poverty as a result of increases in energy prices arising from the implementation of commitments to reduce levels of carbon dioxide emissions. [288434]

Mr. Kidney: It is not possible to currently estimate the net change in fuel poverty as a result of our climate change policies, as this will depend on which dwellings receive measures and the households that live in them in 2020.

As our recent "Climate Change Transition Plan" makes clear, climate change policies will lead to significant and sustained savings on the domestic energy bills of those households who take up measures. As detailed in the analytical annex to this document, by 2020, funding of our climate change policies will lead domestic gas and electricity prices to rise. Households taking up climate change measures will be less affected by these rises as their consumption of gas and electricity will be reduced and in many cases, will see a reduction in their bill levels as a result.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department is providing to finance the mandated social price support for household energy, as announced on page 12 of the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan. [288566]

Mr. Kidney: By the final year of the voluntary agreement in 2010-11, energy suppliers will be spending £150 million per year on social programmes. Subject to the parliamentary timetable, the new mandated social price support policy will increase the funding made available by energy suppliers above £150 million per year after March 2011. In

announcing this policy, our aim is to give the vulnerable households receiving help from energy suppliers under the current voluntary arrangements the confidence that similar help will be available after the voluntary agreement comes to an end.

The Government will bring forward legislation at the earliest opportunity and will give more detail at around the time the legislation is introduced.

Environment Ministers: Meetings

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the outcomes were of the conference of Environment Ministers held in Greenland in July 2009; and what papers his Department circulated at the conference. [286625]

Joan Ruddock: The Greenland Dialogue meeting of Climate Change and Environment Ministers and senior negotiators produced a Chair's Summary. This highlighted, among other things, participants' commitment to success at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this December, and the need for global warming to stay below 2 degrees. The Chair's Summary can be viewed on the Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy website at:

www.kemin.dk/en-us/cop15/greenland_dialogue/Sider/Forside.aspx

The UK did not formally circulate any papers at the meeting but did distribute copies of the Road to Copenhagen document and I spoke about my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's climate finance initiative.

Forestry

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on *(a)* the form in which and *(b)* the level to which industrialised countries should increase expenditure on forestry; what benefits he expects to accrue from expenditure on forestry; and what his policy is on the inclusion of forestry in carbon markets to prevent deforestation and degradation. [289003]

Joan Ruddock: The UK is working with other countries through the Working Group on Interim Finance for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) to build consensus on finance for forests in the run-up to the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. Discussions are still in progress but the UK considers that a mix of grant support and public-private finance instruments will be needed. The level of expenditure required to achieve the EU's target of halving the rate of deforestation by 2020, while taking account of the concerns of indigenous peoples and local communities and realising biodiversity and other benefits, is still under discussion. The UK believes, as set out in The Road to Copenhagen, that in the medium to long term, including forests in the carbon market is the best solution to generating the scale of funding needed. It will take time to develop robust monitoring control and governance arrangements for this.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to which forestry activities the declaration on international climate negotiations at the UK-French summit in Evian on 6 July 2009 referred. [289012]

Joan Ruddock: The forestry activities referred to in the UK-French declaration on the international climate negotiations relate to:

reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and

the conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to reduce fuel poverty if energy prices increase in winter 2009-10. [288079]

Mr. Kidney: Since 2000, we have spent £20 billion on fuel poverty benefits and programmes and we will continue to develop and implement a range of measures to tackle the drivers of fuel poverty, poor energy efficiency, low incomes and high energy prices.

The Government's Warm Front scheme has a budget of £950 million during 2008-11 for the installation of heating and insulation measures available to vulnerable householders in receipt of a qualifying disability or income related benefit. In addition, DECC has just laid in legislation a 20 per cent. increase to the carbon emissions reduction target which will lead to energy suppliers making available an estimated £3.2 billion during 2008-11, 40 per cent. of which must be targeted at a priority group of low income consumers who are in receipt of benefits or are aged 70 and over. In addition, last September, the Prime Minister announced the Community Energy Saving Programme. This will deliver £350 million of energy efficiency measures to around 90,000 homes in 100 low income areas across Great Britain over a three-year period.

To boost the income of vulnerable households, the increase in winter fuel payments, of an extra £50 for those aged 60-79 and £100 for those aged over 80, announced for the winter 2008-09, will continue for the coming winter.

On prices, under the voluntary agreement with suppliers, spend on programmes of social assistance, including discounted social tariffs, will be £125 million this year, rising to £150 million next year. We have also recently announced in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, the intention to create a policy of mandated social price support at the earliest opportunity with resources increased compared to the existing voluntary agreement.

Fuels: Power Stations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of *(a)* oil, *(b)* gas, *(c)* coal and *(d)* uranium used in power plants came from (i) UK resources and (ii) imported fuels in the most recent year for which figures are available. [288565]

Mr. Kidney: The Department does not collect data on the source of fuels used in power plants. However, the following table shows, for oil, gas and coal, the proportions of total UK supply accounted for by imports (net of exports) and UK resources in 2008 and the proportion of total supply of each fuel used for electricity generation.

The UK does not have exploitable natural uranium resources, therefore all natural uranium used for fuel in UK nuclear power stations is sourced overseas. Reprocessed uranium sourced from the Sellafield reprocessing plant has been processed into uranium for use as fuel. However, the Department does not hold data on the proportions of this used in power plants.

	Oil (Thousand tonnes)	*Gas (GWh)*	*Coal (Thousand tonnes)*
Net imports	11,664	284,565	43,165
UK resources: production, stock changes and transfers	68,969	806,231	15,043
Total supply	80,633	1,090,797	58,208
Net imports proportion (percentage)	14.5	26.1	74.2
UK resources proportion (percentage)	85.5	73.9	25.8
Proportion of total supply used for electricity generation (percentage)	1.1	34.7	82.1

Source: Tables 2.1, 3.1, 3.2 and 4.1, in Energy Trends, June 2009, available at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/dukes/page45537.html

Gloucestershire Energy Strategy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in implementing the Gloucestershire Energy Strategy; and what recent discussions his Department has had with those responsible for the strategy. [288080]

Mr. Kidney: Implementation of the Gloucestershire Energy Strategy is the responsibility of Gloucestershire county council. The Government Office for the South West (representing a number of Departments including DECC) have had several discussions with Gloucestershire county council and its partner organisations concerning the strategy and in particular its links with the Local Area Agreement which has a strong commitment to tackling climate change and fuel poverty.

Housing: Air Conditioning

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department collects on the number of homes in the UK which have domestic air conditioning installed; and in what proportion of homes it is estimated such systems will have been installed by *(a)* 2020, *(b)* 2030 and *(c)* 2050. [288812]

Joan Ruddock: The Government Market Transformation Programme estimates that less than 1 per cent. of UK homes (c125,000) currently have some form of air conditioning equipment, with the majority being portable rather than installed units.

We do not currently hold estimates of the number of air conditioning systems that we expect to see installed in UK homes in 2020, 2030 or 2050.

Industrial Diseases: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many cases of *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger there are in the post code area (i) NG20 and (ii) DN22. [288819]

Mr. Kidney: The following table provides the number of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Vibration White Finger (VWF) claims registered under the British Coal litigation schemes in the postcode areas of NG20 and DN22.

Claims registered (at 19 July 2009) in postcode areas NG20 and DN22

	Registered claim count
Postcode District NG20	
COPD	5,321
VWF	3,503
Total	8,824
Postcode District DN22	
COPD	1,007
VWF	750
Total	1,757

Insulation: Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding is available to local authorities for programmes for loft insulation *(a)* in (i) private and (ii) public residential housing and *(b)* for community buildings. [288081]

Joan Ruddock: No central Government funding is provided to local authorities for loft insulation programmes in social housing. However, local authorities can use money provided through the major repairs allowance in the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy System and Supported Capital Expenditure for the Decent Homes Programme to install loft insulation in council owned homes. Local authorities also work with energy suppliers under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) to identify homes that could benefit from measures under this scheme.

For private sector homes, Government have invested over £1 billion between 2008-09 and 2010-11 to help improve private sector housing for the most vulnerable. Allocations are paid to local authorities through the Regional Housing Pot as un-ring-fenced capital grants based on recommendations made by the Regional Housing Boards. In addition to tackling disrepair, the funds are often used to assist in the provision of energy efficiency measures.

No central Government funding is provided to local authorities for insulating the lofts of community buildings. However, loft insulation is a relatively low-cost measure that provides substantial energy savings, so local authorities should expect a short payback period for their investment.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the UK Low

Carbon Transition Plan on families who use liquefied petroleum gas as a heating fuel; and if he will make a statement. [288415]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan is a route map to a low carbon economy setting out the instruments the UK will use to meet its carbon budgets. This together with the Renewable Energy Strategy published at the same time also sets out how the UK will meet its target that 15 per cent. of energy should come from renewable resources by 2020.

This will mean a transition over time from fossil fuels to renewable fuels for heating, supported by the introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive from April 2011. LPG is a fossil fuel form of heating, often used in communities off the gas grid. We envisage that many families in rural communities will use the Renewable Heat Incentive and other schemes to switch to renewable and low carbon ways to heat their homes.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the £45 million announced in Budget 2009 for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is projected to be spent in 2009-10. [288718]

Mr. Kidney: £30 million of the £45 million announced in Budget 2009 for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is projected to be spent in 2009-10.

Low Carbon Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 7.28 of Budget 2009, how the £155 million of funding allocated to his Department for low-carbon energy and green manufacturing will be spent. [285032]

Joan Ruddock: The funding will deliver targeted support for sectors with high growth rate potential such as offshore wind, wave and tidal energy, and remove barriers to low carbon investment in the UK. The funding will also support innovative trialling of technologies in local community-based settings.

Spending allocation decisions taken so far by Ministers total up to £81.2 million and comprise:

up to £22.5 million for the Marine Energy Proving Fund;

up to £10 million for the Green Villages, Towns and Cities Challenge;

up to £6 million for renewable construction materials;

up to £6 million for 'smart grid' innovation;

up to £6 million for geothermal energy;

up to £4 million for Pay as You Save Pilots;

up to £1.7 million for the Whitehall District heating scheme; and

up to £25 million towards the UK Innovation Investment Fund.

The Energy White Paper and Low Carbon Industrial Strategy has more detail on these allocations.

Further announcements on projects and sectors to be funded will be made over the coming months. Where it is possible to bid for elements of funding, the process for doing so will be made clear when funding is announced.

National Decommissioning Authority: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much and what proportion of the National Decommissioning Authority's budget has been spent on funding university research in each of the last 10 years; on what research projects this funding has been spent; and if he will make a statement. [286484]

Mr. Kidney: Funding for university research in support of its core mission to decommission and clean up the nuclear legacy is a key part of the NDA's skills strategy. During financial year 2008-09, the NDA spent approximately £1.4 million on supporting university research through its Direct Research Portfolio and the Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD). Funding in previous years was not broken down so as to differentiate between university and other research but is estimated to have been in the order of around £1 million in each year. The NDA has also made a commitment of £10 million to support the establishment of the Dalton Cumbria facility, a joint venture with the university of Manchester which will see the establishment of a world-class research centre specialising in radiation science and nuclear engineering decommissioning.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to answer Question 280802, tabled on 16 June 2009, on coolant leaks and fires at UK nuclear installations. [288750]

Mr. Kidney: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1023-29W.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost to date and *(b)* future cost to the public purse of decommissioning nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [288421]

Mr. Kidney: The lifetime costs of decommissioning and cleaning up the fleet of Magnox nuclear power stations, only two of which are still operational, are set out in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's annual report and accounts 2008-09 published on 20 July 2009. The total discounted cost is estimated to be £9,233 million.

The Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF) is responsible for meeting the decommissioning cost of British Energy's existing nuclear power stations, together with defuelling costs and certain British Energy uncontracted liabilities. As at 31 March 2009, the total discounted cost (at a rate of 2.2 per cent.) of the NLF's future liability is estimated to be £4,500 million.

Any developers of new nuclear power stations will be obliged to meet the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management and disposal costs.

Nuclear Power Stations: Pollution

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much in fines the Nuclear Inspectorate has imposed on *(a)* companies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* individuals in respect of each type of pollution incident in each region in each year since 1997. [288465]

Mr. Kidney: The Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) does not impose fines directly. It may prosecute duty holders for breaches of health and safety law. If found guilty those duty holders may have fines imposed on them by the courts. In the following cases heard for breaches of health and safety law since 1997 fines were imposed after prosecutions were instigated by the NII. In all cases the fines were imposed on companies.

Date of hearing	*Name of defendant*	*Fine imposed (£)*	*Costs awarded against defendant (£)*
25 November 1999	British Energy	30,000	5,700
27 July 2000	Magnox Electric Ltd.	18,000	6,100
18 January 2002	UKAEA Ltd.	4,000	57,800
18 January 2002	AEA Technology plc	4,000	57,800
6 March 2002	British Nuclear Fuels plc	15,000	4,500
16 October 2006	British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd.	500,000	67,000
12 July 2007	UKAEA Ltd.	15,000	—

The events giving rise to these prosecutions did not necessarily involve pollution. Events involving environmental pollution are primarily matters for the appropriate environmental agency.

Nuclear Power: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink), of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 38, on the G8 Summit, whether the £20 billion to be spent on nuclear power in the UK in the next few years will be from public funds. [287603]

Mr. Kidney: As stated in the Nuclear White Paper, it will be for energy companies to fund, develop and build new nuclear power stations in the UK. Government estimates show that to replace existing capacity alone, £21 billion will need to be invested by energy companies.

Nuclear Power: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the very small risks are which his Department has judged new nuclear power plants would pose in respect of safety, health, proliferation and security, as referred to on page 63 in chapter 2 of the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan. [288593]

Mr. Kidney: The small risks referred to are those set out at page 22 and pages 74-80 of the 2008 White Paper on Nuclear Power.

Nuclear Power: Security

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the level of security of UK nuclear facilities from radiation leaks in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [288716]

Mr. Kidney: The Health and Safety Executive, who have responsibility for the day to day regulation of the nuclear industry, make regular assessments on the causes of incidents, including leaks, within the nuclear industry. Through HSE's programme of regular inspection of nuclear facilities they are able to ensure that nuclear operators are complying with relevant health, safety and security legislation and ensure that industry, as a whole, learns from individual incidents. Ministers in DECC periodically meet with HSE to ensure that the framework in place remains robust in managing the risk of future leaks.

Nuclear Power: Waste Disposal

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what categories of costs will be included in the full share of waste management and disposal cost, which energy companies funding, developing and building new nuclear power stations will be required to meet, as referred to on page 63 of the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan. [288594]

Mr. Kidney: The Government consider that an operator's full share of waste management and disposal costs is:

the costs that are directly attributable to disposing of new build higher activity waste into a geological disposal facility;

a contribution towards the fixed costs of constructing such a geological disposal facility;

a significant risk premium over and above these costs to take account of uncertainties around the cost of constructing such a facility and the time when it will be able to accept new build waste; and

the cost of managing that waste pending disposal (or pending transfer for disposal).

Separately, operators are also responsible for the full cost of disposing of low level waste in a disposal facility and managing this waste pending its disposal.

Nuclear Reactors

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how close to sea level each of the UK's *(a)* existing and *(b)* planned (i) nuclear reactors and (ii) nuclear waste storage facilities is; and if he will make a statement. [288715]

Mr. Kidney: A simple comparison of sea level with ground level can be misleading, as it takes no account of local sea defences or local topography, both of which will be influential in determining the likelihood and magnitude of any flooding either on the site or its immediate environs.

The safety of existing sites (including associated on-site waste storage and the low level waste repository near the village of Drigg) regarding sea level and flood risk is monitored by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. A site or sites for geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste has not yet been identified. The design and safety case for any facility will consider the effects of sea levels, and changes in sea levels, on operational and post closure performance.

The Government are running a strategic siting assessment to identify sites that are potentially suitable for the deployment of new nuclear power stations. The Government response to the consultation on the SSA criteria and process:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49865.pdf

outlined that nominated sites would be assessed against their capacity to be protected against flood risk, tsunami and storm surge. This includes consideration of the potential effects of climate change, throughout the lifetime of the station including allowing for the safe and secure storage of all the spent fuel and intermediate level waste produced from operation and decommissioning until it can be sent for final disposal in a geological disposal facility (GDF). Nominators have provided information about the ground level of nominated sites, and this is available at:

www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk

Ofgem: Scotland

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Ofgem on the Scottish Power Pay in Advance tariff; and what his policy is on the licensing of Scottish Power to hold client money. [286257]

Mr. Kidney: I have not discussed this tariff with Ofgem. However, in our White Paper 'A better deal for Consumers' published in July, the Government undertook to reassess the regulatory framework for prepayments in general, taking account of advice from the Office of Fair Trading and the Financial Services Authority and the recommendations to be contained within Consumer Focus's forthcoming report on the prepayments market. This report is expected this summer. The Government will work with the full range of stakeholders to assess what regulatory action would be sensible and practicable.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of the UK's electricity demand he expects to be met from electricity generation supported by new feed-in tariffs by 2020. [288185]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* As stated in the UK Renewable Energy Strategy, our central scenario includes a contribution from small scale renewable electricity generation of 2 per cent. of our electricity supply in 2020.

In line with this we have proposed feed-in tariff levels in our Renewable Financial Incentives consultation available at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change where his Department's Office for Renewable Energy Deployment will be based; who its director is; how many staff at each grade it will have; what budgetary allocations have been made for it over what period; and what arrangements the Office will establish for communications with the public and interested parties. [288569]

Mr. Kidney: The Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) will be based in the Department of Energy and Climate Change. ORED will be headed by a chief executive, Simon Virley, and the recruitment of a non-executive expert chair of ORED is under way. Staffing, budgets and other arrangements are currently being finalised.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of *(a)* energy and *(b)* electricity in (i) the UK and (ii) each region came from renewable sources in each year since 1997. [289010]

Mr. Kidney: Information on the electricity generated from renewable sources as a percentage of all electricity generated in the UK and the proportion of primary energy demand accounted for by non-waste renewable sources in each year since 1997 is shown in table 1. Also shown are the data from 2004 onwards which monitor progress against the EU Renewable Energy Directive; the directive uses different definitions to the data available from 1997.

Data on electricity generation are not available at a regional level, since information at this level is disclosive. However information is available that shows the proportion of electricity generated in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland which came from all renewable sources for 2004 to 2007; this is shown in table 2. Data on all energy generation by region or country are not available.

Table 1: Percentage of electricity and energy in the UK obtained from renewable sources

	Electricity generated from renewable sources as a percentage of all electricity generated in the UK	*Energy from non-waste renewable sources as a percentage of UK primary energy demand*	*Percentage Renewables consumption as a percentage of capped gross final energy consumption, used to monitor the Renewable Energy Directive*
1997	2.0	0.8	—
1998	2.4	0.8	—
1999	2.6	0.9	—
2000	2.6	0.9	—

Table 1: Percentage of electricity and energy in the UK obtained from renewable sources

	Electricity generated from renewable sources as a percentage of all electricity generated in the UK	*Energy from non-waste renewable sources as a percentage of UK primary energy demand*	*Percentage Renewables consumption as a percentage of capped gross final energy consumption, used to monitor the Renewable Energy Directive*
2001	2.5	0.9	—
2002	2.9	1.1	—
2003	2.7	1.2	—
2004	3.6	1.4	1.2
2005	4.3	1.7	1.4
2006	4.6	1.8	1.6
2007	4.9	2.0	1.8
2008	5.5	2.4	2.25

Source
Data up to and including 2007 from the 2008 edition of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics; data for 2008 from the June 2009 edition of Energy Trends.

Table 2: Percentage of electricity generated in each country obtained from renewable sources

	England	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Percentage Northern Ireland*
2004	2.4	2.9	11.7	2.1
2005	3.0	3.5	13.2	2.8
2006	3.1	4.0	13.3	3.4
2007	3.1	4.4	17.1	4.5

Source:
December 2008 edition of Energy Trends.

Renewable Energy: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to exploit renewable sources of energy in the ceremonial county of Hampshire; and whether sites have been identified for the development of renewable energy sources within the county. [288896]

Mr. Kidney: On 15 July we published our Renewable Energy Strategy detailing an action plan for increasing renewable energy deployment throughout the UK, including measures at local and regional level.

However, it is for the market to bring forward proposals for renewable energy projects in specific areas.

Renewable Energy: Ministerial Responsibilities

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the hon. Member for Nottingham South (Alan Simpson) was appointed to the post of special adviser on renewable energy and feed-in tariffs; how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's officials have had with the special adviser since his appointment; and what advice the adviser has provided since appointment. [287715]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* DECC Ministers have frequent meetings with parliamentary colleagues. My hon. Friend the Member for Nottingham, South (Alan Simpson) has not held meetings with officials. My hon. Friend is not employed as a special adviser but has had discussions with my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. O'Brien) on the subject of feed-in tariffs since the passage of the Energy Act 2008.

River Severn: Tidal Power

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish the Government's response to the public consultation on the scope of the Severn Tidal Power feasibility study. [285434]

Mr. Kidney: The Government response to the public consultation on Severn tidal power was published on 15 July alongside the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan and the Renewable Energy Strategy. The Government response confirms high level analysis of the impact of three barrages and two lagoons and work to bring forward three further schemes using embryonic technologies—two tidal fences and a low head barrage.

Strategic Siting Assessment Programme

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of the Strategic Siting Assessment Programme; and what proportion of that cost has been recovered from applicant companies. [288595]

Mr. Kidney: The Government set out in the 2008 Nuclear White Paper that it would conduct a Strategic Siting Assessment ("SSA") to identify sites which are potentially suitable for the deployment of new nuclear power stations by the end of 2025. The sites identified through this process will be listed in the proposed National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power.

The Government consulted on the criteria and process for the SSA in 2008, and set out the process in their Government Response to consultation at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49865.pdf

This process does not include charging nominators for the cost of assessing sites.

Any new nuclear power stations would be proposed, developed, constructed and operated by energy companies. It is Government's role to set the right policy framework to attract investment in energy projects. In the past Government have undertaken strategic siting assessments for offshore renewables and for the licensing of oil and gas exploration in the North Sea. As with those projects, the cost of the SSA will be met by Government as part of their role to set the policy framework for energy investments.

The approximate costs from inception to date are shown in the following table. These are costs of consultancy organisations who have contributed towards delivering the SSA. This does not include DECC staff costs.

Activity	*Cost (£)*
Development of the SSA process and criteria	409,000
Publicity and consultation on the SSA process, criteria and nominations	331,200

Activity	Cost (£)
Carrying out the strategic siting assessment and associated Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Both the AoS and the HRA are legal requirements on Government in developing the Nuclear National Policy Statement	1,019,000
Total	1,759,200

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on each of the Gateway Reviews conducted in relation to the Warm Front scheme. [257476]

Mr. Kidney: I have arranged for copies of the reports to be placed in the House Library.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the last six half-yearly audit reports on the Warm Front scheme produced by White Young Green. [285092]

Mr. Kidney: The Warm Front Scheme is the Government's flagship scheme for eradicating fuel poverty. White Young Green is the independent quality assurance assessor for the Warm Front Scheme. White Young Green normally produces a Quality Assurance Assessor's Report every six months. It is not usual practice to release reports of this nature.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 327W, on the Warm Front scheme, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each meeting of the Warm Front Scheme Management Board since 2005. [285119]

Mr. Kidney: The Warm Front Scheme is the Government's flagship scheme for eradicating fuel poverty. The Warm Front Scheme Management Board oversees the delivery and performance of the Warm Front Scheme and its contribution to achievement of the Government's fuel poverty and wider targets. It is not usual practice to release board agendas and minutes of this nature.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* West Derbyshire constituency are eligible for a grant for insulation and heating improvements under the Warm Front scheme. [288794]

Mr. Kidney: The Department does not record how many households are eligible for a Warm Front grant in Derbyshire and West Derbyshire constituency.

Warm Front Scheme: Boilers

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many new *(a)* oil boilers and *(b)* liquefied petroleum gas boilers have been installed under the Warm Front programme in each year since it was established. [288717]

Mr. Kidney: The following table details the number of *(a)* oil boilers installed and replaced and *(b)* liquefied petroleum gas boilers replaced under the Warm Front Scheme in each year since the beginning of the Scheme. Prior to 2005 oil and liquefied petroleum gas boilers were not installed as a standard measure under the Scheme.

Measure	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Oil Boiler Installations and Replacements	155	1,507	1,820	2,507	5,988
Liquefied Petroleum Gas Boiler Replacements	6	226	400	652	1,284

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Architects Registration Board

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many full-time equivalent employees the Architects Registration Board employs; what its budget for 2009-10 is; and how much it will receive in support from his Department in 2009-10; [288477]

(2) what remuneration the Chief Executive of the Architects Registration Board received in the most recent year for which figures are available. [288488]

John Healey: The Architects Registration Board currently employs 22 full-time members of staff. The budget for 2009 is £3,438,538. The budget for 2010 is currently being discussed by the board. The registrar (effectively the chief executive) receives a salary of £98,705. I have asked the ARB to write to you separately to confirm these details.

The Architects Registration Board will receive no funds from my Department in 2009-10. The Architects Registration Board is funded by the registration fees paid annually by architects in the UK which are currently set at £86 per year.

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families with children were accommodated in bed and breakfast accommodation in each local authority area in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [287388]

John Healey: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, and available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq12009

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled

home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes so.

The number of households housed in temporary accommodation by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter, is also collected. This figure consists of those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority; and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The figures for households with dependent children and/or a pregnant woman accommodated in bed and breakfast temporary accommodation as reported by each local authority in the last four quarters have been placed in the Library of the House.

Council Tax: Students

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals to exempt from liability for council tax payments unemployed spouses of undergraduate students who are designated as dependants of those students; and if he will make a statement. [288642]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 makes available a single person discount of 25 per cent. for households where one adult (including a spouse) is liable for council tax. Also, Class N of the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) Order 1992 provides exemption for dwellings solely occupied by full time students and their non-British spouses.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287366]

Mr. Malik: My right hon. Friend has had no such meetings.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288909]

Mr. Malik: The percentage of invoices from suppliers paid by the Department within 10 days of receipt in June 2009 was 90.53 per cent.

Departmental Board Members

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether each of his Department's non-executive directors has made a declaration of political activity. [288830]

Mr. Malik: Non-executive members of the departmental board are required under the terms and conditions of their appointment to declare to the permanent secretary any personal or business interest which may, or may be perceived to, influence their judgment in performing their functions and obligations as members of the board.

There are currently six non-executive board members, none of whom have declared any political activities under this provision.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [287086]

Mr. Malik: Only details of those staff working less than full-time hours are held centrally. As at the end of June 2009, 243 members of staff were recorded as working on a part-time basis.

Other data on other types of flexible working e.g. job sharing, compressed hours, home working are not collected centrally, as this is agreed at the line manager's discretion and in accordance with our flexible working policy.

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287796]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is currently putting in place systems that will identify small and medium enterprises on its finance system which will allow this to be reported on in the future.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Gershon efficiency savings his Department has made in each of the last three years. [288828]

Mr. Malik: The details of the efficiency savings delivered within our SR04 Gershon efficiency programme were published in the Department's 2008 Autumn Performance Report, which reported achievement of £1,444 million efficiency savings against a target of at least £620 million efficiency savings by March 2008.

Departmental Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's budget is for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what changes have been made to previous plans for

the budget as a consequence of (i) funding being diverted from other Departments as a consequence of proposals in the Draft Legislative Programme 2009-10 and (ii) funding being brought forward from later years. [288285]

Mr. Malik: The Department's 2009 Annual Report shows Communities and Local Government's overall budget for 2009-10 and 2010-11 as £13.2 billion and £10.8 billion respectively. These figures reflect over £1.5 billion of funding brought forward from 2010-11 as well as new funding announced at Budget 2009.

Additional funding of up to £930 million for new affordable housing (as announced in 'Building Britain's Future') will come from a mixture of reprioritisation, efficient programme management and anticipated underspends in other Departments.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 485W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288990]

Mr. Malik: All of these officers use Microsoft Internet Explorer v6.0.2900.2180.xpsp_sp2_gdr.050301-1519 which is the standard for CLG's desktops and laptops.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288742]

Mr. Malik: The Department for Communities and Local Government has spent the following using Royal Mail within the last two years:

1 April to 31 March	*£*
2008	90,656.69
2009	53,389.25

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287134]

Mr. Malik: The Department is currently developing its strategy for small and medium enterprise engagement and has started to collect small and medium enterprise (SME) expenditure data.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the responsibilities are of each Minister in his Department. [282737]

Mr. Malik: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State holds overall responsibility for the business of the Department and its policies.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning (John Healey) leads on housing, planning, climate change and sustainable development.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government (Ms. Winterton) leads on local government, regions, regeneration and worklessness. She is also a Minister for the Department of Business Innovation and Skills and Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber.

I lead on the fire service, community cohesion, race and migration, preventing extremism, the Thames Gateway and the Olympic legacy.

My hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin) supports on housing, planning, climate change and sustainable development. He is also Minister for the West Midlands.

My noble Friend Lord McKenzie of Luton supports on local government, and covers the Department's business in the House of Lords.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in his Department is responsible for *(a)* Travellers, *(b)* Pathfinder Housing Market Renewal and *(c)* the QE2 Conference Centre. [288322]

Mr. Malik: The ministerial responsibilities are as follows:

(a) I am responsible;

(b) My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning (John Healey) supported by my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley North (Mr. Austin);

(c) I am responsible.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Ministerial responsibilities relating to local government are of Lord McKenzie of Luton as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in his Department. [288323]

Mr. Malik: My noble Friend supports my right hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government (Ms Winterton) on such local government policies as the business of the Department demands.

Eco-Towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance has been published by his Department on waste policy in eco-towns; [288103]

(2) what guidance has been published by his Department on transport policy in eco-towns; [288106]

(3) what guidance has been published on the planning process for eco-town travel plans. [288107]

John Healey: As set out in my written statement on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 42WS, my Department published 'Planning Policy Statement: Eco-towns' (PPS), which sets out the standards that eco-towns will have to meet, including standards for transport and waste. I have placed copies of the PPS in the Library of the House.

As part of their work with us on eco-towns, the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) have produced a series of best practice guidance worksheets to support those taking forward eco-towns. This includes worksheets on waste and transport, and these are available on the TCPA's website

http://www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/sustainability-worksheets.html

The transport worksheet supplements the initial guidance produced by the Department for Transport, 'Building Sustainable Transport into New Developments: A Menu of Options for Growth Points and Eco-towns', and looks at travel planning and implementing sustainable transport approaches.

Eco-Towns: Middle Quinton

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 July 2009, on eco-towns and zero carbon homes, if he will withdraw the proposal for an eco-town at Long Marston from the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy review process; and if he will make a statement. [288637]

John Healey: I will make a decision on the proposal for an eco-town at Long Marston after the Department has received the report of the panel on the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. Any decision will also take into account any further representations on any new or additional matters which may arise in relation to the proposed Middle Quinton eco-town at Long Marston.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued on the use of empty dwelling management orders in respect of empty dwellings occupied by *(a)* squatters and *(b)* Travellers. [288522]

John Healey: No guidance has been issued on this point.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available; [281969]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283488]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold this information.

It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union. The important consideration is not the origins of a piece of legislation, but the quality of the regulation. All regulations, irrespective of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire authorities have entered into contracts with private sector companies to provide fire cover in the event of industrial action. [288161]

Mr. Malik: The provision of fire cover within a fire and rescue authority in the event of industrial action, is the responsibility of that fire and rescue authority. The Department does not collect information from fire and rescue authorities as to whether they have engaged private sector companies to provide emergency fire cover in the event of industrial action.

However, we understand that London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority have entered into a contract for the provision of an Emergency Fire Crew Capability Service to the London Fire Brigade. We are not currently aware of any other similar contracts.

Fires: Domestic Waste

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W, on fires: waste, if he will commission research into the scope and frequency of household arson attacks involving wheeled refuse containers. [288381]

Mr. Malik: There are currently no centrally held data on the number of wheeled refuse container fires. The recently implemented electronic Incident Recording System (IRS) records all incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services. From the data held on IRS it will be possible to identify deliberate fires as well as the number and location of wheeled refuse container fires attended by Fire and Rescue Services. These data will be available for 2009-10 and so should provide information on the frequency of fires in wheeled refuse containers and their involvement in household arson attacks.

The Government fund research on fire and resilience matters through several routes, one of which is the annual Fire and Resilience Research and Statistics Programme. Potential research projects for the Programme are discussed and prioritised based on the Department's policy needs and also in close consultation with Fire and Rescue Service stakeholders, such as the Chief Fire Officers Association. The Programme for 2009-10 has been finalised. A potential research project on the scope of fires in wheeled refuse containers will be included in this process for 2010-11 and we will ensure engagement with the Arson Control Forum as key stakeholders.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W, on fires: waste, what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Fire Service College has issued to firefighters and fire services on tackling fires deliberately set in wheeled refuse containers. [288453]

Mr. Malik: Neither my Department nor the Fire Service College has issued guidance to firefighters and the fire and rescue service in relation to tackling fires which have been deliberately set in wheeled refuse containers. Individual Fire and Rescue Authorities may, however, have developed operational procedures or policy on the issue.

Gardens

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department and its agencies hold on the proportion and number of households with access to private gardens. [288102]

John Healey: The Department does not hold information on the proportion and number of households with access to private gardens.

Gardens: Helicopters

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what planning provision he intends to make to regulate the use of back gardens for the landing of helicopters; [287788]

(2) what guidance he has provided to local authorities on the application of legislation relating to neighbour behaviour which might be used in relation to the landing of helicopters in confined spaces. [287789]

John Healey: The planning system exists to control development and protect the amenity of others. Where use of a garden to land helicopters involves development of some kind existing regulations would apply. The Government have no plans to amend the law in this respect.

The Government have not issued any guidance in relation to the landing of helicopters in confined spaces by neighbours.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288910]

Mr. Malik: My right hon. Friend has no plans to visit Glasgow.

Green Belt

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what locations the regional spatial strategies submitted to his Department propose a review of green belt protection with a view to reducing the present level of protection. [288509]

John Healey: The level of protection afforded to green belt would not be affected by any regional spatial strategy—this is set out in National Planning Policy. Policies in regional spatial strategies may recommend that, in a particular area, there should be a review of which areas should be designated as green belt.

Green Belt: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to protect *(a)* green belts and *(b)* green open spaces in (i) Huntingdonshire and (ii) Cambridgeshire. [287202]

John Healey: National and regional planning policy (Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 and the East of England Plan) both contain policy to protect Green Belt land and there remains a strong presumption against development.

The East of England Plan, published in May 2008 confirmed that the broad extent of green belts in the East of England, including around Cambridge, is appropriate and should be maintained.

Government Planning Policy (Policy Guidance Note 17) sets out the Government's approach to the provision of open space. The East of England Plan (Policy ENV1) also includes policy on creation and maintenance and creation of networks of green infrastructure. The Local Development Plans of Cambridge City Council and Huntingdonshire district council will then make provision for open green space, including the setting of open space standards.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of home condition reports that were completed in each of the last three years. [286432]

John Healey: The full year figures for the number of voluntary home condition reports (HCRs) which have been lodged on the HCR register are 1680 in 2007 and 120 in 2008. Figures for 2009 will be available after the year end.

Homelessness

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people of no fixed abode in each region in England. [287509]

John Healey: Information about the total number of people in England with no fixed abode is not held centrally.

Homes and Communities Agency: Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the salary is of each *(a)* board member and *(b)* executive team member of the (i) Homes and Communities Agency and (ii) Tenant Services Authority. [280295]

John Healey: The remuneration for the HCA chair was previously detailed in the Department's press notice of 27 June 2008, and for the TSA chair in the press notice of 13 May 2008. Information on the remuneration for the HCA and TSA's other board members was included in the Department's press notice of 17 October 2008.

The remuneration for the HCA and TSA's board, chief executive and other key senior executives will be published in the relevant 2008-09 annual report and accounts later this year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* board members and *(b)* employees of (i) the Homes and Communities Agency and (ii) the Tenant Services Authority received a bonus in the last 12 months; and what the average bonus payment was; [280299]

(2) how many *(a)* board members and *(b)* employees of the (i) Homes and Communities Agency and (ii) Tenant Services Authority are paid more than (A) £50,000, (B) £75,000 and (C) £100,000 per annum; [280301]

(3) how much the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority has paid in staff bonuses in the last 12 months. [280302]

John Healey: Information on pay and bonuses for the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority will be included in their annual report and accounts. Additional details will be published by both the HCA and TSA later this year.

Housing Associations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to set up housing associations. [288827]

John Healey: There is no express provision in statute allowing local authorities to set up housing associations, although there is a general power available to local authorities to do anything which would promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of an area.

The Housing Act 1985 allows a local authority to facilitate the creation of a housing association through the transfer of its housing to another person (subject to consultation, a ballot of tenants and the consent of the Secretary of State).

Housing Investment Trusts

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing investment trusts have been established since 1996. [287534]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

Housing Investment Trusts, known as HITs, were introduced in the 1996 Finance Act. No HITs were ever created. Legislation creating the HIT regime was repealed by Finance Act 2006 following two consultations, during which there was no opposition to repeal.

Housing Market

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential properties were sold in England in 2008-09; and what estimate his Department has made of the number of such properties expected to be sold in 2009-10. [287507]

John Healey: Data published by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs report the number of residential property transaction completions with a value of £40,000 or above in England in 2008-09 as 664,000. We have not made any estimates for transactions in England for 2009-10.

Housing: Construction

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each of the last eight quarters. [284317]

John Healey: Information on house building completions is not available below the spatial level of local authority.

The following table shows the number of new homes built in each local authority in Hertfordshire county in each of the last eight quarters.

	2007				2008			2009
Local authority	*April to June*	*July to September*	*October to December*	*January to March*	*April to June*	*July to September*	*October to December*	*January to March*
Hertfordshire								
Broxbourne	36	33	71	94	44	46	35	53
Dacorum	83	85	113	35	97	148	83	28
East Hertfordshire	99	—	46	76	36	97	51	84
Hertsmere	42	69	167	38	96	36	55	9
North Hertfordshire	157	34	131	25	5	7	35	20
St. Albans	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stevenage	62	63	231	16	11	90	80	42
Three Rivers	106	41	45	35	38	79	104	59
Watford	5	3	96	94	174	117	92	27
Welwyn Hatfield	185	198	126	178	76	23	34	15

Source:
New build completions from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG.

Data on numbers of new build housing starts and completions by district are published routinely on the CLG website. The latest data can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140921.xls

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in each of the millennium villages have been built; and in what locations. [288101]

John Healey: Since the programme began in 1997, the number of houses in each millennium village and the locations in which they have been built are:

Millennium community	*Location*	*Completed homes*
Greenwich Millennium Village	Greenwich, London	1,099
New Islington	Manchester	179
Allerton Bywater	Leeds	172
Kings Lynn	Kings Lynn, Norfolk	109
Telford	Telford	53
Hastings	Hastings	0
Oakgrove	Milton Keynes	18
Total		1,630

Housing: Elderly

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members are of the Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation established by the Homes and Communities Agency; and what the remit of the panel is. [288290]

John Healey: The housing our ageing population panel for innovation (HAPPI) will gather good practice from across Europe and put together new and creative proposals to help inform the HCA on scope for innovative housing for older people.

The membership of this panel is:

Lord Richard Best OBE, president, Local Government Association (Chair)

Anne Ashworth, property editor, *The Times*

Roger Battersby, managing director of PRP Architects

John Belcher CBE, chief executive of Anchor Trust

Anthony Hamilton, user representative

Sir Richard MacCormac CBE, McCormac Jamieson Prichard

Aggie MacKenzie, journalist and television presenter

Peter Maxwell, head of enabling, Public Buildings, CABE

John Penton MBE, architect, member of the Council of City & Guilds

Tony Pidgley, chairman, Berkeley Homes

Anne Power MBE, CBE, professor of social policy, LSE

Judith Torrington, reader in architecture, University of Sheffield

Dru Vesty MBE, chair of HCA design and sustainability advisory group

Housing: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 203W, on housing: expenditure, how much his Department plans to spend on capital expenditure on housing in each of the next two years. [281524]

John Healey *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* Capital expenditure in this instance is taken to cover grants to the private sector, contributions to registered social landlords, and expenditure on council-owned housing stock.

The total planned investment for next year (2010-11) is £4,492 million. This includes additional funding of £510 million to be invested in new affordable housing as announced in 'Building Britain's Future'. This will be made available from anticipated underspends in other departments. However this figure excludes the major repairs allowance (MRA) element of housing revenue account subsidy, because the figure will not be known until 2010. For information, MRA for the current financial year is £1,277 million.

Budgets for 2011-12 will be subject to the next spending review.

Housing: Low Incomes

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses provided under the National Affordable Housing Programme 2008-11 under projects with starts in London after March 2009 *(a)* there will be in each borough, *(b)* will be new build, *(c)* will be converted from privately-developed units and (d) will have (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four or more bedrooms. [288075]

John Healey: The number of new build homes forecast to start on site through the National Affordable Housing Programme since March 2009 are set out in the table. These figures show the current position and more starts on site will be added as the Homes and Communities Agency allocates more funding to successful bids for grant.

National Affordable Housing Programme—forecast starts on site

	Number of bedrooms				
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	115	85	25	13	238
Barnet	77	146	104	11	338
Bexley	67	144	56	14	281
Brent	196	223	98	36	553
Bromley	74	79	34	8	195
Camden	43	47	34	1	125
Croydon	78	211	86	46	421
Ealing	107	94	44	3	248
Enfield	176	186	56	9	427
Greenwich	315	490	223	110	1,138
Hackney	201	261	164	87	713
Hammersmith and Fulham	20	70	73	8	171
Haringey	62	125	35	23	245
Harrow	102	130	69	67	368
Havering	126	173	122	31	452
Hillingdon	46	118	55	27	246
Hounslow	15	32	15	6	68
Islington	226	230	57	11	524

National Affordable Housing Programme—forecast starts on site

	Number of bedrooms				
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*Total*
Kingston upon Thames	6	8	5	9	28
Lambeth	97	123	48	10	278
Lewisham	370	433	100	33	936
Merton	81	142	37	54	314
Newham	359	942	354	164	1,819
Redbridge	96	77	47	11	231
Richmond upon Thames	4	26	18	0	48
Southwark	271	380	205	27	883
Sutton	33	124	104	16	277
Tower Hamlets	707	788	352	118	1,965
Waltham Forest	89	169	76	30	364
Wandsworth	52	42	8	0	102
Westminster	69	108	72	5	254
Grand total	4,280	6,206	2,776	988	14,250

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Conversions from completed privately developed units are not classified as starts on site by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes he expects to be sold under the HomeBuy Direct scheme. [288707]

John Healey: HomeBuy Direct is a demand led scheme. There are currently over 8,500 homes available under the scheme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many HomeBuy Direct sales there were in each of the last three months. [288708]

John Healey: The following table shows provisional HomeBuy Direct sales figures for the last three months.

	Number
April 2009	3
May 2009	21
June 2009	194

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

LLM Communications

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 651W, on LLM Communications, whether LLM Communications received payment for their services *(a)* directly from his Department, *(b)* from the Campaign for More and Better Homes or *(c)* by another method; [288255]

(2) if he will publish the remit and terms of reference given LLM Communications by the Campaign for More and Better Homes; [288765]

(3) how much funding his Department has allocated to the Campaign for More and Better Homes to date; for what purpose such funding was allocated; and which Minister approved the allocation; [288766]

(4) what role the special adviser to the Minister for Housing and Planning played in the regional campaigns by LLM Communications; [288767]

(5) which local authorities were targeted as part of the LLM Communications campaign on the benefits of housing growth. [288775]

John Healey: In 2006, the Campaign for More and Better Homes (CMBH), an independent, pre-existing cross-sector Housing Alliance, sought funding for a series of regional housing debates to help raise public awareness of the need for, and benefits of housing growth. The Department agreed and granted them £25000, CMBH commissioned LLM Communications as their PR agency to deliver these debates in 2006-07. The Department paid LLM Communications directly.

The current special adviser to the Minister for Housing and Planning was not involved and had no role in the regional housing debates delivered by CMBH.

Local Government Delivery Council

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on the Local Government Delivery Council, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Delivery Council since September 2007 held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Government Office Network. [288364]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No meetings of the Local Government Delivery Council have been held by my Department or by the Government Office Network.

As referred to in the earlier answer, the Council was established under the auspices of the Local Government Association (LGA). It reports to the LGA Improvement Board and the secretariat for the Council is provided by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA), a member organisation of the LGA Group.

Local Government: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what datastreams which are not in the National Indicator set his Department collects from local authorities. [288328]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 965W-966W.

Local Government: Debt Collection

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on how many occasions each local authority in England *(a)* issued a court order and *(b)* authorised bailiff action in respect of debts and charges in each of the last three years; [288536]

(2) on how many occasions each local authority in England *(a)* issued a court order and *(b)* authorised bailiff action in respect of housing benefit in each of the last three years; [288539]

(3) on how many occasions each local authority in England (a) issued a court order and (b) authorised bailiff action in respect of parking charges in each of the last three years. [288540]

Mr. Malik: Communities and Local Government does not collect this information.

Local Government: Pensions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to reduce the cost of the Local Government Pension Scheme to the public purse. [288250]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The provisions which regulate the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales provide a prudent and stable regime from within which the individual scheme administering authorities can assess and manage their costs. Triennial valuations of each scheme pension fund establish new employer contribution rates to ensure ongoing solvency. The next valuation exercise takes place on 31 March 2010 and new rates will take effect from 1 April 2011.

Monuments: Armed Conflict

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to local authorities on protection of war memorials from redevelopment. [288286]

John Healey: General guidance on planning and the historic environment is in planning policy guidance (PPG) note 15. This highlights the need for the historic environment to be fully taken into account both in the formulation of local authorities' planning policies and in development control. It also includes specific guidance on listed building control, which is relevant for war memorials that have been listed. A consultation document on a revised planning policy statement to replace PPG 15 and PPG 16 (archaeology and planning) will be published very shortly.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent employees the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit employs; what its budget for 2009-10 is; and how much it will receive in support from his Department in 2009-10. [288480]

John Healey: The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit currently employs 12.8 full-time equivalent staff. It also has six board members who are paid for up to a maximum of 30 days per year each.

Its budget for 2009-10 is £1,433,710, which is entirely funded by Communities and Local Government.

Non-Domestic Rates

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses have claimed (a) small business rate relief, (b) mandatory relief, (c) discretionary relief, (d) rural settlement relief and (e) hardship relief in (i) St Ives constituency, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [288203]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the number of businesses claiming business rate reliefs as at 31 December 2007 and 31 December 2008 in Penwith district council, Cornwall and England are shown in the following table.

Number of hereditaments in receipt of business rate relief as at 31 December 2007

	Penwith	Cornwall	England
Mandatory relief	509	3,075	275,159
of which:			
Rural rate relief	55	346	6,603
Empty property relief	241	1,518	186,370
Discretionary relief	206	1,432	48,767
of which:			
Rural rate relief	24	179	3,515

Number of hereditaments in receipt of business rate relief as at 31 December 2008

	Cornwall	England
Mandatory relief	3,452	236,636
of which:		
Rural rate relief	350	6,308
Empty property relief	1,671	147,923
Discretionary relief	1,618	49,909
of which:		
Rural rate relief	171	3,565

Data for 2007 and 2008 are not strictly comparable as the rules governing empty property rate relief were changed by the Ratings (Empty Properties) Act 2007 and further subsequent changes.

Data as at 31 December 2008 are in respect of authorities that would be in existence from 1 April 2009. As part of the reorganisation of the local authorities Penwith DC became part of the Cornwall unitary authority.

Data for hardship relief and small business rate relief in these years are not available.

Data are not available at a constituency level and data for earlier years were not collected.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will revise the £15,000 upper limit for empty property rate relief to take account of the number of businesses eligible to claim the relief at its present level. [287602]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The current upper limit of £15,000 for empty property rate relief is a temporary limit announced in the pre-Budget report 2008. At the end

of the financial year 2009-10 the threshold at which empty property rates become due will automatically revert to £2,200 under the current legislation.

All tax matters are subject to the pre-Budget report and Budget process and, as with all taxes, the Government continue to keep business rates under review.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of businesses in England and Wales with a rateable value of over £15,000 in respect of which empty property rate relief has been awarded. [287039]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the number of hereditaments in England with a rateable value of over £15,000 in respect of which empty property rate relief has been awarded as at 31 March 2009, are currently being collected.

Opencast Mining: Planning Permission

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many opencast mining planning applications he has *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused between July 2008 and July 2009. [287014]

John Healey: None.

Ordnance Survey: Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent employees are employed by Ordnance Survey. [288706]

Mr. Malik: There are 1,356 full-time equivalent employees employed by Ordnance Survey as at 20 July 2009.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate was made of the cost of preparation of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) to those submitting planning applications *(a)* before and *(b)* after introduction of the requirement to produce EIAs. [288164]

John Healey: The most recent estimates of the cost in carrying out an environmental impact assessment were set out in the explanatory memorandum to the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI No. 2093). This shows an average cost of £30,000-£50,000 per assessment, equivalent to 0.3-0.5 per cent. of the total project costs.

We do not hold information on costs before Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations first came into force on the 15 July 1988.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for legislation to allow local authorities to extend the life of planning permissions. [288299]

John Healey: The proposed timetable for implementation of this measure is set out in paragraphs 51-52 of the consultation document 'Greater flexibility for planning permissions', which is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/flexibilitypermissions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has issued to planning authorities to take account of *(a)* travel considerations, *(b)* energy conservation and *(c)* energy production from natural resources when determining planning applications; and if he will make a statement. [288504]

John Healey: These concerns are addressed through our national series of planning policy statements and guidance; in particular through Planning Policy Statement 1 and its supplement on climate change, Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 on transport and Planning Policy Statement 22 on renewable energy. More detailed guidance is available on our website at:

www.communities.gov.uk

Property Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued on the definition of the *(a)* front and *(b)* back of a property for the purposes of the new permitted development rights for small household extensions and works. [288108]

John Healey: The terms 'front of a property' and 'back of a property' are not included in part 1 of schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. The Department has not issued guidance on the interpretation of these terms. Where terms are properly capable of more than one meaning it is for local planning authorities to take a view in the first instance. Ultimately, statutory interpretation is a matter for the courts.

Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect delays in introducing regional spatial strategies will have on his Department's allocation of growth point funding to local authorities in those regions. [288325]

John Healey: The Growth Point fund was paid to all local authorities in December 2008 for the period 2009-10, with indicative amounts also announced for 2010-11, subject to variation by the Secretary of State in exceptional circumstances.

Confirmation of final allocations for 2010-11 will be made following consultation on the savings that are being made to the growth point fund in 2010-11.

The award of growth point funds is not based on whether the Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) timetable changes.

Retail Trade: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for *(a)* abolition of the needs test and *(b)* publication of final planning guidance on out-of-town retail development. [288293]

John Healey: On 5 May 2009 we published a consultation draft planning policy statement 4 (PPS4): 'Planning for Prosperous Economies'. This brings together all of the Government's key planning policies relating to the economy in both urban and rural areas into one single document. This new PPS incorporates draft PPS 4: 'Planning for Sustainable Economic Development'; PPG 5: 'Simplified Planning Zones'; PPS 6: 'Planning for Town Centres'; and the economic development policies in PPS 7: 'Sustainable Development in Rural Areas'. Draft PPS4 maintains the proposal to remove the requirement to demonstrate 'need' in respect to planning applications as set out in the PPS6 proposed changes consultation document last year.

GVA Grimley has also published a 'living draft' town centres practice guidance to support the implementation of town centre policies as set out in draft PPS4, and is informally consulting upon the guidance over the PPS consultation period.

The consultation period for draft PPS4 ends on 28 July 2009 and we aim to publish the final policy before the end of this year. The practice guidance will be published alongside the final PPS.

Social Rented Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will undertake a privacy impact assessment in relation to the extension of the National Register of Social Housing. [288104]

John Healey: The National Register of Social Housing (NROSH) is a central record of each individual unit of social housing compiled from information provided by local authorities and housing associations. It does not collect personal data and does not therefore come under the auspices of the Data Protection Act.

There are no current plans to extend NROSH.

Social Rented Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regional targets have been set for affordable housing *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; how many such starts and completions are expected to be for (A) intermediate low cost ownership and (B) social rent; on what date the targets were set; and what the previous regional targets had been. [287846]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 July, *Official Report*, column 905W.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of giving priority to local people on housing waiting lists on the eligibility for social housing of *(a)* New Age Travellers, *(b)* Irish Travellers and *(c)* Gypsies with no local connection to the area in which they are applying for accommodation; [288251]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of giving priority to local people on housing waiting lists on the eligibility for social housing of *(a)* migrant workers from member states of the EU prior to 2004 and *(b)* those with refugee status; [288318]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of giving priority to local people on housing waiting lists on the eligibility for social housing of non-European economic area nationals with *(a)* indefinite leave to remain and *(b)* limited leave to remain; [288319]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of giving priority to local people on housing waiting lists on the eligibility for social housing of *(a)* A8 nationals on the Worker Registration Scheme and *(b)* A2 nationals on the Worker Authorisation Scheme. [288320]

John Healey: The proposals announced in "Building Britain's Future" relate to the allocation of social housing. We have no plans to change rules on eligibility to apply for social housing.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether an equality impact assessment has been prepared for the proposals for giving priority to local people on housing waiting lists; [288287]

(2) what assessment has been made of the compatibility with the Human Rights Act 1998 of proposals for giving priority to local people on housing waiting lists; [288288]

(3) whether he plans to bring forward legislation to allow local authorities to give people with a local association priority on council housing waiting lists. [288330]

John Healey: As I informed the House on 7 July, we plan to bring forward before the end of the month revised guidance for local authorities on social housing allocations. Our proposals will give local authorities more flexibility to take into account local housing needs and pressures when determining their allocations policies. The guidance will be issued for consultation, accompanied by an equalities impact assessment and a statement on compatibility with the Human Rights Act.

Supporting People Programme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each client group received a Supporting People grant in each of the last three years. [288485]

John Healey: The Supporting People programme is administered at the local level by the relevant administering authority. It is for each authority to decide which services to fund; this is informed by locally identified needs and

agreed priorities within their Supporting People strategies. People who are eligible for Supporting People funding tend to use a service, rather than receive a cashable grant.

Data are collected on the amount of housing related support services available to different client groups (measured in household units). The following tables provide a snapshot of the services available at a particular point in time during each of the last three years, but does not reflect the total number of households who have accessed services during each year. Household unit information is reported to the Department on a quarterly basis, by administering authorities.

Figures for 2006 to 2009

	Frail elderly	*Generic*	*Homeless families with support needs*	*Mentally disordered offenders*	*Offenders or people at risk of offending*	*Older people with mental health problems/dementia*
2006-07 Q4	32,983	32,435	12,651	277	6,852	998
2007-08 Q4	33,092	36,582	13,101	236	7,747	1,272
2008-09 Q3	35,834	38,263	14,270	236	8,326	1,227

	Older people with support needs	*People with a physical or sensory disability*	*People with alcohol problems*	*People with drug problems*	*People with HIV aids*	*People with learning disabilities*
2006-07 Q4	808,966	12,880	3,068	4,589	654	33,100
2007-08 Q4	808,487	11,876	3,486	4,895	731	31,238
2008-09 Q3	792,168	12,098	3,233	5,435	870	30,910

	People with mental health problems	*Refugees*	*Rough sleeper*	*Single homeless with support needs*	*Teenage parents*	*Traveller*
2006-07 Q4	36,396	3,113	2,339	40,989	3,687	1,040
2007-08 Q4	37,280	2,621	2,289	39,038	3,825	1,184
2008-09 Q3[1]	36,495	2,754	2,693	39,952	3,851	1,362

	Women at risk of domestic violence	*Young people at risk*	*Young people leaving care*	*Total*
2006-07 Q4	8,660	16,596	1,905	1,064,178
2007-08 Q4	9,520	18,610	1,884	1,068,994
2008-09 Q3[1]	10,120	20,454	1,855	1,058,335

[1] Data for Q4 of 2008/09, although collected, are not yet available. The Q3 2008/09 total includes an adjustment of 4,071 relating to some minor reporting inaccuracies from a small number of authorities.

Note:

The information in the tables shows the snapshot of household units available at the end of each of the last three years, where available. Data are collected on a quarterly basis and figures can be subject to fluctuations during the year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the expenditure on Supporting People grants was allocated to each eligible client group in each of the last three years. [288490]

John Healey: The Supporting People programme is administered at the local level by the relevant administering authority. It is for each authority to decide which services to fund; this is informed by locally identified need and agreed priorities within their Supporting People Strategies. The following tables set out the amount spent on Supporting People services in England, by primary client group. Retrospective spend information is reported to the Department annually by administering authorities, and is provided for the last three years where complete data are available.

Spend Figures for 2005-08

	Frail Elderly	*Generic*	*Homeless Families with Support Needs*	*Mentally Disordered Offenders*	*Offenders or People at risk of Offending*	*Older people with mental health problems/dementia*	*Older people with support needs*
2007-08	27,884,711	80,801,718	46,939,918	2,425,022	49,523,89	4,608,510	275,236,136
Percentage	1.71	4.96	2.88	0.15	3.04	0.28	16.91
2006-07	31,363,644	67,279,119	48,722,386	3,416,097	47,987,270	4,716,665	278,678,273
Percentage	1.91	4.09	2.97	0.21	2.92	0.29	16.96
2005-06	25,708,122	70,073,703	49,472,818	3,438,407	45,795,151	5,308,883	284,148,844
Percentage	1.53	4.17	2.94	0.20	2.72	0.32	16.90

	People with a Physical or Sensory Disability	People with Alcohol Problems	People with Drug Problems	People with HIV/AIDS	People with Learning Disabilities	People with Mental Health Problems	Refugees
2007-08	26,656,768	19,436,407	28,287,662	2,288,749	346,626,291	238,698,079	11,105,864
Percentage	1.64	1.19	1.74	0.14	21.30	14.67	0.68
2006-07	29,226,608	18,462,181	24,043,845	2,419,625	367,435,288	239,560,853	14,190,401
Percentage	1.78	1.12	1.46	0.15	22.36	14.58	0.86
2005-06	30,888,012	19,747,486	23,842,280	2,742,667	388,760,777	246,074,554	16,032,747
Percentage	1.84	1.17	1.42	0.16	23.12	14.63	0.95

	Rough Sleeper	Single Homeless with Support Needs	Teenage Parents	Traveller	Women at Risk of Domestic Violence	Young People at Risk	Young People Leaving Care	Total
2007-08	18,776,088	222,162,774	23,403,241	1,606,075	64,523,484	124,728,170	11,853,858	1,627,573,423
Percentage	1.15	13.65	1.44	0.10	3.96	7.66	0.73	—
2006-07	17,485,753	233,623,677	22,990,005	1,411,993	61,645,319	115,955,181	12,317,463	1,642,961,644
Percentage	1.06	14.22	1.40	0.09	3.75	7.06	0.75	—
2005-06	16,259,386	251,770,808	21,522,476	1,402,909	59,333,258	104,778,449	14,505,536	1,681,607,275
Percentage	0.97	14.97	1.28	0.08	3.53	6.23	0.86	—

2008-09 spend data, although collected, are not yet available.

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what resources his Department has provided to local authorities to make proposals under section 2 of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [287183]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The additional costs falling on local authorities as a result of their responsibilities under section 2 of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 were taken into account in the spending plans announced as part of the comprehensive spending review 2007. The Act provides a valuable opportunity for local authorities to make proposals which they consider, with their local communities, would contribute to promoting sustainability of local communities. In October 2008, the Secretary of State invited local authorities to submit such proposals, via the Local Government Association by 31 July 2009.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 have been taken into account in planning guidance issued to planning authorities; and if he will make a statement. [288432]

John Healey: The Sustainable Communities Act received Royal Assent in October 2007 and its implementation is part of the drive to involve citizens and communities in making proposals that will promote the sustainability of their area, that need central Government to act to enable them to do so.

CLG has produced a plain English guide to the Act which is available on our website. In October 2008 the Secretary of State invited local authorities to submit proposals via the Local Government Association (LGA), which we have appointed as 'the selector'. Proposals must reach the LGA by 31 July 2009.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what key performance indicators are used by his Department to measure the performance of the Deposit Protection Service; and if he will make a statement; [287841]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Deposit Protection Service's most recent monthly report on its performance; [287842]

(3) what rating was applied to the Deposit Protection Service in relation to each of its key performance indicators in each of the last six months. [287844]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 486-88W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of the Deposit Protection Service is for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [287843]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 488W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* landlords and *(b)* lettings agents were registered with the Deposit Protection Service in each month since the service was commenced. [287845]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 488W.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether authorised Traveller camps may be built on green belt land. [288291]

John Healey: There is a presumption against inappropriate development on green belt land. New

Traveller sites in the green belt are inappropriate development, as defined in planning policy guidance note 2: green belts. An application for inappropriate development will be acceptable in planning terms only if the benefits of the development would be greater than the harms, and if very special circumstances exist to justify a grant of permission.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 756W, on Travelling people: caravan sites, if he will publish the figures provided for each *(a)* Government Office region and *(b)* local authority area. [288507]

Mr. Malik: Information on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans, provided by Government Office region and by local authority area, has already been published in the bi-annual publication of the Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans. Information from these publications, covering the Counts between 19 January 2000 and 19 July 2006, has been made available to the Library of the House.

Additionally, data from the last five Counts which was published on 12 May 2009, include data on the Counts since 18 January 2007. This Count is available on the website of Communities and Local Government at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1228795.xls

Tree Preservation Orders: Thundersley Common

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tree protection orders have been granted for trees on Thundersley Common in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [287869]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold this information, as responsibility for making and administering Tree Preservation Orders rests with the relevant local authority; in this case Castle Point borough council.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1065W, on adult education, how much was spent on evaluating the Impact of Skills for Life Learning initiative under each budgetary heading. [287781]

Kevin Brennan: The Department and its predecessor has spent, in total to date, £1,853,097 on the evaluation of the "Impact of Skills for Life Learning" initiative.

This evaluation has been split over two contracts. The following table shows the total payments by operation year made to each contractor.

Breakdown of total payments by operational year to contractors for research into the "Impact of Skills for Life Learning"

Contractor	*Contract*		*Amount paid (£)*
BMRB International Ltd.	1	2002/03	904,728
		2003/04	306,745
		2004/05	288,624
		2005/06	55,000
Sub total			1,555,097
National Institute of Economic and Social Research	2	2006/07	258,000
		2007/08	40,000
Sub total			298,000
Grand total			1,853,097

Adult Education: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many adults have *(a)* enrolled in adult and community learning programmes and *(b)* participated in further education in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [286263]

Kevin Brennan: The table shows the number of LSC funded adult learners participating in adult and community learning (ACL) and participating in further education provision in Suffolk, from 2002/03 to 2007/08. Information prior to 2002/03 is not available on a consistent basis. ACL providers were not required to return data to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) prior to 2003/04—therefore ACL data for 2002/03 are not available.

Adult participation in ACL and FE provision in Suffolk local authority, 2002/03 to 2007/08

	Adult and community learning	*Further education provision*
2002/03	n/a	31,500
2003/04	15,200	32,500
2004/05	14,000	29,500
2005/06	12,900	24,000
2006/07	8,500	16,800
2007/08	9,000	17,100

Notes:
1. Area is based on home postcode of learner.
2. Figures for local authority have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. FE provision includes general further education colleges including tertiary, sixth form colleges, special college—agricultural and horticultural colleges and art and Design colleges, specialist colleges and external institutions.

Source:
ACL and FE ILR

Over the past few years we have focused public funding away from a high number of short, and poor quality courses towards longer and more valuable courses providing adults with the skills for employment and further progression in learning. This resulted in the reduction in the overall number of LSC funded adult learners between 2004/05 and 2006/07, but has led to significant increases in Skills for Life literacy and numeracy and full level 2 qualification achievements.

Adult Learning Grant

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in each age group received an adult learning grant in the latest year for which figures are available. [287526]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for England administers the adult learning grant (ALG) nationally on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The ALG is specifically aimed at economically active adults who do not have at least a level 2 qualification but are working. Cost can often be a barrier to learning for those on low incomes and ALG is designed to help meet those additional costs.

To date in 2008/09 29,794 individuals have received an ALG payment. This can be broken down into the following age ranges:

Age range	*ALGs awarded and paid*
19-25	25,417
26-30	1,550
31+	2,827
Total	29,794

Advantage West Midlands: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department allocated to Advantage West Midlands in each of the last five years; and what funding his Department will provide to Advantage West Midlands in each future year for which provision has been made. [288037]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The budget allocations made to Advantage West Midlands (AWM) in the last five years are shown in the following table.

	Budget allocations (£ million)
2008-09	296
2007-08	297
2006-07	290
2005-06	289
2004-05	237

AWM's budget allocation for 2[illegible]95 million, and they have indicative allocations for 2010-11 of £212 million.

Apprentices

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to increase the number of apprenticeships. [279349]

Kevin Brennan: We are taking a wide range of steps to encourage more people to take up apprenticeships and to encourage more employers to offer high quality places. Government are already committed to increasing spending on apprentices in 2009-10 to over £1 billion. At a time of economic downturn it is vital that we continue to invest in people and their skills. Earlier this year, the Prime Minister announced a £140 million package for 35,000 additional apprenticeship places, of which at least 21,000 will be in the public sector.

In May we announced an £11 million investment to provide 3,000 additional apprenticeship places for young people. This new approach will see large employers expanding existing apprenticeship programmes and allow small businesses to benefit from the expertise of companies which have been training apprentices for some time. We also announced a £7 million fund for up to 10 new apprenticeship training agencies this year, with the potential to deliver up to 15,000 apprenticeship places per year by 2014-15. The funding will also be available to help develop and expand new or existing group training associations, which can help attract new and hard to reach employers and new individuals to become apprentices.

We have now established the new national apprenticeship service to provide a single point of contact for employers and apprentices. A key part of this service is the new online system for apprenticeship vacancy matching, which is already proving successful in bringing together employers and prospective apprentices.

We are also putting in place procedures to use the public procurement process to encourage companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises, with access to Government-funded contracts to offer apprenticeships. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Office of Government Commerce jointly published new guidance in April this year (promoting skills through public procurement) on how to embed skills and training in procurements.

We want apprenticeships to be a mainstream option for young people and are taking forward a range of measures, as part of our 16-18 apprenticeships action plan, to increase the number of apprenticeships available for 16-18 year-olds. The Children, Skills and Learning Bill, includes provisions to ensure that an apprenticeship place is available for all suitably qualified young people by 2013.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much he expects his Department to spend on level four apprenticeships in each of the next five years. [286796]

Kevin Brennan: The budget for apprenticeships is not separated according to the level of the framework undertaken. The total budget available for apprenticeships for 2009-10 is £1,098 million.

The budget for 2010-11 has not yet been agreed but will be published towards the end of this calendar year, and budgets for the following years will be agreed in line with our commitment to ensure that an apprenticeship place is available for all qualified young people by 2013. Over time, as we encourage the development of more level four apprenticeship frameworks, we would expect that more people will progress from level three apprenticeships to develop these higher level skills.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many level four apprenticeships have been *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each year since 2001. [286797]

Kevin Brennan: The first level four apprenticeship starts were in 2006-07, when these higher level frameworks were introduced. In 2006-07, there were 90 level four apprenticeship starts, with 60 in 2007-08, the latest full year for which we have data. Due to the length of these programmes, as of 2007-08, there are no recorded completions of level four apprenticeships.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between 16 and 24 years started an apprenticeship in each region in the period *(a)* September 2007 to July 2008 and *(b)* September 2008 to July 2009. [287751]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for 16 to 24-year-olds, by region. Data are shown for the 2007/08 academic year (1 August to 31 July), and the first nine months of the 2008/09 year (1 August to 30 April). Apprenticeship starts for the whole of the 2008/09 academic year are due to be published later in 2009 in a statistical first release (SFR)—the next post-16 education and skills SFR is due to be published in October 2009.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts, 16 to 24-year-olds

Government office region	*2007/08 (1 August to 31 July)*	*2008/09 (1 August to 30 April), part-year, provisional*
East Midlands	19,300	14,200
East of England	18,800	13,100
London	12,100	9,700
North East	13,700	10,300
North West	32,800	23,700
South East	28,100	21,700
South West	22,400	17,800
West Midlands	21,600	16,900
Yorkshire and the Humber	25,800	20,300
Other	2,900	2,300
Grand total	197,600	149,900

Notes:
1. Data have been rounded to the nearest hundred, and may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Region is based on learner's home postcode.
3. 'Other' includes unknown postcodes, and those outside of England.
4. The data shown include a small number of learners below 16 years of age.
5. Age is calculated based on age at start of the programme.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people went on to higher education after completing an apprenticeship in each year since 1997. [287752]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the destinations of apprenticeships is not routinely collected in administrative data.

However, there are other sources of information which give an indication of the progression of apprenticeship completers to higher education. One such source is a report published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in May 2009, "Pathways to Higher Education":

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2009/09_17/.

The report states that 5 per cent. of those who completed an apprenticeship in 2002/03 had progressed to some form of higher education by 2006/07 (or by 2005/06 for those progressing to work-based HE).

A greater proportion of apprentices who completed an advanced (level 3) programme progressed to HE: 6 per cent. compared to 4 per cent. of those who completed a level 2 apprenticeship.

The analysis excluded a minority of apprenticeship completers, who are discussed in the report.

We do want to see much greater progression from apprenticeships into higher education. That is why in World Class Apprenticeships the Government set out their commitment to apprenticeships being a route to higher education where desired, and we have recently consulted on our proposal that all advanced apprenticeships should be accredited with UCAS tariff points.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged *(a)* between 16 and 24 years and *(b)* 25 years and over stopped claiming jobseeker's allowance in order to start an apprenticeship in each year since 1997. [287753]

Kevin Brennan: My Department, the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus do not currently hold data on the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants leaving the benefit to start an apprenticeship.

At present, DWP do not hold information regarding specific training destinations of jobseeker's allowance leavers. The Integrated Employment and Skills Programme Unit is currently working to link data sets held by DWP and BIS which will allow us to identify the specific training destinations of jobseeker's allowance claimants in the future.

The Integrated Employment and Skills Service is being developed jointly by DWP and BIS to implement the Government's response to the Leitch Review. The new integrated system will allow everyone to easily access information, advice and guidance to help them progress in their careers and be flexible and responsive to the different demands of individuals and employers.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between 16 and 24 years started an apprenticeship in *(a)* construction, *(b)* manufacturing, *(c)* health and beauty, *(d)* engineering, electrician and building services and *(e)* other sectors in the period (i) September 2007 to July 2008 and (ii) September 2008 to July 2009. [287754]

Kevin Brennan: Tables 1 and 2 show the number of apprenticeship starts for 16 to 24-year-olds by all frameworks for the 2007/08 academic year (1 August to 31 July), and the first nine months of the 2008/09 year (1 August to 30 April), respectively. Apprenticeship starts for the whole of the 2008/09 academic year are due to be published later in 2009 in a statistical first release (SFR)—the next post-16 education and skills SFR is due to be published in October 2009.

Copies of these tables have been provided and the relevant data will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of apprentices were unemployed 12 months after completing their apprenticeship in each year since 1997. [287755]

Kevin Brennan: An apprenticeship is a work-based programme and an apprentice must have a job or a work placement as a condition of completing their apprenticeship framework. Many will already be in permanent employment prior to the end of their apprenticeship.

Information on the destination of apprentices upon completion of their apprenticeship is not readily available. This type of information will in future be collected using the Framework for Excellence learner destination survey with the first results for all further education colleges and work based learning providers available later in 2009. The survey will be conducted nine months after the end of the academic year and so will not relate exactly to 12 months after the completion of the apprenticeship.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on apprentices, what the most recent figures are for the number of apprenticeship vacancies *(a)* advertised and *(b)* filled through the National Apprenticeship Service online vacancy matching system. [287784]

Kevin Brennan: At the end of June 2009, 4,372 vacancies were live on the National Apprenticeship Service online vacancy matching system. A total of 17,588 vacancies have been posted since 12 January 2009 when the system went live. There have been 616 confirmed cases of successful offers made as a result of the service, and a further 2,508 vacancies have current applications.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 182W, on apprentices, whether all existing learners who have started their training since 1 April 2009 on *(a)* apprenticeship programmes and *(b)* Train to Gain courses funded by the Learning and Skills Council will be funded to complete their existing training at the agreed rates. [287785]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for agreeing with each provider the scope for continued recruitment for 2008/09 academic year on apprenticeship programmes and Train to Gain courses.

Where learners start within the 2008/09 academic year the funding rates will continue at the same level for the remainder of the academic year.

For the 2009/10 academic year, funding rates in respect of apprenticeship programmes (for those aged 19 or over) and Train to Gain courses will increase by 1.5 per cent. compared with 2008/09 academic year. The exception to this is the funding rate for learners aged 25 or over starting an apprenticeship programme in 2009/10 academic year. For these learners the funding rate will be 90 per cent. of the uplifted rate.

Apprentices: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each London local authority area in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007-08. [276212]

Kevin Brennan: Tables 1 and 2 show the number of apprenticeship starts and completions in each London local authority from 2003/04, the earliest year for which we have comparable data.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts

Region	Local authority	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Inner London	Camden	100	200	100	200	200
	City of London	—	—	—	—	—
	Hackney	300	300	200	200	300
	Hammersmith and Fulham	200	200	200	200	200
	Haringey	200	200	200	200	300
	Islington	200	300	200	200	200
	Kensington and Chelsea	100	100	100	100	100
	Lambeth	400	400	300	300	400
	Lewisham	400	400	400	400	500
	Newham	500	500	400	300	400
	Southwark	300	400	300	300	400
	Tower Hamlets	500	500	400	300	500
	Wandsworth	300	300	300	200	300
	Westminster	200	200	300	200	300
	Total	3,700	4,000	3,400	3,200	4,200
Outer London	Barking and Dagenham	400	400	400	300	500
	Barnet	400	400	300	300	400
	Bexley	600	700	600	700	800
	Brent	300	400	300	300	400
	Bromley	600	600	500	600	800
	Croydon	700	700	700	600	900
	Ealing	400	400	300	400	300
	Enfield	500	500	400	400	300
	Greenwich	400	500	300	400	500
	Harrow	300	300	300	300	300
	Havering	600	600	600	600	800
	Hillingdon	600	600	500	600	800
	Hounslow	400	400	400	500	600
	Kingston upon Thames	300	200	200	200	300
	Merton	300	300	300	300	300
	Redbridge	300	400	300	300	500
	Richmond upon Thames	200	200	200	200	200
	Sutton	500	500	500	400	600
	Waltham Forest	400	500	400	400	500
	Total	8,200	8,500	7,600	7,900	10,300
Inner and outer London	Total	11,900	12,400	11,000	11,100	14,500

Table 2: Apprenticeship completions

Region	Local authority	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Inner London	Camden	—	—	100	100	100
	City of London	—	—	—	—	—
	Hackney	—	100	100	100	100
	Hammersmith and Fulham	—	100	100	100	100
	Haringey	—	—	100	100	100
	Islington	—	—	100	100	100
	Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	—	100	100
	Lambeth	—	100	100	100	100

Table 2: Apprenticeship completions

Region	Local authority	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	Lewisham	100	100	200	200	200
	Newham	100	100	200	200	200
	Southwark	—	100	100	200	200
	Tower Hamlets	100	100	200	100	200
	Wandsworth	—	100	100	100	100
	Westminster	100	100	100	200	100
	Total	500	800	1,300	1,700	1,700
Outer London	Barking and Dagenham	100	100	200	200	200
	Barnet	100	100	200	200	200
	Bexley	100	200	300	400	400
	Brent	—	100	100	100	100
	Bromley	100	200	300	300	300
	Croydon	100	200	300	400	300
	Ealing	100	100	200	200	200
	Enfield	100	100	200	200	300
	Greenwich	100	100	200	300	300
	Harrow	100	100	100	100	200
	Havering	100	200	300	400	400
	Hillingdon	100	200	300	400	400
	Hounslow	100	100	200	300	200
	Kingston upon Thames	100	100	100	100	100
	Merton	100	100	200	100	200
	Redbridge	100	100	200	200	200
	Richmond upon Thames	100	100	100	100	100
	Sutton	100	200	200	300	200
	Waltham Forest	100	100	200	300	200
	Total	1,500	2,400	3,800	4,600	4,500
Inner and outer London	Total	2,100	3,200	5,100	6,300	6,200

Notes:
1. Area is based on home postcode of learner.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and may not sum to total due to rounding.
3. '—' Represents a figure of less than 50.

Source:
WBL ILR

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Apprentices: Public Sector

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many public sector apprenticeships have been started in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* England since 2005. [289158]

Kevin Brennan: We do not hold centrally data on the number of apprentices employed within the public sector. The Government are committed to developing and expanding apprenticeships in the public sector and earlier this year Cabinet colleagues announced plans for the expansion of the apprenticeship scheme across the public sector. We announced a £140 million package to deliver 35,000 extra places this year, of which, 21,000 would be in the public sector.

From 1 August 2009, a key employer field in individual learner records (ILR) will be compulsory for the first time. This will allow us to estimate the number of public sector apprentices more accurately.

Apprentices: Redundancy

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of apprenticeships interrupted by redundancy in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [289140]

Kevin Brennan: We do not currently hold data centrally about the total number of apprentices made redundant. Working with Construction Skills and the National Apprenticeship Service we have established a matching service to help apprentices in the construction sector at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment and to complete their apprenticeship. We do have some information on redundancies in the construction sector where 665 redundant apprentices have been subsequently re-employed. We are continuing to help 775 redundant apprentices in the construction sector.

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill

John Pearce: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what evidence was provided to the Better Regulation Executive by his Department in relation to the statement that, "Costs to existing recognised Awarding Bodies are expected to be neutral, on average", in the Impact Assessment of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill relating to the creation of the awarding body regulator, Ofqual and the QCDA. [285301]

Ian Lucas: The impact assessment which accompanied the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill was prepared and published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The forecast benefits, set-up and steady state costs associated with this regulation are set out in that impact assessment. These are based are a range of cost and break-even scenarios.

British Telecom

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates members of BT's board have met *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in the last six months. [285869]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* In the last six months, members of BT's board have had five meetings with Ministers, and a further six meetings with BIS officials only. The dates for these meetings are:

(a) Ministers

23 January
26 February
9 March

14 April
1 July
(b) Officials only
21 January
11 February
17 February
25 March
11 May
6 July

Members of BT's board will also have been present at a number of wider meetings attended by Ministers and officials.

Broadband

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of jobs to be created through *(a)* the roll-out of universal broadband access to 2012 and *(b)* the roll-out of next generation broadband services. [282638]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not made any estimates of the number of jobs to be created through *(a)* the roll-out of universal broadband access to 2012 and *(b)* the roll-out of next generation. However, a recent report by the Information, Technology and Innovation Foundation suggested that a nominal £5 billion investment in broadband networks infrastructure would generate 280,000 jobs.

Broadband: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to ensure competition among high-speed broadband providers in Essex in the last three years. [279335]

Mr. McFadden: My Department has made no steps to ensure competitiveness among high speed broadband providers specifically in Essex. However, through Ofcom, the government has ensured that the majority of consumers across the country benefit from competition in the broadband market by ensuring wholesale access to the BT Openreach network, and the local loop unbundling of BT exchange.

Broadband: Finance

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has allocated to facilitate universal provision of high-speed broadband in 2009-10; and from which budget. [281196]

Mr. McFadden: The Digital Britain Report set out our plans for a Universal Service Commitment in relation to broadband. This will ensure virtually every household will be able to access a broadband line capable of delivering at least two megabits per second. This will be funded, by approximately £200 million, drawn from a combination of the emerging under spend on the Digital Switchover Help Scheme (from the TV licence fee) and the £750 million BIS Strategic Investment Fund announced in the recent Budget to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance. The finer details of how funding for this will be done year on year to 2012 are yet to be determined.

The Digital Britain Report also proposed that a Next Generation Fund should be created to encourage investment in high speed broadband in those parts of the UK where commercial investment will not reach. This would come from a small supplement of 50 pence per month on fixed telephone lines, which represents a fair and sensible national investment to ensure that the overwhelming majority of the country can get access to next generation, high speed, broadband.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will exempt *(a)* elderly people and *(b)* vulnerable groups from liability for payment of the Next Generation Fund supplement; and if he will make a statement. [285226]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* Under existing rules any individual in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, pensions credit (guaranteed credit) or employment and support allowance (income related) is entitled to social telephony. As set out in the Digital Britain White Paper published on 16 June 2009 the Government do not wish to see a widening digital divide. Therefore the Government expect that individuals who are in receipt of social telephony packages would also be exempt from the broadband levy to fund the deployment of next generation networks.

Broadband: Kent

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking in conjunction with BT to upgrade the BT broadband service in the Chartwell and Pootings area of West Kent. [286782]

Mr. McFadden: I am not in a position to comment on BT's commercial plans. In the Budget on 22 April we confirmed the Government's commitment to delivering a Universal Service for broadband at a speed of 2 megabits per second, by no later than 2012. In the Digital Britain White Paper, published on 16 June, we set out our plan of how this Universal Service Commitment will be achieved.

Broadband: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many households in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside had access to high-speed broadband services in each year since 1997. [278908]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has allocated for expansion of high-speed broadband usage in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside since 1997. [278909]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not allocated central funding for expansion of high-speed broadband usage in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside since 1997.

As my hon. Friend may already be aware, in the Budget on 22 April the Chancellor confirmed the Government's commitment to delivering a universal service for broadband at a speed of 2 megabits per second, by no later than 2012. In the recently published Digital Britain report, we have set out in greater detail our plan of how the universal service commitment might work.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what range of broadband speeds the Universal Service Commitment will deliver to rural areas by 2012. [287418]

Mr. McFadden: The Digital Britain Report, published on 16 June outlined a minimum broadband speed of 2 megabits per second for virtually everyone by 2012 under the Government's Universal Service Commitment (USC). Greater speeds may be achieved depending on the technology used to meet the USC and the Report estimated that approximately 1.5 million households may benefit from Next Generation broadband speeds as a result.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the transfer of some sixth form college capital projects to the Building Schools for the Future programme. [288466]

Kevin Brennan: The Government's intention to bring sixth form colleges within the scope of Building Schools for the Future programme was announced in the White Paper Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver (Cm7348), which was published in March 2008. That was a joint publication by the Secretaries of State for Children, Schools and Families and Innovation, Universities and Skills. The DCSF continues to work closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on matters involving capital investment. It remains our position that we will bring sixth form colleges within the scope of the BSF programme and we will make the details clear as soon as we are able.

Business: Advisory Services

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in providing face-to-face advisory sessions on business advice open days as referred to in the Government's response to the Anderson Review of Good Guidance. [274367]

Ian Lucas: BIS, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, ACAS and the Health and Safety Executive have established a working group to take forward recommendations on improvements to HMRC's Business Advice Open Days (to be rolled out from autumn 2009). In the interim, the Better Regulation Executive are represented at the five Business Advice Open Days over the summer and will provide information on employment law guidance with the participation of BIS colleagues where possible.

Business: Credit

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of levels of access to credit for small businesses. [279261]

Ms Rosie Winterton: BIS makes regular assessments on the availability of credit to small businesses by monitoring statistics produced by the British Bankers Association (BBA) and the Bank of England, as well as monitoring findings from a large number of regular surveys by business representative bodies. In addition, BIS collects data monthly from the five main banks on their lending activity to small and medium-sized enterprises. BIS also carries out regular surveys of businesses examining a wide range of issues including access to finance.

From these data sources, it is apparent that the stock of bank lending has increased compared to 2007 and 2008. For instance, the BBA has reported that the stock of bank lending to SMEs has increased in the first five months of 2009 and was about 4 per cent. higher in May 2009 than a year ago. However, there has been a decline in new bank lending to SMEs. This is due to a reduction in the demand for finance with declining loans and overdraft applications, as well as a decline in approval rates reflecting tighter credit conditions.

Approval rates (approvals of new borrowing as a ratio to applications) have fallen compared to the corresponding months in 2007. Likewise, the BIS SME Barometer shows that although the majority of SMEs can obtain the finance they need, there has been a reduction in the proportion of businesses being able to raise finance. In February 2009, 60 per cent. of SME employers obtained some finance from the first source they approached. In comparison, the Annual Small Business Survey 2007-08 shows 84 per cent. of SME employers obtained some finance from the first source approached. Banks attribute the fall in approval rates to a decline in the quality of applications as well as a tightening in credit availability.

There has been a reduction in the demand for finance, as measured by the number of loans and overdrafts applications compared to corresponding months in 2007. This is especially pronounced for SMEs with turnover of less than £1 million. It is likely that businesses have become more cautious and are delaying capital investment.

Although access to finance is vital for supporting businesses during the current difficult economic conditions, only a minority of businesses seek finance. The Business Barometer shows 21 per cent. of SME employers sought finance in the last six months. Furthermore, the majority of SMEs (39 per cent.) report the economy as the main barrier to the success of the business, compared to only 4 per cent. who report access to finance as the main barrier.

Business: EC Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the cost to UK businesses of the implementation of EU regulations. [287808]

Ian Lucas: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the cost to UK businesses of the implementation of legislation that stems from the European Union.

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately 1/3 of the annual total of £13.2 billion.

Business: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many loans have been granted under the Small Business Loan Guarantee Scheme to small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency since the establishment of the scheme. [282574]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee was launched on 14 January. Information for the London borough of Enfield and Enfield North is as follows:

London borough of Enfield

	Number
Loans offered	14
Loans drawn	9
	Value (£ million)
Loans offered	1.37
Loans drawn	0.66

Enfield North

	Number
Loans offered	5
Loans drawn	3
	Value (£ million)
Loans offered	0.87
Loans drawn	0.32

Business: Government Assistance

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much lending has been guaranteed under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme; [260553]

(2) how many businesses have received assistance under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [260554]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since its launch on 14 January the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has over £596 million of eligible applications from 5,305 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed. 3,867 businesses have been offered loans totalling £381.23 million.

Mr. Heban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the implications for lenders under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme of the default rate exceeding 13 per cent. of the whole amount guaranteed. [267153]

Ms Rosie Winterton: To date, there is no evidence to suggest that lenders are being inhibited in their use of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee because of the cap of 13 per cent., which is a requirement of EU state aid rules. It is important to remember that the Enterprise Finance Guarantee is aimed at helping banks lend to fundamentally viable businesses. We therefore do not expect an overall portfolio default rate of 13 per cent. to restrict the ability of banks to lend appropriately under the guarantee.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many loans have been granted under the Small Business Loan Guarantee Scheme to small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point since the inception of that scheme. [282071]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As follows are the numbers and value of loans secured under the enterprise finance guarantee for Essex and Castle Point since it was launched on 14 January 2009:

	Essex	*Castle Point*
Number of loans offered	126	10
Value of loans offered (£ million)	11.4	1.06
Number of loans drawn	87	6
Value of loans drawn (£ million)	8.74	0.9

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what further assistance he plans to provide to *(a)* small businesses, *(b)* medium-sized businesses and *(c)* large businesses in Essex in the next 12 months; what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [282247]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The East of England Development Agency's business support services, which operate at a regional level, are all available to businesses in Essex. All business support is accessible through Business Link East. EEDA's Business Map,

www.bizmapeast.co.uk

is designed to help businesses navigate the network of publicly funded business support.

Key business support services that will assist businesses in the region during the next 12 months are as follows:

The EEDA-funded regional Business Link service provides access to a comprehensive range of independent, impartial advice to would-be entrepreneurs, start-ups and businesses across the region. Within Essex, Business Link have three Partnership Directors overseeing activity specifically dedicated to supporting Essex businesses.

EEDA along with UK Trade and Investment funds East of England International (EEI) to offer an international trade and inward investment service, which provides the support to local businesses to grow internationally or export and to overseas-owned companies locating in the region

EEDA's own specialist business support services include:

Take IToo - assisting businesses to improve use of IT, focused on helping small and medium-sized enterprises save costs through IT.

Manufacturing Advisory Service East (MAS-East) – assisting businesses to introduce new manufacturing, innovation and design tools.

Enterprising Women - specialist business support for women entrepreneurs.

Inspiring Women - supporting economically inactive women to find employment or consider self-employment.

Business Finance - EEDA manages a number of business finance schemes designed to help businesses in the region start up and grow, e.g.:

Proof of Concept - grants up to £20,000 to define and quantify the market opportunity for a business

Grants for Research and Development - grants from £5,000 to £250,000 to help businesses carry out research and development work

Grant for Business Investment - grants from £10,000 to £2 million to establish, expand, diversify and modernise your business.

Small Loans for Business - loans of £500 to £50,000 for start-ups, SMEs and social enterprises

EEDA Regional Loan (Transition) - short-term loans of £100,000 to £150,000 for businesses turning over more than £1 million

EEDA Regional Loan (Growth) - long-term loans of £50,000 to £200,000 for growth businesses.

Innovation Vouchers - designed to help businesses purchase academic expertise from the region's universities to support innovation and business improvement.

Understanding Finance for Business - a training course to help to make SME businesses investment-ready and be signposted to relevant sources of funding

Beyond 2010 - in the next 12 months, EEDA will fund a £6.2 million project to work alongside Train to Gain to ensure that businesses can get the skills training that they need. This includes £2.2 million to support a regional Response to Redundancy programme which provides advice, guidance and re-training opportunities to individuals facing redundancy. The programme is linked to the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service.

Resource Efficiency East - This scheme helps businesses to improve their competitiveness by using resources more efficiently. The project aims to save the region's SMEs £12m a year, and cut water consumption by 765,000 cubic metres, landfill by 81,000 tonnes and carbon dioxide emissions by 40,000 tonnes.

At an national level, there are also:

the Enterprise Finance Guarantee is a temporary loan guarantee scheme which enables bank lending to SMEs with a turnover of up to £25 million. The Government have set aside £1.3 billion to guarantee banks loans to SMEs who have been deemed viable but have little or no security. It is due to end in March 2010 and an announcement about what will replace EFG will be made in due course

the Capital for Enterprise Fund is a £75 million equity scheme. Decisions on investments are made by the appointed fund managers and are based on the merits of the proposal and the outcome of the resulting due diligence, and not on the location of the business.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Castle Point have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received assistance from the (i) Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and (ii) Capital for Enterprise Fund in 2009; and how much has been provided to businesses in Castle Point under each scheme. [283964]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number and value of loans offered and drawn under the enterprise finance guarantee for Castle Point since it was launched on 14 January 2009:

	Enterprise finance guarantee
Number of loans offered	10
Value of loans offered (£ million)	1.06

	Enterprise finance guarantee
Number of loans drawn	6
Value of loans drawn (£ million)	0.90

The Department only records information on a regional basis for the capital for enterprise fund and the information for the south-east is as follows:

	South-east
Number of loans under consideration	11
Value of loans under consideration	18.3
Number of loans offered	2
Value of loans offered	3.2
Number of offer terms agreed	1
Value of offer terms agreed	2

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to assist *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in Hemel Hempstead; and if he will make a statement. [283675]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Business Link, which is funded by East of England Development Agency (EEDA), provides access to independent and impartial business advice. Business Link engaged with 1,439 companies in Hemel Hempstead (parliamentary constituency) during 2008-09 out of 19,460 for the county of Hertfordshire.

EEDA delivers a range of specialist business support services across the East of England accessible through Business Link East. All these services are available to businesses in Hemel Hempstead:

EEDA along with UK Trade and Investment funds East of England International (EEI) to offer an international trade and inward investment service for businesses in the region.

EEDA's Take ITon campaign assists businesses to improve use of IT, focused on helping small and medium-sized enterprises save costs through IT.

Assistance for businesses to introduce new manufacturing, innovation and design tools through Manufacturing Advisory Service East (MAS-East).

EEDA's specialist business support for women entrepreneurs, Enterprising Women, offers networking opportunities, a bank of mentors, promotional opportunities and a network of women ambassadors.

Support for economically inactive women; Inspiring Women assists them to find employment or consider self-employment as a career option.

EEDA manages a number of business finance schemes designed to help businesses in the region start up and grow. These include grants for Proof of Concept and Research and Developments, small loans for start-ups, SMEs and social enterprises as well as short and long-term larger loans.

EEDA's understanding finance for business programme to help businesses understand and access the most appropriate form of finance for your business.

Resource Efficiency East scheme helps businesses to improve their competitiveness by using resources more efficiently.

At a national level there is:

the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) which is a temporary loan guarantee scheme launched on 14 January 2009. Under the EFG, Government will support up to £1.3 billion of bank loans to companies with a turnover of up to £25 million for working capital and investment. These will be smaller, viable,

creditworthy firms that are struggling to access the finance they need because of the additional risk created by the downturn. EFG is due to end in March 2010 and an announcement about what will replace EFG will be made in due course.

The Department records information on the Capital for Enterprise Fund on a regional basis, including the East of England. As of 7 July, the appointed fund managers report 44 formal inquiries from businesses in the East of England. Of which, one offer of investment totalling £2 million has been issued thus far.

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Hemel Hempstead have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received assistance from the (i) Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and (ii) Capital for Enterprise Fund in 2009; and how much funding has been provided to businesses in Hemel Hempstead under each such scheme in 2009. [283676]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested in respect of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee for Hemel Hempstead since it was launched on 14 January 2009 is as follows:

	Enterprise Finance Guarantee
Number of loans offered	8
Value of loans offered (£ million)	0.38
Number of loans drawn	5
Value of loans drawn (£ million)	0.24

The Department only records information on a regional basis for the Capital for Enterprise Fund and the information for the East region is as follows:

	Enterprise fund
Number of loans under consideration	1
Value of loans under consideration (£ million)	1
Number of loans offered	1
Value of loans offered (£ million)	2
Number of offer terms agreed	0
Value of offer terms agreed (£ million)	0

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire (i) have sought access to funding under and (ii) are receiving assistance from the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [284561]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Set out in the following tables is the information for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee for Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire since it was launched on 14 January 2009:

	Hemel Hempstead
Number of loans offered	8
Value of loans offered (£ million)	0.38
Number of loans drawn	5
Value of loans drawn (£ million)	0.24

	Hertfordshire
Number of loans offered	110
Value of loans offered (£ million)	10
Number of loans drawn	78
Value of loans drawn (£ million)	7.09

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much had been lent through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme up to 3 July 2009; and how many companies had received loans under that scheme. [286232]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since its launch on 14 January the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has over £596 million of eligible applications from 5,305 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed. 3,867 businesses have been offered loans totalling £381.23 million.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much in loans guarantees have been *(a)* applied for and *(b)* provided under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [287109]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since its launch on 14 January the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has over £596 million of eligible applications from 5,305 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed. 3,867 businesses have been offered loans totalling £381.23 million.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 189-90W, on business: Government assistance, whether the UK Innovation Investment Fund's Fund of Funds will invest monetary in unquoted companies. [288219]

Mr. Lammy: The UK Innovation Investment Fund will invest in a small number of specialist technology funds. These underlying funds will invest in strategically-important companies in life sciences, clean technologies, digital and advanced manufacturing. Investments in individual companies will ultimately be a commercial decision for the Fund Manager based on the investment opportunity, the potential risk and the current investment portfolio. These companies may be quoted or unquoted.

Business: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what business support measures his Department provides for small and medium-sized businesses in Denton and Reddish. [277498]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Warrington, South (Helen Southworth) on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1103W.

Business: Public Sector

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assistance his Department plans to give to micro-businesses to compete for *(a)* Government and *(b)* local government contracts; [288852]

(2) what steps he plans to take to assist small and medium-sized enterprises to work together to obtain public sector contracts. [288853]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to making it easier for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), including micro-businesses, to compete in public procurement.

To that end, the Government are working to deliver the recommendations in the Glover committee report 'Accelerating the SME Economic Engine'.

The Committee's Report can be found at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Accelerating_the_SME_Economic_Engine.pdf

One of the recommendations is that public procurers should, during the advertising process, flag opportunities thought especially suitable for SMEs or consortia of SMEs. The Office of Government Commerce will shortly issue departments with guidance to help them do this. OGC is also working to develop training for Government procurers in SME-friendly practices, including early engagement with businesses to help them understand public sector needs and enable business to come together to form consortia for future bids.

Business: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies in Wales have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received assistance under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme in each of the last six months; and how much each participating lender has provided to each in each month. [261985]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In Wales, as of 1 July, £15 million of eligible applications from 200 firms have been granted, processed or assessed. Of which, 183 businesses have been offered loans totalling £12.9 million.

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what work his Department plans to undertake on policy on the low carbon economy. [280370]

Mr. McFadden: The Low Carbon Industrial Strategy, published recently, outlines the strategic role of Government in helping UK businesses maximise the economic benefits from the transition to a low carbon economy. It builds on an ambitious vision, set out by the Prime Minister on 6 March, and the Government's commitment in Budget 2009 to £1.4 billion of targeted support for the low carbon economy.

Colleges: Visits

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which colleges were visited by Ministers in his Department and the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills during the last 12 months. [288230]

Kevin Brennan: Ministers from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Ministers from the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills visited colleges on 35 occasions over the last 12 months. Details are provided as follows:

College

Kings College London
Blackburn College
City College Brighton and Hove
Lewisham College
New College Durham
MidKent College
Barnfield College (Luton)
South Cheshire College (Crewe)
Reaseheath College (Nantwich)
The College of North East London
Leeds College of Building
York College
The Mary Ward Centre (London)
Walsall College
Westminster Kingsway College
Hackney Community College
The Oldham College
The College of Central London
City College Brighton and Hove
Swindon College
Warwickshire College
City of Bristol College
Southgate College
Capel Manor College (London)
South Birmingham College
Newham College
Sutton Coldfield College
Central Sussex College
Westminster Kingsway College
Greenwich Community College
Bournville College (Birmingham)
West Nottinghamshire College
Dudley College
Westminster Kingsway College
Hackney Community College
Barnfield College (Luton)

Company Accounts

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many penalties for the late submission of accounts were issued by Companies House in each month in the last four years; how much revenue was raised; and what this revenue has been used for. [278054]

Ian Lucas: The following is the information:

PLC and private companies in Great Britain

	Number of late filing penalty invoices issued	*Revenue raised(£)*
April 2005	17,268	2,505,000
May 2005	16,478	1,980,000
June 2005	15,890	2,145,000
July 2005	14,667	1,800,000
August 2005	15,820	2,042,000
September 2005	15,885	1,652,000
October 2005	13,795	2,745,000
November 2005	14,671	5,145,000
December 2005	12,075	2,522,000
January 2006	22,574	2,500,000
February 2006	21,410	3,512,000
March 2006	21,356	1,752,000
April 2006	17,235	3,272,000
May 2006	17,959	1,982,000
June 2006	18,314	5,238,000
July 2006	15,224	1,992,000
August 2006	17,968	1,985,000
September 2006	16,258	1,992,000
October 2006	15,969	1,577,000
November 2006	19,908	6,404,000
December 2006	16,114	1,981,000
January 2007	21,005	3,954,000
February 2007	19,721	3,948,000
March 2007	25,223	4,476,000
April 2007	19,062	2,161,000
May 2007	21,393	3,127,000
June 2007	18,937	5,105,000
July 2007	21,927	3,119,000
August 2007	21,445	4,115,000
September 2007	18,008	2,634,000
October 2007	17,397	3,097,000
November 2007	22,692	4,116,000
December 2007	16,289	3,147,000
January 2008	20,748	4,129,000
February 2008	22,334	3,621,000
March 2008	18,467	3,629,000
April 2008	21,348	3,979,000
May 2008	20,552	3,619,000
June 2008	16,074	3,619,000
July 2008	20,616	3,429,000
August 2008	20,926	3,546,000
September 2008	17,818	4,057,000
October 2008	19,872	5,039,000
November 2008	20,774	4,021,000
December 2008	22,076	2,510,000
January 2009	24,214	4,984,000
February 2009	32,275	5,022,000
March 2009	26,912	9,039,000

Please note that revenue raised in any one month does not relate to the penalties issued in that month.

Companies House is unable to say what the revenue has been used for as it is passed to HM Treasury.

Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc. Regulations 2008

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance has been provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer, on the application of the Cancellation of Contracts made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc Regulations 2008 to the sale of trade union membership. [288680]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Business, Innovations and Skills has produced general guidance, available on the BIS website, about the Cancellation of Contracts made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc. Regulations 2008. The guidance does not specifically cover the application of the Regulations to the sale of union membership in a workplace.

This is not an issue within the Certification Officer's jurisdiction and he has produced no guidance on the Regulations.

Corus: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government plan to take to secure the future of Corus in the North East. [282795]

Ian Lucas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has spoken to Kirby Adams, chief executive officer of Corus, on a number of occasions about the situation at Teesside Cast Products. In addition, officials have held ongoing discussions with the company to explore ways in which the Government can help resolve the dispute with the partners to the 10-year off-take agreement in a way that avoids job losses.

We have urged Corus and, through our embassies overseas, the Consortia to keep working together to resolve their differences and reach a satisfactory solution that avoids redundancies. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills has also spoken direct to Corus and Marcegaglia (the Italian member of the Consortia) and as a result we understand that a meeting between Corus and Consortia members will take place soon at which Corus will present a proposal for a new contract and new commercial terms to replace the old agreement.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister stated in the House on 13 May, the Government stand ready to do whatever they can to support the company. We are not prepared to reconcile ourselves to the inevitable closure of this plant.

In addition, the Government have offered the company £5 million training support, some of which could be used in the North East to train the work force, retain capacity in the UK, and help the company through the downturn and to recover more strongly in the upturn. This offer is a signal of the Government's commitment to Corus and its work force.

Credit: Licensing

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for renewals of consumer credit licences submitted to the Office of Fair Trading prior to their expiry date took longer than 90 days to process in each month of each year since 1997. [285433]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not readily available. I will write to the hon. Member giving a full response at the earliest opportunity.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date the Secretary of State last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287364]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no meetings with Damian McBride in the course of his ministerial duties.

Debts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to provide greater protection for debtors from early enforcement action through the courts. [284732]

Ian Lucas: The Government believe it is important to ensure all appropriate safeguards are in place to protect debtors from early enforcement action through the courts as a result of what might have been originally relatively small, unsecured borrowing.

As set out in the recent White Paper "A Better Deal for Consumers", we will therefore:

Look at putting better warnings/explanations into unsecured credit agreements highlighting the risk of borrowers losing their home if they default on repayments;

Consult on introducing a financial limit below which a creditor could not apply for an order for sale. In doing so, we will explore the implications of the threshold only applying to cases where the original debt arose under regulated consumer credit agreements.

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department and its predecessors have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279518]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Accountancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2008-09. [287322]

Mr. McFadden: For accounting, estimates and budgeting purposes, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) will continue to comprise of the former Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the former Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), until the transfer of functions order is authorised and a new estimate is approved by Parliament, at the same time as the winter supplementary estimates.

Both Departments plan to lay annual reports and accounts prior to the summer parliamentary recess. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [278818]

(2) how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278823]

Mr. McFadden: Since November 2008, the first full month of recording the new target, the then Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has paid the following invoices within 10 working days:

	Number of invoices paid	*Percentage*
November 2008	2,365	93.1
December 2008	2,222	96.9
January 2009	2,535	96.7
February 2009	2,324	96.2
March 2009	3,119	97.2
April 2009	2,428	96.3
May 2009	2,284	89.1

Until October 2008, BERR was required to monitor and publish payment performance against a 30-day payment target. The first full month of formal recording against the 10-day target was November 2008 and information about payment performance within ten days prior to this date is not available.

Since December 2008, the then Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills paid the following invoices within 10 working days:

	Number of invoices paid	*Number paid in 10 working days*	*Percentage*
December 2008	3,178	3,049	96
January 2009	1,101	1,000	91
February 2009	1,904	1,831	96
March 2009	2,634	2,513	95
April 2009	870	663	76
May 2009	610	493	81

The first full month of formal recording against the 10-day target was December 2008 and information about payment performance within ten working days prior to this date is not available.

The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills fully supports the Prime Minister's commitment of 8 October that central Government Departments will make payment within 10 days. We also currently encourage our leading suppliers to pass on our credit terms and will be working with them to reduce payment times along the entire supply chain.

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's executive agencies and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many days on average *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies has taken to pay invoices from suppliers in each month since November 2008. [278914]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 10 June 2009]:* Since November 2008, BIS (formerly the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills) have paid the following invoices:

Month	*Number invoices paid*	*Average time to pay (days)*
November 2008	3,184	5.1
December 2008	3,389	4.0
January 2009	3,351	4.7
February 2009	3,091	4.8
March 2009	4,275	4.9
April 2009	3,314	4.8
May 2009	2,833	4.4

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's executive agencies and they will respond to the hon. Gentleman directly.

Departmental Consultants

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on consultants in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [288468]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills spent the following on consultants in financial years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 1 April 2009 to end June 2009.

	£
2007/08	19,603,077
2008/09	31,448,452
1 April 2009 to end June 2009	2,297,192

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274455]

Mr. McFadden: In each of the last five years the following services have been outsourced:

February 2005 - Business Link national website outsourced to Serco and subsequently transferred to HMRC in 2007.

May 2007 - production of departmental security passes outsourced to EC Harris, the Department's FMA provider.

February 2009 - administration of Civil Service Pensions outsourced to Department of Work and Pensions. DWP is an Authorised Pension Administration Centre.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287794]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses; and which do not contain personal information. [284392]

Mr. McFadden: The Department holds a large number of databases ranging in size. These include corporate databases, access databases held by units within the Department and a large number of spreadsheets of data of which certainly the larger and more sophisticated could be described as fulfilling a database function. The vast majority of these databases and systems can be expected to a greater or lesser extent to contain personal data. It is not possible due to disproportionate costs to identify those databases which do not contain personal data.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* photocopiers, *(b)* scanning devices and *(c)* fax machines, excluding multi-function devices, there are in his Department; how many there were in his Department's predecessors in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [286180]

Mr. McFadden: Much of the information requested is not held centrally by this Department as locally held equipment is the responsibility of individual Groups and it would involve disproportionate cost to establish this.

In terms of photocopiers used in our central Reprographics pools, which included a service to ex-Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills staff in central London, there were 23 machines in 2007-08, 22 in 2008-09 and 19 currently.

The scanners provided as part of the Department's core IT service are multi-function devices.

The current number of operational fax machines across the BIS estate is 126. There are no historical records for fax machines used by BIS's predecessors, but there has been a rationalisation in recent years as the Department has introduced flexible working practices across its estate.

I would also refer the hon. Member to the Government Strategy "Greening Government ICT: Efficient, Sustainable, Responsible" published on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 53WS.

Departmental Flexible Working

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what family-friendly working policies his Department and its predecessors have implemented in the last 12 years. [285818]

Mr. McFadden: In the last 12 years the Government have made great progress on providing support to working parents and encouraging family-friendly working practices through a balanced package which takes account of the needs of parents and the businesses which employ them. This includes significant improvements in maternity leave and pay. All employed women are now entitled to 52 weeks' maternity leave with 39 weeks' maternity pay. Employed fathers benefit from two weeks' paid paternity leave. Adopters are now entitled to the same periods of pay and leave as birth parents.

We have ensured support does not end after the first year. Parents of children aged 16 or under, or whose child is disabled, can request a flexible working pattern. Employers must consider the request but may refuse on set business grounds. Eligible parents can take up to 13 weeks' parental leave up to their child's fifth birthday. Parents of disabled children can take up to 18 weeks' parental leave up to their child's 18th birthday.

The wider needs of families are also recognised—carers of adults can also request a flexible working pattern and all employees are able to take a reasonable amount of time off work to deal with an emergency involving a dependant.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on the development of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website. [285526]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows.

Cost breakdown (exc. VAT):

Design and development: no external costs, as a free open source platform was used

Hosting setup: £1,160.00

Hosting (monthly charge): £449.00

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 193W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288993]

Mr. McFadden: All users in BIS currently use Microsoft Internet Explorer Version 6 from their desktop PC and laptops.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281080]

Mr. McFadden: The number of laptops reported lost or stolen from 2005 to end May 2009 is 46.

I have approached the chief executives of the executive agencies and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of his Department's (i) male employees and (ii) female employees was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287121]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* 53 per cent. of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills work force are men and the remaining 47 per cent. are women. The average hourly salary for women is £15.44 and for men is £17.91.

Departmental Older Workers

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department will reach the age of 65 years by the year 2011. [283366]

Mr. McFadden: There are currently 32 staff in the Department who have reached the age of 65 and there are currently an additional 21 staff who will reach the age of 65 by the start of 2011.

Departmental Press

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department, and at what cost, in the latest period for which figures are available. [279421]

Mr. McFadden: The following list details what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The total monthly cost at the present time is £899.20.

Newspaper/periodicals

Express

Secretary of State

Mail

Secretary of State

Pat McFadden

David Lammy

Rosie Winterton

Mirror

Secretary of State

Pat McFadden

Lord Young

David Lammy

Rosie Winterton

Telegraph

Secretary of State

Lord Davies

Pat McFadden
Lord Carter
David Lammy
Rosie Winterton

Financial Times
Secretary of State
Pat McFadden
Lord Carter
Lord Drayson
Lord Young
David Lammy
Rosie Winterton
Ian Lucas

Guardian
Secretary of State
Lord Davies
Pat McFadden
Lord Carter
Lord Drayson
Lord Young
David Lammy
Rosie Winterton
Ian Lucas

International Herald Tribune
Secretary of State
Lord Carter

Independent
Secretary of State
Pat McFadden
Lord Carter
David Lammy
Rosie Winterton

Sun
Secretary of State
Pat McFadden
David Lammy
Rosie Winterton

Times
Secretary of State
Lord Davies
Pat McFadden
Lord Carter
Lord Drayson
Lord Young
David Lammy
Rosie Winterton
Ian Lucas

Times Higher
Lord Drayson
Lord Young
Kevin Brennan
David Lammy

Times Educational
Kevin Brennan

Evening Standard 1st Edition
Pat McFadden
Rosie Winterton

Evening Standard West End Final
Secretary of State
Lord Davies
Lord Carter

Economist
Secretary of State
Lord Davies
Pat McFadden
Lord Carter
Lord Young
Kevin Brennan
David Lammy
Rosie Winterton

New Statesman
Secretary of State
Lord Davies
Pat McFadden
Baroness Vadera
Lord Carter
David Lammy
Rosie Winterton
Ian Lucas

New Scientist
Lord Young

Spectator
Secretary of State
Lord Davies
Baroness Vadera
Lord Carter

Private Eye
Secretary of State
Lord Davies
Baroness Vadera
Lord Carter

The Week
Lord Davies

Fortune
Lord Davies

Broadcast
Lord Carter

Campaign
Lord Carter

Marketing Week
Lord Carter

Rail Times
Lord Carter

Harvard Business Review
Lord Young

European Voice
Pat McFadden
Ian Lucas

Voice Weekly
David Lammy

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years since its

creation; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275972]

Mr. McFadden: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication Public Bodies. Copies of Public Bodies 2008 are available in the Libraries of the House.

Detailed information on ad hoc advisory bodies is available in BERR Public Bodies Directory 2008 at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49274.pdf

Information about reviews commissioned since the Department's creation is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessor spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273775]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that spending by the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on branded stationery in the financial year 2008/09 was £72,208.35.

This covers all branded stationery, such as business cards, letterheads, folders, compliment slips and special forms, purchased through a new central stationery supplier by BERR, UK Trade and Investment, BERR's two agencies, Companies House and the Insolvency Service and the following BERR delivery partners: ACAS, Low Pay Commission, Office of Manpower Economics (OME), SITPRO and the Tribunals Service. It also includes spend on branded stationery procured by the Strategic Marketing team.

Complete figures for spending by the former BERR on all branded stationery in previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following figures are available for spending on headed stationery via the previous central stationery supplier and a range of branded stationery items procured by the strategic marketing team:

2007/08 £16,013.71

2006/07 £3,472.00

2005/06 £9,859.51

2004/05 £20,107.85

Information about spending on gifts is not held centrally and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department and its predecessors in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279407]

Mr. McFadden: Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the model contract for special advisers.

Internal laptop training was provided on 12 December 2008, at a cost of £310. No further training courses have been attended by special advisers for my Department, and its predecessors, within the last 12 months.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281508]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was only created on 5 June 2009. It is fully committed to supporting the Graduate Talent Pool, the Government's new graduate internship programme, and will be awarding a number of internships in the coming months.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many interns work in his Department; what terms of reference apply to their appointment; what remuneration they receive; and how long on average an intern appointment lasts. [286828]

Mr. McFadden: The Department currently has four interns. They are employed on a training contract and receive £300 per week outside London and £350 inside London for a period of around 12 weeks.

Digital Broadcasting: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in (i) Hemel Hempstead, (ii) Dacorum and (iii) Hertfordshire which will be liable for payment of the proposed levy contained in the Digital Britain White Paper. [284563]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has made no specific estimate of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in (i) Hemel Hempstead, (ii) Dacorum and (iii) Hertfordshire liable for payment of the proposed levy contained in the Digital Britain White Paper. The independent regulator, Ofcom estimates, however that Hertfordshire has 477,235 fixed lines of which Hemel Hempstead has 43,260, with 1,700 businesses. As the analysis was not carried out at boundary level, but rather at constituency and county level, Ofcom does not have estimates for Dacorum.

Under existing rules any individual in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, pensions credit (guaranteed credit) or employment and support allowance (income related) is entitled to social telephony. As set out in the Digital Britain White Paper published on 16 June 2009 the Government do not wish to see a widening digital divide. Therefore the Government expect that individuals that subscribe to

social telephony packages would also be exempt from the broadband levy to fund the deployment of next generation networks.

Digital Broadcasting: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 324W, on digital broadcasting: Wales, when he plans to decide how much funding to allocate to Wales in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2013-14. [288047]

Mr. McFadden: *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The procurement process for the Universal Service Commitment, and therefore the process for identifying the extent to which specific areas will benefit, will be carried out by the Network Design and Procurement Group which we aim to set up during the autumn. It is impossible to determine the level of funding for specific areas at this time, as much will depend on the technologies used to deliver the commitment.

Digital Technology: Disabled

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that disabled people who require a relay service in order to use voice-operated telephone services are able to access the opportunities outlined in Digital Britain: The Interim Report; and if he will make a statement; [277973]

(2) if he will ensure that the final report on Digital Britain includes specific provisions for disabled users, including those who are unable to use existing voice telephony services. [277974]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), along with Ofcom, remains committed to improving communications services for disabled users including deaf and hearing impaired people. We have worked in the ongoing EU review of the electronic communications framework to introduce into the framework directives the concept of ensuring "equivalence of access" for disabled users.

BIS continues to make a financial contribution to a representative disability stakeholder group with a view to securing expert advice on the telecommunications sector and disability issues. We remain committed to ensuring that all parts of society, including people with disabilities, can benefit from the policies set out in the Digital Britain White Paper, published on 16 June.

EC Internal Trade

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the financial benefits to UK businesses of the EU single market. [287769]

Ian Lucas: The most recent assessment of the benefits of the single market is contained within the publication "The Single Market: A Vision for the 21st Century", published jointly with HM Treasury:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/ent_singlemarket21_121.pdf.

The Department's recent publication "The Future of EU Competitiveness"

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51732.pdf

sets out policy priorities for the single market and also includes references to benefits the single market has brought.

EC Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281871]

Mr. McFadden: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the proportion of UK legislation that stems from the European Union. The administrative burdens measurement exercise (ABME) carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately 1/3 of the total administrative burden.

No figures are available for legislation for which BIS is responsible. The ABME report for the former Department of Trade and Industry is available at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file35841.pdf

The important thing is not the origins of legislation, which could of course be a devolved Administration or a local authority, as well as the Government or the EU, but the quality of the regulation. All regulations, irrespective of their origins, should comply with the principles of better regulation. Regulations should be risk based, proportionate and well designed, so as to achieve their objectives whilst also keeping costs to a minimum. The Government continue to work with European partners to ensure that EU regulations meet these standards.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 17WS, on the Education (Student Support) Regulations, when the cancellation of the guarantee of student support for education maintenance allowance recipients will take effect; and whether students planning to enter higher education in 2009-10 will be covered by the guarantee. [287829]

Mr. Lammy: The guarantee was not due to come into effect until academic year 2010-11; former EMA recipients entering higher education in 2009-10 would always have been treated in the same way as other applicants for student support, being assessed at the point of application. In these difficult economic times, it is both fair and reasonable to expect that those students who see an improvement in their financial circumstances are assessed for student support according to their need. We have

therefore revised our plans for a guarantee of student support with effect from the date of the written statement, and will offer students in receipt of EMA a clear quote of the student support they will receive if their circumstances are unchanged at the time they apply for higher education.

Education: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding was allocated by the Learning and Skills Council to each educational establishment in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years. [279720]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has responsibility for the funding of post-16 further education and training. Information on individual provider funding is not held centrally by this Department. I have therefore asked the chief executive of the LSC to write to the hon. Member with post-16 funding allocations for further education providers in the Milton Keynes area. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Emergency Calls

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to monitor compliance with regulations regarding emergency service numbers on the part of EU-registered voice over internet protocol providers offering services in the UK. [286619]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of voice over internet protocol providers which offer access to emergency service telephone numbers. [286620]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure Skype provides access to emergency numbers. [287126]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of downshifting by employees. [285815]

Mr. McFadden: To date the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not undertaken any research in this area.

The Government are closely monitoring the labour market impacts of the current economic challenges. We are committed to supporting the UK through the recession and believe the measures we have in place to support businesses and workers are effective.

The reports of approaches such as downshifting highlight that in some areas employers and staff are working together to protect businesses and jobs. This is evidence of the flexibility of the UK labour market—these approaches help to protect jobs of those affected and help ensure that businesses retain the skills needed to respond to future opportunities.

Energy: Disconnections

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many customers have been disconnected by each energy provider in each of the last eight quarters. [289126]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

Ofgem monitors the level of debt and disconnection and publishes relevant data in annual and quarterly reports. The most recent quarterly report was published in January 2009 and contained data for the third quarter of 2008.

Data from these reports show that the numbers of electricity and gas customers disconnected for debt over the last eight quarters were:

Supplier	*Fuel*	*Q4 2006*	*Q1 2007*	*Q2 2007*	*Q3 2007*	*Q4 2007*	*Q1 2008*	*Q2 2008*	*Q3 2008*
British Gas	Elec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Countrywide Gas	Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E.ON[1]	Elec	26	49	79	124	224	152	159	26
	Gas	99	189	153	293	293	198	225	22

Supplier	Fuel	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008
Ecotricity	Elec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EDF Energy	Elec	99	71	89	181	153	186	361	315
	Gas	166	120	206	278	274	305	284	281
Electricity and Gas Plus Supply Ltd.[2]	Elec	0	0	0	0	0	7	11	9
	Gas	2	2	0	0	0	8	39	18
First Utility	Elec	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gas	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good Energy	Elec	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7
Npower[3]	Elec	171	238	148	194	281	101	60	61
	Gas	464	711	609	582	441	308	33	13
Scottish and Southern	Elec	37	50	64	31	33	31	42	61
	Gas	187	162	293	132	141	104	129	64
Scottish Power	Elec	124	136	202	142	168	252	323	208
	Gas	241	205	277	177	189	184	229	237
Utilita	Elec	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gas	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	Elec	457	544	582	672	859	729	960	687
	Gas	1,159	1,389	1,538	1,462	1,338	1,107	939	635

[1] Up to and including Q4 this supplier was reported on as Powergen.
[2] Up to and including Q4 2006 this supplier was reported on as Telecom Plus.
[3] Npower figures through to Q4 2007 also include Npower Northern and Npower Yorkshire.

Full details of Ofgem's annual and quarterly reports can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Monitoring/SoObMonitor/Pages/SocObMonitor.aspx

Energy: Expenditure

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 7.28 of Budget 2009, how the £250 million of funding allocated to his Department for low-carbon energy and green manufacturing will be spent. [285033]

Mr. McFadden: The first investments from the £250 million of funding allocated for low carbon economic development will be set out in the Low Carbon Industrial Strategy on Wednesday 15 July. All funding will be allocated, examining the costs and benefits, consistent with Green Book criteria.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the lending terms of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [264448]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The lending terms for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) are that the business:

meets an approved EFG lender's commercial lending criteria and determination that use of EFG is appropriate;

has a turnover of up to £25 million; and

is seeking a loan of between £1,000 and £1 million;

The EFG loan (either unsecured or partially secured) may be used as a new term loan, as a new term loan specifically for the purpose of transferring long term debt out of an overdraft in order to release capacity in the overdraft or as refinancing of an existing secured loan which would otherwise be withdrawn due to deterioration in the quality of the security

EFG is available for most business purposes and sectors. However, EFG is subject to certain sector restrictions arising from the EU De Minimis Aid rules, the Industrial Development Act 1982 (which provides the statutory basis for EFG) and also for national policy reasons which are detailed on the BIS website.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 766W, on the Export Credits Guarantee Department, what

projects the Export Credits Guarantee Department supported through its Fixed Rate Export Finance Scheme between 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2008; and what the *(a)* date of approval, *(b)* amount of exposure at that date, *(c)* UK company concerned, *(d)* destination country for the export and *(e)* project or product involved was in each case. [286915]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* Details of exports supported under ECGD's Fixed Rate Export Finance (FREF) scheme between 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2008 are provided as follows:

Date of approval	*Amount of exposure at that date (£)*	*UK company concerned*	*Destination country of the export*	*Project or product involved*
25 January 2002	35,700,000	Mabey and Johnson Ltd	Papua New Guinea	Steel bridgework
25 February 2002	600,000	Alstom Power UK	Mexico	Spares for gas turbines
14 March 2002	300,000	Angloco Ltd	St. Lucia	Firefighting vehicles
11 April 2002	33,515,984	Alstom Power Plants Ltd	Turkey	Reinsurance to Coface relating to 2x 160 MLO Power Station at Can
16 June 2002	27,132,515	Airbus SAS	Hong Kong	Airbus aircraft
20 June 2002	362,554	Sedgewall Communication Group Ltd	Tunisia	Railway communications equipment
2 July 2002	2,678,800	NSG Exports Ltd	Barbados	Vehicles and equipment for road network improvement
18 July 2002	19,300,000	Airbus SAS	Qatar	Airbus aircraft
29 July 2002	1,294,148	Dunlop Oil and Marine Ltd	Mexico	Supply of 86 oil transportation hoses
14 August 2002	2,656,421	Findel Education Ltd	Brazil	Laboratory equipment
14 August 2002	214,433	John Gordon Ltd	Costa Rica	Coffee husk burners for coffee dryers
12 September 2002	358,851	Vikoma International Ltd	Mexico	Hi-Sprint oil spill containment boom system
25 September 2002	778,274	Alstom Power UK	Mexico	Overhaul of 2 TA 1750 gas generators
3 October 2002	975	Angloco Ltd	St. Lucia	Firefighting vehicles
21 October 2002	1,674,211	Telspec Europe Ltd	Kazakhstan	Supply of pair gains technology
26 November 2002	7,347,003	Odebrecht Oil and Gas Services Ltd	Mexico	Supply of goods and rendering of services for a living quarters platform
26 November 2002	1,627,704	Mabey and Johnson ltd	Venezuela	8 compact bridges
6 February 2003	117,405	Kier International Ltd	Jamaica	Flyover bridges
7 February 2003	2,931,733	Saywell International Ltd	Brazil	Aircraft generators, avionics and ancillary equipment
10 February 2003	11,237,003	Martin-Baker Aircraft Company Ltd	Brazil	Ejection seat equipment
17 February 2003	11,729,401	Martin-Baker Aircraft Company Ltd	Brazil	Supply of ejection seat and associated equipment for AL-X Super Tucano aircraft
14 March 2003	526,605	Mabey and Johnson Ltd	Dominican Republic	Steel bridgework
11 April 2003	1,833,443	Rolls Wood Group (Repair and Overhaul) Ltd	Mexico	Generator upgrade
13 June 2003	7,279,627	Lagan International ltd	Maldives	Upgrade of Gan International Airport
17 June 2003	19,790,378	Mabey and Johnson Ltd	Jamaica	Steel bridges
15 July 2003	21,766,910	Mabey and Johnson Ltd	Sri Lanka	Bridge refurbishment
29 August 2003	8,994,118	Thales Training and Simulation Ltd	Tunisia	A320 Flight simulator
5 September 2003	2,228,540	MRB Schumag Ltd	Mexico	Tube drawing machinery
23 October 2003	4,121,687	Thales ATM Ltd	Dominican Republic	Radar and Control centre for Punta Cana Airport
19 November 2003	4,019,245	MRB Schumag Ltd	Mexico	Copper tube processing plant
29 April 2004	3,034,619	Sir William Halcrow and Partners Ltd	Venezuela	Phase 4 of Bayeloma project
3 November 2004	6,636,455	Kellogg Brown and Root Ltd	Kazakhstan	Engineering services for Alibekmola oil field
22 February 2005	799,093	Guralp Systems Ltd	Turkey	Earthquake and Seismology equipment
30 August 2005	92,827,324	Mabey and Johnson Ltd	Philippines	Highways, bridges and flyovers
12 October 2005	31,964,268	Rolls-Royce Power Engineering plc	Brazil	Power generation modules
12 October 2005	7,768,717	VWS Westgarth Ltd	Brazil	P52 Sulphate reduction
12 October 2005	2,513,830	Koch Chemical Technology Group Ltd	Brazil	Vacuum dearation for P52 project
12 October 2005	1,578,285	Invsat Ltd	Brazil	Telecom package for P52 project
24 November 2006	50,800,373	Mabey and Johnson Ltd	Philippines	Rural bridges programme

Date of approval	Amount of exposure at that date (£)	UK company concerned	Destination country of the export	Project or product involved
31 January 2007	23,955,611	Thales Training and Simulation Limited	Russia	Superjet 100 full flight simulators
20 May 2008	18,720,905	PW Limited	Ghana	Construction of Kotoka Airport

Notes:
(i) The amount of exposure shown is the maximum liability under the ECGD guarantee; FREF support may have been provided in whole or in part of that amount;
(ii) The domicile of the obligor or, if applicable, the guarantor of the obligor under the ECGD facility has been given as the destination country of the export. Exceptionally, exports are supplied to a different country from that of the obligor and/or the guarantor; and
(iii) Information on two FREF cases has not been provided as disclosure would be prejudicial to the commercial interests of the obligors or international relations or both.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of extending the remit of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority to *(a)* the construction sector and *(b)* other sectors. [286527]

Mr. McFadden: The Government looked carefully at the issue of extending the GLA-style licensing regime to other sectors, including the construction sector, as part of the Vulnerable Worker Enforcement Forum that I chaired last year. The Forum consisted of union and business representatives, Citizens Advice, and the key workplace enforcement bodies. There was a full debate, but no consensus was reached on the issue.

Following the work of the Vulnerable Worker Enforcement Forum, the Government's focus has been to prioritise effective enforcement of the existing law. We have taken steps to strengthen the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate which regulates employment agencies in the non-GLA sectors, and to raise its profile among both agency workers and agencies themselves.

There have been calls more recently for the Government to look at this issue as my hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, North (Jim Sheridan) put forward a 10-minute rule Bill on 10 June 2009, and my hon. Friend the Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) tabled an Early Day Motion on 28 April 2009. More recently, Rita Donaghy's report into the underlying causes of fatalities in the construction sector, commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions, was published on 9 July 2009 and recommended the extension of the GLA's remit to the construction sector. The Government will fully consider all the recommendations before responding later in the year.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* unique visitors, *(b)* new registrations and *(c)* total registrations there were to the supply2.gov.uk website in each of the last 12 months. [270869]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows.

(a) Unique visitors per month to the website:

	Number
2008	
April	26,831
May	34,502
June	32,451
July	55,544
August	31,714
September	36,240
October	40,099
November	35,830
December	27,775
2009	
January	41,113
February	50,274
March	52,320

(b) New supplier registrations:

	Number
2008	
April	3,160
May	5,821
June	4,079
July	12,642
August	3,657
September	4,063
October	4,555
November	4,257
December	2,953
2009	
January	5,645
February	9,088
March	8,430

(c) Total supplier registrations April 2008 to March 2009: 68,350.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts were advertised on the supply2.gov.uk website in each of the last 12 months; how many of them were subsequently awarded to firms who had submitted a bid via that website; and if he will make a statement. [270870]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of opportunities advertised on the Supply2.gov website in the last 12 months are as follows:

	Number
2008	
April	3,486
May	3,240

	Number
June	3,069
July	3,448
August	3,426
September	3,113
October	3,664
November	3,465
December	3,901
2009	
January	3,592
February	3,711
March	2,117

The supply2.gov.uk site offers consolidated access to public sector opportunities and allows businesses to search and view open lower-value contract opportunities in a single place. It does not measure contract awards. No estimate is available for the number or value of contracts won through the site.

Graduates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* engineering and *(d)* information and communication technology graduates were women in each year since 2001. [284281]

Mr. Lammy: The number and proportion of female postgraduates and undergraduates qualifying in Physics, Chemistry, Engineering and Computer Science are shown in the tables. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) changed their method of coding subjects for the academic year from 2002-03 so it is not possible to make direct comparisons with figures prior to this date. As a result the time series shown in the table commence from 2002, rather than 2001 as requested.

Female postgraduate qualifiers[1] in physics, chemistry, engineering and computer science, UK higher education institutions: Academic years 2002-03 to 2007-08

	Physics		Chemistry		Engineering		Computer science[2]	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2002-03	220	23	915	39	1,410	17	2,530	30
2003-04	220	24	630	39	1,710	18	2,345	28
2004-05	245	26	580	38	2,090	19	2,205	25
2005-06	255	26	560	40	2,240	19	2,020	24
2006-07	255	26	605	40	2,150	18	1,780	22
2007-08	255	25	510	37	2,225	19	1,815	22

[1] Covers female postgraduate qualifiers of all domiciles from full-time and part-time courses
[2] Includes computer science, information systems, software engineering, artificial intelligence and other broadly based programmes.
Notes:
1. Figures exclude the Open University due to their incorrect coding of subjects across the time series.
2. figures are rounded to the nearest five.
3. Percentages are rounded to the nearest integer.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency

Female undergraduate qualifiers[1] in physics, chemistry, engineering and computer science, UK higher education institutions: Academic years 2002-03 to 2007-08

	Physics		Chemistry		Engineering		Computer science[2]	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2002-03	520	23	1,510	45	2,665	12	6,185	25
2003-04	515	23	1,450	47	2,740	13	6,275	24
2004-05	480	21	1,520	49	2,585	12	5,690	22
2005-06	530	22	1,260	46	2,730	13	4,970	21
2006-07	500	22	1,335	46	2,595	12	4,240	20
2007-08	520	22	1,375	44	2,750	12	3,840	20

[1] Covers female undergraduate qualifiers of all domiciles from full-time and part-time courses
[2] Includes computer science, information systems, software engineering, artificial intelligence and other broadly based programmes.
Notes:
1. Figures exclude the Open University due to their incorrect coding of subjects across the time series.
2. figures are rounded to the nearest five.
3. Percentages are rounded to the nearest integer.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency

Greece

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the dates and times were of each official engagement the Secretary of State undertook *(a)* at the Bilderberg Conference and *(b)* at other times on his visit to Greece in May; and which (i) individuals and (ii) companies he met on each of those engagements. [284713]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 July 2009]*: On Friday 15 May prior to the conference my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met a number of UK and Greek businesses at a business breakfast hosted at the British embassy and the Union of Greek Shipowners. He also met his counterpart in the Greek Government. During the course of the conference he was able to have productive meetings with other attendees about the future of the UK automotive sector and other issues.

Havering Sixth Form College: Finance

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether funding will be made available to Havering Sixth Form College to revise the enabling works undertaken in its unsuccessful bid for its Learning and Skills Council capital project. [288119]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 20 July 2009]*: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has supported colleges throughout the development of capital proposals, and is committed to meeting all outstanding contractual obligations. The LSC has consistently said that it will ensure no college is unable to meet its financial obligations as a result of decisions on capital projects. Whether funding will be made available to Havering Sixth Form College is a matter for the LSC.

Higher Education: Admissions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of creating 5,000 further student places in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [287047]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* In 2008-09 the total cost of the maintenance grant and resource accounting and budgeting cost of loans was around £3,000 per student where the RAB charge represents the future cost to Government of subsidising and writing off the loans issued. £3,000 is likely to be an under-estimate of providing an extra place in 2009-10 because it is partly based on students falling under less generous student support regulations than are in operation in 2009-10. The maximum total grant and RAB cost per entrant in 2009-10 is around £5,200, therefore the academic year student support cost for the first year of study for 5,000 additional entrants in 2009 could be anything up to £26 million; depending on students' individual characteristics.

No estimate of teaching costs is offered here as these vary between courses and institutions. The allocation of teaching grant to institutions to help meet these costs is governed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Guidance on how HEFCE allocates its funds is available at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/Pubs/hefce/2008/08 33/

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applicants to higher education institutions *(a)* found a place in clearing and *(b)* were eligible to find a place in clearing in each year since 1993. [287758]

Mr. Lammy: Information on clearing is not available for 1993, as applications to higher education were processed through the University Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) and the Polytechnics and Colleges Admissions Service (PCAS). UCCA and PCAS numbers on clearing are not held centrally. From 1994, applications were processed through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

The numbers for 1994 onwards are in the table, which has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the letter of 21 July 2009 from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to the Higher Education Funding Council for England, how many additional students he expects to be in higher education in 2009-10; and what progress the Government have made towards their commitment of having half of all young people attend higher education by 2010. [288411]

Mr. Lammy: Our grant letter to HEFCE this year confirmed additional teaching grant funding for the equivalent of an extra 10,000 full-time-equivalent places in 2009-10. HEFCE estimate that this will result in 3,000 additional full-time first year entrants. Further to this, we announced on 20 July 2009 that we would be providing financial support for an additional 10,000 students in science, technology, engineering and maths over the duration of their course in Higher Education. We will not receive outturn data on the 2009-10 student population until early 2011.

The Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 target was to increase participation in Higher Education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18 to 30 with growth of at least a percentage point every two years to the academic year 2010-11. Over half of young people from all social backgrounds aspire to go to university. Progression towards 50 per cent. is a measure of how well we are responding to the families who want the best for their children while making an essential investment in our economic success. Latest figures showed 43.3 per cent. of 17-30 year olds participated for the first time in higher education in 2007-08.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of young people living in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* England entered university in each of the last 10 years. [289157]

Mr. Lammy: The Government do not collect data on the number of people resident in a particular area who are not in higher education. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate what percentage of young people living in Sunderland local authority entered university in the last 10 years.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published "Young participation in higher education" in January 2005, which is available from the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/

The HEFCE report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 disaggregated by local education authority (LEA) for the years 1997 to 2000.

At national level, the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) covers English-domiciled 17 to 30-year-old first-time entrants to higher education courses at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figure is 43 per cent. in 2007/08. For young people (aged 17-20), the figure is 34 per cent.

The number of young entrants to higher education from Sunderland local authority and England, in the last 10 years, are shown as an alternative in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] from Sunderland local authority[3] and England, UK higher education institutions[4], academic year 1998/99 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Sunderland*	*England*
1998/99	910	203,950
1999/2000	850	206,935
2000/01	870	208,065
2001/02	965	216,300
2002/03	940	220,980
2003/04	1,030	222,270
2004/05	1,035	226,570
2005/06	1,200	244,175
2006/07	1,135	235,260
2007/08	1,065	246,680

[1] Covers entrants under the age of 21.
[2] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time courses.
[3] The table does not include entrants where the local authority area of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.
[4] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
Notes:
1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in each local authority area in Greater Manchester *(a)* applied for and *(b)* enrolled on a course in a higher education institution in each year since 1997. [288366]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) on the number of applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Academic year	Bolton	Bury	Manchester	Oldham	Rochdale	Salford
Applicants						
1997-98	1,704	1,187	2,588	1,129	1,205	929
1998-99	1,644	1,236	2,475	1,091	1,224	962
1999-2000	1,624	1,210	2,517	1,166	1,289	905
2000-01	1,542	1,239	2,585	1,161	1,262	888
2001-02	1,661	1,249	2,709	1,363	1,316	954
2002-03	1,591	1,253	2,825	1,392	1,355	986
2003-04	1,719	1,296	3,124	1,314	1,290	1,042
2004-05	1,769	1,310	3,328	1,409	1,307	1,047
2005-06	1,725	1,409	3,812	1,369	1,302	1,144
2006-07	1,796	1,392	3,571	1,493	1,533	1,308
2007-08	1,857	1,468	3,922	1,652	1,495	1,392
2008-09	2,113	1,649	4,540	1,802	1,783	1,640
Accepted applicants						
1997-98	1,350	920	1,821	908	964	673
1998-99	1,322	977	1,775	872	957	727
1999-2000	1,343	974	1,863	923	1,033	699
2000-01	1,264	998	1,950	943	1,013	710
2001-02	1,392	1,010	2,074	1,125	1,026	745
2002-03	1,320	1,047	2,214	1,162	1,102	778
2003-04	1,430	1,087	2,414	1,085	1,038	848
2004-05	1,463	1,079	2,528	1,107	1,027	787
2005-06	1,423	1,168	2,926	1,096	1,019	881
2006-07	1,456	1,176	2,752	1,247	1,199	995
2007-08	1,500	1,214	3,023	1,366	1,229	1,066
2008-09	1,726	1,393	3,504	1,493	1,465	1,252

Academic year	Stockport	Tameside	Trafford	Wigan
Applicants				
1997-98	2,025	986	1,587	1,320
1998-99	2,098	969	1,654	1,436
1999-2000	1,990	925	1,590	1,422
2000-01	1,946	959	1,511	1,390
2001-02	1,997	980	1,523	1,490
2002-03	1,989	1,023	1,581	1,390
2003-04	2,015	996	1,574	1,540
2004-05	2,047	988	1,585	1,497
2005-06	2,304	1,083	1,626	1,639
2006-07	2,148	1,209	1,991	1,661
2007-08	2,223	1,313	2,060	1,671
2008-09	2,335	1,467	2,283	1,989
Accepted applicants				
1997-98	1,623	765	1,259	1,026
1998-99	1,679	748	1,312	1,121
1999-2000	1,609	723	1,289	1,141
2000-01	1,609	783	1,230	1,123
2001-02	1,680	775	1,263	1,209
2002-03	1,725	838	1,328	1,187
2003-04	1,687	818	1,329	1,253
2004-05	1,732	814	1,318	1,242
2005-06	1,924	886	1,387	1,376
2006-07	1,812	979	1,664	1,369
2007-08	1,886	1,036	1,740	1,366
2008-09	1,979	1,198	1,914	1,626

Source:
UCAS

The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on the number of students enrolled on their first year of their course is shown in table 2.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Table 2: Full-time and part-time undergraduate entrants from Greater Manchester local authorities[1]—UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 1997-98 to 2007-08

Academic year	Mode of study	Bolton	Bury	Manchester	Oldham	Rochdale
1997-98	FT	1,525	995	1,980	960	1,025
	PT	495	340	480	320	285
1998-99	FT	1,555	1,075	1,775	915	1,030
	PT	640	445	740	395	390
1999-2000	FT	1,615	1,120	2,030	990	1,155
	PT	640	470	680	375	390
2000-01	FT	1,505	1,140	1,990	1,025	1,160
	PT	575	450	575	385	390
2001-02	FT	1,735	1,185	2,250	1,195	1,225
	PT	610	510	685	305	395
2002-03	FT	1,690	1,195	2,465	1,230	1,255
	PT	665	560	725	340	425
2003-04	FT	1,730	1,235	2,510	1,180	1,240
	PT	705	545	1,200	435	510
2004-05	FT	1,830	1,265	2,770	1,200	1,195
	PT	770	575	1,175	480	490
2005-06	FT	1,770	1,280	2,850	1,415	1,295
	PT	740	515	1,245	575	565
2006-07	FT	1,700	1,215	2,635	1,350	1,215
	PT	675	505	970	440	450
2007-08	FT	1,565	1,215	2,820	1,350	1,235
	PT	610	465	855	430	415

Academic year	Mode of study	Salford	Stockport	Tameside	Trafford	Wigan
1997-98	FT	805	1,580	850	1,370	1,140
	PT	370	305	180	315	490
1998-99	FT	820	1,645	775	1,385	1,225
	PT	465	535	295	585	640
1999-2000	FT	805	1,670	825	1,400	1,360
	PT	415	480	285	440	690
2000-01	FT	825	1,575	855	1,425	1,260
	PT	405	445	250	430	595
2001-02	FT	890	1,730	910	1,445	1,405

Academic year	Mode of study	Salford	Stockport	Tameside	Trafford	Wigan
	PT	365	535	335	420	605
2002-03	FT	970	1,860	1,015	1,590	1,390
	PT	350	500	405	415	750
2003-04	FT	1,060	1,790	1,045	1,645	1,480
	PT	445	875	400	730	770
2004-05	FT	1,000	1,840	1,050	1,680	1,450
	PT	500	675	425	630	730
2005-06	FT	1,055	1,980	1,130	1,750	1,565
	PT	460	640	480	630	850
2006-07	FT	995	1,845	1,030	1,630	1,505
	PT	355	490	440	495	705
2007-08	FT	995	1,845	1,030	1,715	1,305
	PT	410	435	390	455	550

[1] The table does not include entrants where local authority of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.
[2] Figures exclude the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
Note:
Figures are based on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

There are a number of differences between the data gathered by UCAS on applicants and those gathered by HESA on entrants. Not all students apply through the UCAS system as they may apply directly to the institutions. UCAS does not cover part-time students, so these have been shown separately in table 2.

Higher Education: International Cooperation

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the US/UK study group on US/UK higher education links. [277842]

Mr. Lammy: The report of the US/UK study group on higher education and collaboration in a global context was commissioned by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. The group included a number of university Vice-Chancellors and Presidents from the UK and USA, led by Professor John Sexton, President of New York University and Professor Rick Trainor, Prinicpal of King's College London. The report contains a very helpful analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of US/UK collaboration and recommends significant investment in a new programme of joint activities involving the US, UK and third country partners. Its recommendations are being considered in the context of the work on a framework for higher education over the next 10-15 years which is expected to be launched in the autumn. I have arranged for a copy of the report to be placed in the House Libraries.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what margin of flexibility on UK and EU undergraduate student numbers has been offered by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in each year since 1997. [286986]

Mr. Lammy: The HEFCE funding model for teaching is constructed in broad terms and generally allows institutions to vary the number and mix of students within a tolerance band of plus/minus 5 per cent, of a standard reference point. Other specific controls (minimum Full Time Equivalents (FTE) required to satisfy the funding agreement) apply if institutions are awarded funded growth. Institutions are expected to deliver growth for which they have received additional funding, but are given two academic years to deliver a minimum target FTE student number. Institutions can vary between full-time, part-time, undergraduate and postgraduate provision.

In addition, during the period 1997-98 through to 2001-02 another control on full-time undergraduate home and EU students applied known as the Maximum aggregate Student Number (MaSN). It related specifically to full-time undergraduate and postgraduate certificate in education home and EU students. Institutions were set a maximum number of students with margin which if exceeded resulted in holdback of grant.

Since 2001-02 institutions have been allowed to vary their mix of students so long as they remain within their contract range which is generally plus/minus 5 per cent. but may be wider for some institutions that are in the process of migrating towards it.

Higher Education: Student Wastage

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of students in higher education left their course before completion in each year since 1997. [287757]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information from the "Performance Indicators in Higher Education" published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table, which has been placed in the Library. Information is available on the proportion of students who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution; but the associated numbers have not been published. Figures for the 2007-08 academic year will be available in June 2010.

Innovation Fund

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the £150 million Innovation Fund referred to in paragraph 35 of Building Britain's Future, column 7654, will be established; and how manufacturing firms will be able to obtain funding from that Fund. [287539]

Mr. Lammy: The UK innovation investment fund will operate on a fund of funds structure which means it will not invest directly in companies, but rather invest in a small number of specialist technology funds that have the expertise and track record to invest directly in companies, in sectors such as ICT, life sciences, low carbon and advanced manufacturing. A fund of funds manager will be appointed during 2009 to manage the fund and make investments in underlying technology funds with the expertise and track record to invest directly in technology businesses.

Insolvency

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 97W, on insolvency, what criteria are used to prioritise cases; and whether the effectiveness of the new scheme will be monitored. [285749]

Ian Lucas [*holding answer 13 July 2009*]: The answer of 29 June 2009 referred to company administrations. This answer encompasses company administration as well as other corporate failures. This is because the principles of prioritisation of cases apply to all company failures.

The case prioritisation process takes into account a number of factors including, in particular, the nature of the financial losers and the impact on them; the content and level of complaints received; and the characteristics of the misconduct identified with an emphasis on prioritising cases of serious fraud and dishonesty.

The duty and process of administrators to report to the Secretary of State for BIS on the conduct of directors and shadow directors of insolvent companies is not new. The process has already been subject to audit by my Department and will be periodically reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies went into administration in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [287862]

Ian Lucas: Official statistics covering administrations and other corporate insolvency procedures are not currently available at sub-national level, or for England separately. Table 1 shows the number of administrations in England and Wales as a whole for the period requested.

Table 1

	Administrations—number of new cases
2004	1,602
2005	2,261
2006[1]	3,560
2007	2,512
2008[2]	4,822

[1] The figure for 2006 includes 844 separate, limited companies created and managed by Safe Solutions Accountancy Limited for which Grant Thornton was appointed administrator. [2] The figure for 2008 includes 729 separate managed service companies for which BDO Stoy Hayward was appointed administrator.

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies were declared insolvent in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [287863]

Ian Lucas: Official statistics for corporate insolvencies are not currently available at sub-national level, or for England separately. Table 1 gives the number of corporate insolvencies, by type of procedure, in England and Wales as a whole for the period requested.

Table 1

	Compulsory liquidations	*Creditors' voluntary liquidations*[1]	*Receivership appointments*[2]	*Administrations*	*Company voluntary arrangements*
2004	4,584	7,608	864	1,602	597
2005	5,233	7,660	590	2,261	604
2006	5,418	7,719	588	3,560	534
2007	5,165	7,342	337	2,512	418
2008	5,494	10,041	867	4,822	587

[1] Excludes creditors' voluntary liquidations which follow administration. [2] Includes Law of Property Act receiverships. Receivership figures from 2007 are not entirely consistent with those for the earlier period.

Insolvency Service: Consultants

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Insolvency Service spent on external consultants in each of the last five years. [285441]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills spent the following amounts on external consultants in each of the last five years.

	Amount (£000)
2004-05	0
2005-06	38
2006-07	0
2007-08	34
2008-09	210

Insolvency Service: Travel

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Insolvency Service spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [285437]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is unable to extract details of taxi expenses. The service's policy is that public transport must be used in preference to taxis on all possible occasions. Sample data for one calendar month has been extracted which shows taxi costs of £1,510. This would correspond to annual taxi fares of approximately £20,000.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Insolvency Service spent on *(a)* flights, *(b)* hotel accommodation, *(c)* rail travel and *(d)* other travel and overnight subsistence expenses in each of the last five years. [285438]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills spent the following amounts on *(a)* flights, *(b)* hotel accommodation, *(c)* rail travel and *(d)* other travel and overnight subsistence expenses in each of the last five years.

	Hotels'	Air	Train	Staff subsistence	Total
2004-05	409,579	9,827	425,664	481,516	1,326,585
2005-06	531,962	15,795	568,138	503,666	1,619,561
2006-07	745,162	95,277	871,712	633,616	2,345,766
2007-08	856,095	67,237	1,145,946	720,298	2,789,577
2008-09	1,173,460	109,993	1,319,879	747,372	3,350,703

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Insolvency Service spent on first class *(a)* rail and *(b)* air travel in each of the last five years. [285439]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills spent the following amounts on rail travel in each of the last five years. Details of the class of travel used is only available from July 2006 when the Service began using thetrainline.com as its preferred supplier of rail bookings. Please see the following table:

	First class	Standard class	Total
2004-05	n/a	n/a	425,664
2005-06	n/a	n/a	568,138
2006-07	174,618	697,094	871,712
2007-08	423,535	722,411	1,145,946
2008-09	600,265	719,614	1,319,879

The Insolvency Service executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is unable to report the amount spent on first class air travel because it does not have details of individual flights. Air travel costs for the last five financial years were:

	Air
2004-05	9,827.00
2005-06	15,795.00
2006-07	95,277.00
2007-08	67,327.27
2008-09	109,993.00

It's Your Call Road Show

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget is of the It's Your Call road show for 2009-10; and which locations will be visited by the roadshow in 2009-10. [288843]

Mr. McFadden: The National Minimum Wage outreach campaign for 2009-10 will be run in conjunction with the Government's vulnerable workers campaign whose objective is to promote awareness of basic employment rights and the new Pay and Work Rights Helpline to vulnerable workers. The locations that will be visited during the campaign have not yet been finalised. The overall budget for the vulnerable workers campaign this year is £3 million, of which £215,000 is the expected cost for the outreach elements.

LDV

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 870W, on LDV, if Ministers in his Department will meet the administrators of LDV Group to discuss the future of the business; and if he will make a statement. [287560]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* I have no plans to meet the administrator of LDV Group. We are continuing to monitor developments closely while offering all practical assistance to those affected. I understand that there are several potentially interested buyers including parties who are considering restarting manufacturing at Washwood Heath. The court appointed administrator is legally responsible for LDV and it would be inappropriate for Government to seek to influence his discussions with potential buyers.

Learndirect

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of Learndirect in developing skills required by employers in the current economic climate. [288770]

Kevin Brennan: Learndirect continues to play a vital role supporting employers and helping over 200,000 learners improve their skills and achieve qualifications through innovative use of online materials and support, together with delivery through a network of learning providers. Learndirect is forecast to exceed the targets on Skills for Life and NVQ learner achievements set for it by the Learning and Skills Council and double the number of learner starts on its Train to Gain contract this year.

Learning and Skills Council for England

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the resignation letter of Mark Haysom, former Chairman of the Learning and Skills Council. [287251]

Kevin Brennan: Mark Haysom resigned from his position as chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council on 23 March 2009. His communication about his resignation was sent to Chris Banks, the LSC's National Chair. The Department will therefore ask the LSC to consider whether it would be appropriate to place a copy of the letter in the House Library, and to write to the hon. Gentleman.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when a reply will be sent to the letters dated 12 March and 13 October 2008 from the hon. Member for Torbay to the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs on sales of replica hand grenades. [245130]

Kevin Brennan: I responded to the hon. Member today. I apologise to the hon. Member for the unacceptable delay in responding to his letters. This was mainly due to an administrative error but also that the issues raised were cross-cutting and it was unclear as to which Department portfolio they fell under. I am taking steps to avoid a repeat of this error.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on his constituent Mr Watt of Cruden Bay. [280795]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to the right hon. Member for the delay in responding. This is, in part, due to a substantial increase in volumes of correspondence caused by the current economic downturn. The hon. Member will receive a response as soon as possible.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 30 March 2009, transferred from HM Treasury, PO reference: 1/70034/2009, on banks. [281131]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding. This is, in part, due to a substantial increase in volumes of correspondence caused by the current economic downturn. The hon. Member will receive a response as soon as possible.

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for St. Albans of 25 February 2009 on the St. Albans Business Summit. [281183]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding. This is, in part, due to a substantial increase in volumes of correspondence caused by the current economic downturn. The hon. Member will receive a response as soon as possible.

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter from Mr. Vernon Holloway, a constituent of the hon. Member for New Forest West, of 15 May 2009 on small businesses. [285231]

Mr. McFadden: A reply was sent to Mr. Holloway on 26 June.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he will reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 30 April 2009 on his constituent's business. [285495]

Mr. McFadden: The letter of 30 April from the right hon. Member was transferred to Her Majesty's Treasury for response. Confirmation of this transfer was sent to the right hon. Member on 5 June.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 61W, when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Billericay of 26 February and 26 March 2009 on his constituent, Mr. Piechuta. [287127]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* I apologise to the hon. Member for the unacceptable delay in responding to his letter. This was due to an administrative error. The hon. Member will receive a response shortly.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield *(a)* of 12 February 2009, on behalf of his constituent Mr. Wilkinson, *(b)* of 24 February 2009, on behalf of his constituent Mr. Booroff and *(c)* of 12 March 2009 on behalf of his constituent Mr. Woods. [288368]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* I apologise to the hon. and learned Member for the delay in responding to his correspondence. My noble Friend, the Minister with responsibility for economic competitiveness, small business and enterprise will respond shortly to the three outstanding letters.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 17 March 2009 on business difficulties. [288796]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to the right hon. Member for the unacceptable delay in responding, he will receive a response shortly.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 6 February 2009 concerning problems with a constituent's business. [288797]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to the right hon. Member for the delay in responding. He will receive a reply shortly.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 61W, on Members: correspondence, when the relevant Minister plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 27 February 2009 on his constituent, Mr Paul Cook of Chelmsford; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply. [288866]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to the hon. Member for the continuing delay in responding. My noble Friend, the Minister with responsibility for economic competitiveness, small business and enterprise, will respond shortly.

Met Office

Nick Harvey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations from private sector weather companies have been submitted to the Trading Funds review of the Met Office. [284835]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The operational efficiency programme and trading funds assessment teams have heard the views of over 20 private sector stakeholders, including customers, suppliers and competitors of the trading funds. These representations have related to both the Meteorological Office specifically but also often to trading funds in general and include meetings with private sector weather companies.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* membership are of the Met Office Trading Funds Review team. [284856]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The HM Treasury operational efficiency programme (OEP) Ministry of Defence asset review team's terms of reference have been placed in the Library of the House.

This OEP review team comprises HM Treasury, Ministry of Defence, shareholder executive and senior management of the Meteorological Office.

Met Office: Cost Effectiveness

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Shareholder Executive plans to meet the Office of Fair Trading in relation to the Operational Efficiency Programme review of the Met Office. [284656]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* The Shareholder Executive works as part of the HM Treasury Operational Efficiency Programme Ministry of Defence Asset Review Team. There are no current plans to meet with the Office of Fair Trading in relation to the Operational Efficiency Programme review of the Met Office.

Minimum Wage: Publicity

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which locations the Minimum Wage Battle Bus visited in 2009; and on what dates those visits took place. [284149]

Mr. McFadden: The national minimum wage trailer tour began on 19 November 2008 and ended on 7 February 2009. Locations visited during the eight week campaign are as follows:

	Location
19 November 2008	Cardiff
20 November 2008	Bristol
21 November 2008	Newport
22 November 2008	Swansea
26 November 2008	Stirling
27 November 2008	Kilmarnock
28 November 2008	Edinburgh
29 - 30 November 2008	Glasgow
10-11 December 2008	Leeds
12 December 2008	Huddersfield
13-14 December 2008	Sheffield
7 January 2009	Norwich
8 January 2009	Peterborough
9-10 January 2009	Leicester
11 January 2009	Derby
14-15 January 2009	Liverpool
16 January 2009	Blackburn
17-18 January 2009	Manchester
21 January 2009	Coventry
22-23 January 2009	Nottingham
24-25 January 2009	Birmingham
28-29 January 2009	Newcastle
30-31 January 2009	Middlesbrough
1 February 2009	Sunderland
4 February 2009	Plymouth
5 February 2009	Portsmouth
6 February 2009	London (East)
7 February 2009	London (North West)

Money Laundering Regulations 2007

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any *(a)* impact and *(b)* small firms assessment has been produced in relation to the Office of Fair Trading's plans to require compulsory registration of all estate agents under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007. [286810]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of Fair Trading has been the anti-money laundering supervisory authority for estate agents since December 2007. As Her Majesty's Treasury had carried out a regulatory impact assessment before implementation of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, the Office of Fair Trading did not produce a separate impact assessment or small firms' assessment for the registration of estate agents for money laundering purposes, when deciding to require compulsory registration. In deciding upon compulsory registration, the OFT was concerned to minimise the burdens on business and has framed the information requirements and registration fee accordingly.

Money Lenders

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many calls the national illegal money lender helpline has received from each region in each month since it was established; [286016]

(2) how many calls made to the national illegal money lender helpline have *(a)* resulted and *(b)* assisted in the arrest or prosecution of an illegal money lender in each month since its establishment; [286017]

(3) how many staff have been employed on the national illegal money lender helpline in each month since its establishment; [286018]

(4) how much funding has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent on (i) establishing the national illegal money lender helpline and (ii) operating the helpline in each month since its establishment. [286019]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Since 1 March 2009 to 30 June to 2009 the total number of calls received for all regions via the national 0300 555 2222 hotline was 516.

The total numbers of calls received by some of the IML teams has been filtered (f) to indicate the number of calls received that gave actionable intelligence. However, some of the teams have maintained regional numbers to ensure a golden thread ensues for previous poster and media campaigns:

	March	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*
South West	37	7	4	20	4
East Midlands	72	26	29	33	9
London	33	52	57	58	14
North East (f)	2	3	4	4	3
Wales (f)	6	3	0	3	2
Scotland (f)	4	2	2	1	0
Central England (f)[1]	22	11	12	23	3

[1] South East, North West, East of England, Yorkshire and Humberside

Of the 519 calls received by the national hotline number the following assisted in the arrest or proceeding to the prosecutions of illegal money lenders.

	Detail
North East	Three arrests have followed from calls received on the national hotline number. None have yet proceeded to a prosecution.
South West	No calls have yet resulted in arrest or prosecution, all are still ongoing investigations.
East Midlands	10 arrests have followed from calls to the hotline; none have yet proceeded to a prosecution.
London	One arrest, 16 calls have initiated ongoing investigations not yet proceeded to prosecution. One call led to re-arrest of an illegal lender on bail. Three matters were linked to ongoing organised crime. SOCA, Anti-Terrorism Unit, and the Metropolitan Police Service engaged as a result.
Wales	Eight arrests have been made, all are ongoing cases. None have been prosecuted in such a short space of time.
Scotland	Three of the calls have initiated investigations. Any investigations which have been instigated as a result of these calls are still ongoing.
Central England[1]	12 arrests, charges have been laid against three and inquiries are on going with the others.

[1] South East, North West, East of England, Yorkshire and Humberside

All calls are answered by enforcement officers already employed within the teams. No additional staff were employed to operate the national hotline number.

The national number is not a helpline but a hotline for victims to report a loan shark in confidence. The single national number was established to make it simpler to report loan sharking and to create greater connectivity between regions and increased cross-border operations. Therefore the only direct costs resulting from setting up and running the national hotline are

(a) the cost of installing the hotline number = £200; and

(b) the quarterly rental cost for the hotline number = £10.

The easily recognisable number itself was free. The geographical set-up was free.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of loans underwritten by the Automotive Assistance Programme which have been drawn down by businesses. [287037]

Ian Lucas: Projects in the pipeline seeking loan guarantees are worth at least £2.4 billion with total Government support sought of around £1.45 billion.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 989W, on motor vehicles: manufacturing industries, what estimate he has made of the maximum number of car purchases that can be funded by the £300 million allocated by his Department to the car scrappage scheme. [287588]

Ian Lucas: Under the scrappage scheme, the Government provide £1,000 per vehicle. Therefore, the maximum number of vehicles that could be funded would be 300,000. However, the total number will be slightly less than that since a small portion of the £300 million will be used to cover monitoring and administration costs.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 989W, on motor vehicles: manufacturing industries, how many of the 94,000 orders for new vehicles qualify for Government funding under the car scrappage scheme. [287600]

Ian Lucas: The figure for total orders under the scrappage scheme is adjusted each week to take account of any errors or cancellations in previous orders. Therefore, we anticipate that, subject to any future minor adjustments of this sort, all the orders would qualify for Government funding. Over 121,700 orders for new vehicles have now been taken.

Motorsport Development UK

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the findings were of the evaluation undertaken by GHK Consulting of the Learning Grid and other Motorsport Development UK initiatives; and whether he plans to publish the report. [287296]

Ian Lucas: An evaluation has been commissioned by the East Midlands Regional Development Agency (EMDA) and I am expecting to receive a copy of the final report shortly. I will consider the arrangements for publication when I have read the report.

National Internship Scheme

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the number of internships likely to be established under the National Internship Scheme. [288633]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to helping new graduates through these tough times. Internships offer graduates the opportunity both to apply their learning in a working situation and to build the work ready skills they will need for permanent employment. Our aim was to generate at least 5,000 additional internships for new graduates this autumn, many of them through the new Graduate Talent Pool. We have been working with businesses, universities and partners from the public and third sectors and have already achieved more than 5,000 committed places.

National Skills Academies: Finance

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether another funding round for national skills academies is planned to take place. [287695]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* An announcement will be made as soon as is practicable.

National Vocational Qualifications: Construction

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many people on Government-funded National Vocational Qualification courses in the construction industry left the course early in each of the last five years; [281185]

(2) how many people applied for Government-funded National Vocational Qualification courses in the construction industry in each of the last five years. [281184]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of Learning and Skills Council-funded enrolments on NVQs within the construction, planning and the built environment sector subject area, from 2005-06 to 2007-08. Information is not available on a consistent basis prior to 2005-06.

Table 1: Number of NVQ enrolments within the construction, planning and the built environment sector subject area, 2005/06 to 2007/08

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Further education	22,400	22,200	23,500
Work-based learning	70,600	67,600	65,700
Train to Gain	4,100	32,400	52,700

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures include FE and WBL enrolments and TTG starts.
3. TTG began in April 2006, hence 2005-06 contains only part-year figures.

Source: Individualised Learner Record.

Table 2 shows the number of people who withdrew from an NVQ in the construction, planning and the built environment sector subject area, from 2005-06 to 2007-08. Information is not available on a consistent basis prior to 2005-06.

Table 2: Number of NVQ Enrolments within the construction, planning and the built environment sector subject area which were withdrawn from, 2005-04 to 2007-08

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Further education	2,200	1,800	1,700
Work-based learning	10,500	9,100	9,500
Train to Gain	200	600	1,800

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. These figures do not include a small number of learners who have temporarily withdrawn due to an agreed break in learning.
3. These figures do not include learners who have transferred to a new learning aim with the same provider.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record.

New Businesses

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage the establishment of new businesses in deprived areas. [270398]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This Department supports people setting up new businesses through the Business Link service. Information and advice is available to all new businesses through the 'Starting A Business' product. The 'Intensive Start Up Support' product provides additional assistance to people setting up new businesses in deprived areas, including those from groups that are underrepresented in self employment and business ownership. The Government also help Community Development Finance Institutions assist individuals in deprived areas who are unable to access finance from commercial banks. More widely, the Government support Local Authority action to increase levels of enterprise, through the Working Neighbourhood Fund and the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative.

Non-Domestic Rates

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point which will be liable for payment of the levy proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper. [283897]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has made no specific estimate of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point liable for payment of the proposed levy proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper.

Ofcom estimates that there are 612,037 fixed lines in Essex. As the analysis was not carried out at boundary level, rather constituency and county level, Ofcom does not have estimates for Castle Point. We have recognised that those on the lowest incomes might have difficulty paying the fixed line levy and that is why we have confirmed that those on social telephony schemes will be exempt. The social telephony schemes are available to those on income support, income-based Job Seeker's Allowance Employment Support Allowance (income rated) or Guaranteed Pensions Credit and should be an accurate indication of ability to pay.

North West Regional Development Agency: Finance

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to which projects in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency the North West Regional Development Agency has provided funding in the last five years. [287977]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

Name	*Description*	*Total NWDA investment (£)*
SFI Grants to Local Businesses	SFI grants to local businesses	587,036

Name	Description	Total NWDA investment (£)
Trimpell Tip Middleton Wood Ph1	Environmental improvement works to reclaim a former industrial site and tip at Trimpell Tip Middleton Wood	580,368
Midland Hotel, Morecambe	Redevelopment of Midland Hotel, Morecambe	4,070,523
The Whoop Hall, Burrow, Kirkby Lonsdale	Refurbishment of redundant rooms to create four letting bedrooms	6,221
Clawthorpe Hall, Carnforth	Conversion of part of Clawthorpe Hall to create offices and workspace units	63,300
Carnforth Market Town: Winter Promotion Scheme	Partnership launch event and retail promotion of Carnforth retail centre	42,667
St. Martins College Arts Campus: Feasibility study	Feasibility of development of a new campus, located in Morecambe, which will specialise in the Arts	28,964
Lancaster Vision Strengthening Morecambe's West End Retail Core	A number of public realm improvements to Yorkshire Street, Heysham Road, West Street and Regent Road, Morecambe	20,000
Winter Gardens Morecambe	Feasibility work only to allow for HLF bid	15,000
Winter Gardens, Morecambe	Detailed Planning Stage—Various technical reports to support funding applications	298,381
Seaside Square: site clearance	Site clearance and improvements to land adjacent to the Midland hotel	226,253

Offical Visits: Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288924]

Mr. McFadden: No BIS Ministers are planning to visit Glasgow this summer.

Overseas Trade: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the extent of UK commercial operations in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in the last five years. [287152]

Ian Lucas: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not hold information on UK commercial operations in Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether UK Trade and Investment has provided any *(a)* financial assistance and *(b)* advice to UK companies trading with or investing in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in the last 12 months. [287153]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment has not provided financial assistance or advice to UK companies within the last 12 months wishing to trade with or invest in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will commission research into the level of investment in the UK by *(a)* companies owned by Israeli settlers in the occupied Palestinian territory and *(b)* companies located in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory. [287161]

Ian Lucas: The Department has no plans to commission such research.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that UK companies operating in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories are aware of their obligations under *(a)* the Geneva conventions, *(b)* the Hague regulations and *(c)* other international law. [287163]

Ian Lucas: HM Government have not offered support or advice to UK companies operating in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. We consider all settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to be illegal under international law.

Parental Leave: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley who took (i) paternity and (ii) maternity leave in the most recent period for which figures are available. [288231]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on Maternity Rights and Mother's Employment Decisions (published 2007). The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby between February and May 2006.

Of mothers in paid work, all took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave.

Up-to-date estimates of fathers taking paternity leave are from the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. 93 per cent. of fathers took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the 93 per cent. who took some time off, 79 per cent. took paternity leave. (The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners).

The Department does not collect data on take-up of maternity and paternity leave at constituency level.

Parental Leave: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of people from low income families in Hemel Hempstead constituency who took *(a)* paternity and *(b)* maternity leave in the most recent period for which figures are available. [287864]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on Maternity Rights and Mother's Employment Decisions (published 2007). The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby between February and May 2006.

Of mothers in paid work, all took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave.

Up-to-date estimates of fathers taking paternity leave are from the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. 93 per cent. of fathers took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the 93 per cent. who took some time off, 79 per cent. took paternity leave. (The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners.)

The Department does not collect data on low income families so has not estimated the number of low income families which have taken up paternity or maternity leave.

The Department does not collect data on take-up of maternity and paternity leave at constituency level.

Parental Leave: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of people from low income households in Tamworth constituency who took *(a)* paternity and *(b)* maternity leave in the most recent period for which figures are available. [285919]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on Maternity Rights and Mother's Employment Decisions (published 2007). The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby between February and May 2006.

Of mothers in paid work, all took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave.

Up-to-date estimates of fathers taking paternity leave are from the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. 93 per cent. of fathers took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the 93 per cent. who took some time off, 79 per cent. took paternity leave (the survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners).

The Department does not collect data on low income families so has not estimated the number of low income families which have taken up paternity or maternity leave. The Department does not collect data on take-up of maternity and paternity leave at constituency level.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs plans to respond to question 245130, tabled by the hon. Member for Torbay on 17 December 2008, on correspondence on sales of replica hand grenades. [271616]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* I am responding to the hon. Member today.

Pleural Plaques

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department made of its potential liabilities arising from compensation claims from those with pleural plaques in advance of the House of Lords judgment on pleural plaques compensation of October 2007. [284308]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (then the Department for Trade and Industry) had estimated potential liabilities of £22.5 million in relation to British Shipbuilder-related cases of plural plaques. This was shown in the Department's Resource Accounts 2006-07 as a contingent liability.

Post Offices

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post office branches have closed in each network change plan area following adoption of the network change plan for that area. [288206]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post office branches there were in Nottinghamshire in each of the last 30 years. [286831]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Post Office branches in each constituency in Wales have closed in each year since 1997; and how many such branches have been replaced by Outreach services. [288865]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in each constituency in Wales who lived further than two kilometres from a post office in each of the last five years. [288873]

Mr. McFadden: Compliance with the access criteria is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postal Services

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Royal Mail post boxes are located by reference to a *(a)* postcode and *(b)* grid reference. [284605]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive, Adam Crozier, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be place in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the quality of postal services in remote rural areas compared to those in towns and cities. [286410]

Mr. McFadden: Postcomm, the industry regulator, monitors Royal Mail's quality of service performance in all postcode areas on a quarterly basis. Postcomm also commissions an annual survey of residential and small and medium-sized enterprise customers, which involves asking questions of customers in rural and deep rural areas about their use of mail services and how satisfied they are as senders and recipients of mail.

In the latest 2008 survey, all respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with Royal Mail on a scale of one to 10 (10 representing extremely satisfied and one extremely dissatisfied). The total sample gave Royal Mail a mean score of 8.02. A breakdown of the sample showed that deep rural customers gave Royal Mail a higher mean score of 8.47.

More information can be found on Postcomm's website:

http://www.psc.gov.uk/about-the-mail-market/customer-needs-survey.html

Publicity: Finance

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills spent on management of its corporate identity. [289080]

Mr. McFadden: In 2007-08 the Department spent an estimated £38,759.49 on managing its corporate identity. This includes development of the logo, branding guidelines, signposts, display panels and stationery.

Redundancy

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employers in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point sought advice on redundancy issues from his Department in (i) the latest period for which figures are available and (ii) the same period 12 months previously. [284951]

Mr. McFadden: Employers are able to seek advice on redundancy issues from my Department via the Business Link helpline and the website, the ACAS helpline and the Redundancy payments Service helpline. The available figures are set out in the following table, except for calls to the Redundancy Payments Service helpline, which are not categorised or recorded by group:

ACAS helpline	*May 2008*[1]	*May 2009*
Percentage of total calls from employers that were about redundancy issues.	19.9	27.2
Business Link Helpline	[2]—	[2]—
Business Link	April 2008	April 2009
Guidance	[3]28,050	[3]68,740
Redundancy tool	2,487	4,004
Redundancy calculator	[2]—	39,474

1 Relates to two weeks only, due to the introduction of new technology
2 No data available
3 Visits
Note:
Project began in Sept 2008

Regulation

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the 106 regulatory conflicts identified by the Better Regulation Executive in the last financial year have been resolved; and what timetable has been set for resolving the remainder. [285864]

Ian Lucas: 106 of the 270 suggestions received on the Government's better regulation website

www.betterregulation.gov.uk

in 2008-09 were classified by the members of the public submitting the ideas as involving a "conflict in regulations". On close examination these may, or may not, involve actual regulatory conflicts.

Each idea submitted is considered individually by the relevant Government Department or Departments and an official response is sent to the originator and published on the website within 90 days. Data are not held centrally on which of the ideas classified by the originators as regulatory conflicts are actual regulatory conflicts and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Mail

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future ownership of Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [284702]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* Market conditions have made it impossible to conclude the process to identify a partner on terms that we can be confident would secure value for the taxpayer.

There is therefore no prospect in current circumstances of achieving the objectives of the Postal Services Bill. When market conditions change we will return to the issue.

We remain convinced that Hooper's combined package offers the best chance of securing the universal postal service while protecting Royal Mail pensions.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Electoral Commission's publication of registered donations to political parties in the first quarter of 2009, for what reason Royal Mail donated £3,000 to the Labour Party. [287357]

Mr. McFadden: This is a matter for Royal Mail but I understand from the company that as a part of its commercial activities, it has, over the last 12 months, made donations to all the major political parties in the form of sponsorship of receptions at their Scottish conferences.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the working practices of the Royal Mail with specific reference to *(a)* their use of roads in rural and semi-rural areas, *(b)* access for vehicles to assist delivery, *(c)* payment of overtime and *(d)* arrangements to cover sick leave. [288023]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Royal Mail working practices are operational matters for Royal Mail. My Department has not received specific representations on these issues.

Science and Technology Facilities Council: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons the Science and Technology Facilities Council is *(a)* experiencing a budgetary shortfall and *(b)* planning a programme of funding delays and reductions for 2009-10. [278772]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The science and technology facilities council continually adjusts and reprioritises its funding, for example to cover the adverse effect of exchange rate fluctuations on the level of its subscriptions to international organisations.

The STFC recently carried out such an exercise; its press notice of 25 June sets out the outcome of its most recent process of prioritisation.

Scientists: International Cooperation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government plan to take to use UK scientific expertise in support of the recommendation for a co-ordinated approach in the field of global weapons of mass destruction knowledge, proliferation and scientist engagements in the L'Aquila declaration of 9 July 2009. [287537]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The Government contributed to and fully endorse the announcement made by the G8 at L'Aquila. The UK's commitment to the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (launched at the G8 summit at Kananaskis in June 2002) is delivered by the UK's Global Threat Reduction Programme (GTRP). The Foreign and Commonwealth Office hold the overall policy lead for GTRP, but the nuclear and radiological components of the programme are managed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). DECC's portfolio of GTRP programmes includes the Closed Nuclear Cities Partnership, which provided assistance to address the knowledge proliferation risks posed by unemployed or under-employed nuclear weapons scientists and technicians in closed nuclear cities in Russia and various Institutes of Nuclear Physics in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Georgia and Belarus.

This UK collaborative programme draws on UK scientific and technical expertise in both the public and private sector and provides:

finance for commercial civil sector projects;

training for personnel including study tours to share the UK's experiences of nuclear industry, defence industry downsizing and restructuring of Government funded laboratories to commercialise research and development and create "spin-out" businesses;

assistance in the establishment of commercial businesses with Russian etc. and Western foreign enterprises;

support to business development agencies and commercialisation units for sustainable economic development in the Closed Nuclear Cities and various Institutes of Nuclear Physics.

The Ministry of Defence, which manages the chemical and biological parts of GTRP, has a small but developing programme of redirection and engagement in the biological sciences in Former Soviet Union countries and elsewhere which engages world class UK scientific expertise from the Health Protection Agency, Veterinary Laboratory Agency, Food and Environment Research Agency and other such bodies.

Further details of these programmes are contained in the Global Threat Reduction Programme Annual Report which is available in the House Library and available from:

http://www.berr.gov.uk./energy/non-proliferation/global-threat-reduction/index.html

Small Businesses: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department has offered to small businesses in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire during the economic downturn. [270234]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to ensuring that a comprehensive range of assistance is available to businesses affected by the economic downturn. The support available includes a package of schemes to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs of small businesses under the Real Help for Business campaign. This includes Government guaranteed lending under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme as well as loan funding from the Advantage Transition Bridge Fund which is administered by Advantage West Midlands (AWM). AWM also administers other schemes providing

financial support for eligible firms including the Grant for Business Investment and the Grant for Research and Development.

Details of funding provided to businesses in Tamworth and Staffordshire under national initiatives are not available. Financial support provided to businesses in Staffordshire by AWM over the last six months is as follows:

(i) Eight businesses have received offers of Grant for Business Investment totalling £564,671;

(ii) Three businesses have received offers of Grant for Research and Development totalling £327,880;

(iii) 11 businesses have received loans from Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) totalling £295,000;

(iv) Six businesses have received offers of loans totalling £510,000 from the Advantage Transition Bridge Fund;

(v) Four businesses have received investment from the region's venture capital funds totalling £727,060.

These figures include £75,000 CDFI funding for three businesses in Tamworth and £100,000 from venture capital funds for one business in the town.

Companies can also receive advice including free business Health Checks from Business Link. The Health Check looks at the whole of a business operation including strategy, markets, productivity, skills and finance.

In the year to March 2009 Business Link West Midlands provided the following support to businesses in Tamworth:

(i) In-depth reviews with 121 businesses and skills reviews with a further 58 businesses

(ii) Information support to 825 businesses

The support provided to businesses in the rest of Staffordshire in the year to March 2009 was as follows:

(i) In-depth business reviews with 1,753 businesses and skills reviews with a further 682 businesses.

(ii) information support to 9,167 businesses

Business Link also provided information about starting a business to 319 individuals in Tamworth and 3,035 in the rest of Staffordshire, helping 31 businesses in Tamworth and 396 in the rest of the county to start during the year.

Business Link has also run business clinics and credit crunch and other events throughout Staffordshire. UK Trade and Investment assistance with exporting is provided by through the Staffordshire International Trade Team based at the North Staffordshire Chamber.

Social Work: Higher Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* successful applicants there were for General Social Care Council-accredited social work degree courses in each of the last 10 years. [287254]

Mr. Lammy: Prior to 2005, parallel to the main UCAS system administering admissions for social work degrees, UCAS operated the Social Work Admissions System (SWAS), for entry on to diplomas in social work. Entry to diplomas in social work was last available for 2004 entry—these were replaced by three-year social work degree courses or two-year postgraduate diplomas. The admissions for the degrees and some postgraduate masters diplomas were absorbed into mainstream UCAS for 2005 entry. The figures in the table include applicants to full-time first degree courses only.

From 2002 entry, UCAS switched from using the Standard Academic Classification of Subjects (SCAS) to the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS).

The information is in the following table:

UK domiciled applicants and accepted applicants to full-time first degree social work courses in UK institutions 1998-2008

Academic year of entry	*Applicants*	*Accepts*
1998	5,852	1,782
1999	5,901	2,045
2000	5,938	2,180
2001	5,787	2,343
2002	5,766	2,458
(Change in coding of subjects)		
2003	7,443	3,184
2004	11,768	5,036
(SWAS merged with main UCAS system)		
2005	15,215	5,820
2006	15,720	6,152
2007	17,025	6,821
2008	16,828	7,308

Applicants data refers to applicants making at least one choice to a full-time first degree course in social work (applicants applying solely to higher national certificates, higher national diplomas, foundation degrees or postgraduate masters diplomas are not counted).

Accepted applicant data refers to applicants being accepted to a full-time first degree course in social work.

Spaceflight

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the merits of establishing a space agency for the UK; and what estimate he has made of *(a)* the likely cost and *(b)* the number of staff that would be required for the functioning of such an agency. [278671]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Minister for Science and Innovation has discussed with the British National Space Centre partnership to determine whether a formal assessment should be undertaken on the structure of BNSC. As a result, a public consultation on how UK civil space activities can best be funded and managed will be launched formally on 22 July to take on board the wider views of stakeholders and the general public.

Strategic Investment Fund

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether *(a)* charities and *(b)* public sector bodies will be eligible for (i) grants and (ii) loans under the Strategic Investment Fund; [285034]

(2) when he expects to publish plans for the allocation of funding from the Strategic Investment Fund; [285035]

(3) what categories of businesses will be eligible for *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans under the Strategic Investment Fund. [285036]

Mr. McFadden: The aim of the Strategic Investment Fund is to help ensure that the UK remains well positioned to emerge from the economic downturn in a globally competitive position. Although the SIF it is not a fund

to which businesses, charities or public sector organisations can apply directly, BIS seeks and continues to welcome a broad engagement with business and other organisations to understand opportunities and challenges they face as well as the areas in which Government action can have a bigger impact.

Investments will be prioritised on where there are economic opportunities for UK-based businesses and where government action can make a real and beneficial impact. All proposals will be appraised to ensure that they have a clear rationale, that Government intervention will make a difference and that they provide good value for money in delivering longer term benefits to the UK wide economy. The project portfolio will seek to ensure that funds are complementing markets and that interventions are prioritised on the basis of scale of impact on the economy through addressing barriers to growth in areas of opportunity.

There are number of proposals currently being considered to help deliver the Government's strategy as set out in the 'Building Britain's Future - New Industry New Jobs' document published on 20 April 2009. Within the context of that document the Government will be bringing forward more detailed statements of policy in the weeks and months ahead. A number of these may draw on the Strategic Investment Fund.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria his Department will use to determine what spending under the Strategic Investment Fund will qualify as low-carbon spending. [285037]

Mr. McFadden: The first investments from the £250 million of funding allocated for low carbon economic development were set out in the Low Carbon Industrial Strategy on 15 July. All funding will be allocated, examining the costs and benefits, consistent with Green Book criteria.

Students: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged *(a)* 21 years and under and *(b)* over 21 years in each socio-economic group who were resident in (i) Test Valley borough and (ii) the City of Southampton attended university in each of the last five years. [288399]

Mr. Lammy: The number of full-time undergraduate enrolments at UK higher education institutions from Test Valley census district is given in table 1, and from Southampton local authority in table 2. Enrolments are given by socio-economic classification and by age group (under 21 and 21 and over). Socio-economic class information is not available for part time higher education students.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2010.

Table 1: Full-time undergraduate enrolments from the Test Valley census district[1] by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions, academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Socio-economic classification	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	290	15	380	65	370	115	400	125	420	140
Lower managerial and professional occupations	240	25	335	70	330	120	340	120	350	115
Intermediate occupations	135	25	190	50	180	65	180	65	175	70
Small employers and own account workers	35	10	60	20	75	20	75	25	65	30
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	30	5	35	10	40	15	50	15	45	20
Semi-routine occupations	45	20	75	35	85	40	85	45	70	50
Routine occupations	25	5	30	15	30	15	25	15	20	20
Never worked and long-term unemployed[3]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total known	805	105	1,105	270	1,115	395	1,150	405	1,145	445
Missing[4]	440	575	185	435	215	280	215	230	235	205

[1] The table does not include enrolments where the census district of the student cannot be established due to missing or home postcodes.
[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.
[3] Information is not comprehensively collected on the "Never worked and long-term unemployed" category for students. Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.
[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 2: Full-time undergraduate enrolments from the Southampton local authority[1] by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions, academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Socio-economic classification	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	185	30	255	70	275	105	260	125	265	125

Table 2: Full-time undergraduate enrolments from the Southampton local authority[1] by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions, academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Socio-economic classification	<21	21+	<21	21+	<21	21+	<21	21+	<21	21+
Lower managerial and professional occupations	255	85	320	170	325	195	320	205	330	205
Intermediate occupations	130	85	160	145	160	160	150	160	170	135
Small employers and own account workers	70	15	95	40	85	50	80	55	95	40
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	55	10	70	40	60	30	45	40	55	40
Semi-routine occupations	115	60	140	95	140	115	140	125	140	140
Routine occupations	45	25	60	30	75	40	85	50	85	70
Never worked and long-term unemployed[3]	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	5	5
Total known	860	310	1,100	595	1,130	695	1,085	760	1,150	755
Missing[4]	490	1,150	285	875	405	735	385	765	355	710

[1] The table does not include enrolments where the census district of the student cannot be established due to missing or home postcodes.
[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.
[3] Information is not comprehensively collected on the "Never worked and long-term unemployed" category for students. Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.
[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated..

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Students: Housing

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students lived at home while studying in the most recent year for which figures were available. [287830]

Ian Lucas: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) shows that, in the academic year 2007-08, 267,965 UK domiciled full-time students enrolled at UK Higher Education Institutions lived at a parental or guardian home while studying.

In total there were 1,201,975 UK domiciled full-time students enrolled at UK Higher Education Institutions in 2007-08. Therefore, 22 per cent. of full-time students lived at a parental or guardian home while studying.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many career development loans were taken out for study *(a)* in each subject area and *(b)* at each level of education in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [287028]

Kevin Brennan: Regular management information collected by the Learning and Skills Council on learners taking out career development loans is based on information provided by the high street banks that offer the loans. This classifies loan applications by courses linked to specific sectors, but not by specific subject areas or levels. Data classifying loan applications by subject area and level are available periodically through snapshot evaluation activity. Currently available evaluation does not cover the last three years.

Telephones

Mr. Breed: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to combat the practice of moving a telephone subscriber's account from one service provider to another without the subscriber's authorisation; and if he will make a statement. [281715]

Mr. McFadden: Responsibility for mis-selling lies with the Office of Communications (Ofcom) which is committed to preventing problems related to mis-selling and slamming (where a telephone service is switched to another provider without the customer's knowledge or consent), and has put various safeguards in place to protect consumers from such risks.

In May 2005 Ofcom introduced new rules to combat slamming, which require all providers of fixed-line telecommunications services to residential consumers and small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to establish, and comply with, a sales and marketing code of practice consistent with Ofcom guidelines. Compliance with the codes is enforceable by Ofcom under the Communications Act 2003 and they can require telecoms providers to remedy the consequences of any breach and can ultimately levy a financial penalty (up to 10 per cent. of relevant turnover) if they do not do so.

In June 2006 Ofcom imposed the maximum financial penalty of 10 per cent. of relevant turnover on Just Telecomms UK Ltd (trading as Lo-Rate Telecom). This decision reflected the serious nature of the contravention. In addition to imposing a financial penalty, Ofcom is also requiring this company to:

pay refunds to affected customers where appropriate;

provide weekly reports to Ofcom on customer contact and refunds paid; and

fully co-operate with, and comply with the adjudications of, the Telecommunications Ombudsman scheme (Otelo).

Ofcom also monitors complaints received through its Advisory Team concerning instances of slamming and they will take action against providers who persistently act contrary to the guidelines.

There are a number of safeguards built into the switching process. Customers must be sent a 'notification of transfer' letter informing them that the switch is happening. There is a 10 day switchover period during which time the customer is able to stop the order going ahead. Typically the customer will receive two letters during the switchover period—one from both their losing and gaining telephone companies.

Ofcom is currently consulting on proposals to strengthen the existing safeguards in this area in order to ensure better protection for consumers and to enable it to take more effective action against providers that break the rules. The consultation closed at the end of May and Ofcom is now reviewing the responses, and expects to publish a statement later in the year.

Train to Gain Programme: Expenditure

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent under the Train to Gain scheme in each year of its operation in each sector of the economy as classified by Sector Skills Council. [284246]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* Train to Gain is a service for employers which puts buying power and information in their hands, giving them better access to a wider range of opportunities for improving the skills of their employees and the productivity of their business. Evaluations show that a wide spread of industry sectors are accessing the service.

The expenditure for Train to Gain is an operational matter for the national Learning and Skills Council (LSC). They do not generally break down information on Train to Gain spend by Sector Skills Council (SSC). However, they are able to provide a breakdown of learner starts by sector and actual costs where possible. I have asked Geoff Russell, the LSC's chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the relevant information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Training: Disabled

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the budget of the Learning and Skills Council for 2009-10 will be used in the training of people with a learning disability. [260532]

Kevin Brennan: As announced in the LSC grant letter, Government investment strategy and LSC statement of priorities (published 18 November 2008), investment in participation for learners aged 16 and over is planned to increase to over £10 billion in 2009-10.

As set out in the same publication, the LSC are committed to continuing development of the provision and support available to learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This will help us realise the vision set out in the learning for living and work strategy that people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have access to, and experience of, post-16 learning that is equal to that experienced by their peers without learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

When accessing mainstream LSC-funded further education courses, learners have the option to self-declare as having a learning difficulty and/or disability. It is therefore possible to provide historical, but not projected, spend.

Total spend on self-declared learners was £874 million in 2006-07, and £923 million in 2007-08. This relates to funding for the programme costs of provision delivered through further education colleges. It does not include funding for provision delivered in the workplace, as data are not reported in this way.

In addition, there is a separate budget for specialist LDD provision. This funds learners with LDD learning in independent, specialist providers. For 2009-10, the budget for this provision will be £236 million.

Training: Trade Unions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what skills courses funded by his Department are provided by trade unions. [280080]

Mr. McFadden: Trade unions have not provided any skills courses funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of people aged 16 to 24 were not in education, employment or training in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in the first quarter of (i) 2001 and (ii) 2009. [283992]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 14 July 2009]:* Table 1 shows the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by region. These estimates are from the Quarter 1 Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Table 2 shows the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by Local Education Authority (LEA). The estimates for 2008 are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) which covers the period January to December, and the estimates for 2001 are from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS), the predecessor to the APS, which covers the period March 2001 to February 2002. Due to the small populations of local authorities, the LFS does not have large enough sample sizes to produce reliable estimates for geographies such as LEAs. Therefore we have used the latest APS (2008) which has a larger sample size, and have provided estimates for LEAs as estimates are too unreliable for smaller geographies. Please note that even for regions, sample sizes can be small and these estimates are subject to sampling variability. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand, and typical confidence intervals for these percentages are between 2 and 3 percentage points for regional estimates, and between 3 and 9 percentage points for local authority estimates.

Table 1: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by region

	Q1 2001		Q1 2009	
	NEET (number)	Percentage	NEET (number)	Percentage
England	671,000	13	935,000	16
North East	56,000	20	57,000	18
North West	113,000	16	156,000	18
Yorks and Humber	80,000	15	107,000	16
East Midlands	57,000	13	69,000	13
West Midlands	81,000	15	126,000	20
East of England	61,000	12	83,000	14
London	101,000	12	127,000	14
South East	76,000	10	130,000	14
South West	45,000	10	78,000	14

[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.
Base:
16 to 24 year olds, England
Source:
Quarter 1 Labour Force Survey

Table 2: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by local education authority

	Number		Percentage	
	2001[2]	2008	2001	2008
England	704,000	857,000	14	14
Barking and Dagenham	5,000	4,000	21	20
Barnet	3,000	7,000	9	19
Barnsley	5,000	5,000	21	19
Bath and North East Somerset	2,000	2,000	7	9
Bedfordshire	4,000	4,000	12	8
Bexley	3,000	3,000	13	14
Birmingham	25,000	29,000	22	20
Blackburn with Darwen	4,000	2,000	20	16
Blackpool	3,000	2,000	16	12
Bolton	4,000	4,000	12	12
Bournemouth	2,000	3,000	9	14
Bracknell Forest	2,000	2,000	14	13
Bradford	13,000	9,000	23	14
Brent	5,000	4,000	11	14
Brighton and Hove	3,000	4,000	9	12
Bristol	4,000	9,000	8	14
Bromley	3,000	5,000	13	16
Buckinghamshire	4,000	5,000	8	11
Bury	3,000	3,000	15	14
Calderdale	3,000	4,000	18	18
Cambridgeshire	8,000	8,000	14	11
Camden	3,000	3,000	15	10
Cheshire	10,000	9,000	15	13
Cornwall	6,000	5,000	13	10
Coventry	4,000	9,000	10	19
Croydon	5,000	6,000	14	16
Cumbria	6,000	2,000	12	5
Darlington	2,000	1,000	16	12
Derby	4,000	4,000	15	13

Table 2: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by local education authority

	Number		Percentage	
	2001[2]	2008	2001	2008
Derbyshire	11,000	10,000	15	14
Devon	6,000	5,000	12	6
Doncaster	6,000	8,000	19	22
Dorset	4,000	3,000	11	8
Dudley	7,000	8,000	18	19
Durham	8,000	11,000	17	17
Ealing	5,000	5,000	15	13
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,000	5,000	11	14
East Sussex	4,000	8,000	10	17
Enfield	3,000	3,000	11	12
Essex	13,000	21,000	11	14
Gateshead	3,000	4,000	16	21
Gloucestershire	6,000	6,000	10	10
Greenwich	4,000	4,000	15	16
Hackney	8,000	5,000	29	20
Halton	4,000	3,000	27	23
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,000	2,000	10	12
Hampshire	9,000	16,000	8	11
Haringey	6,000	6,000	19	20
Harrow	2,000	3,000	9	13
Hartlepool	3,000	3,000	26	27
Havering	3,000	2,000	12	7
Herefordshire	1,000	2,000	8	12
Hertfordshire	9,000	14,000	9	13
Hillingdon	3,000	4,000	11	15
Hounslow	3,000	6,000	10	22
Isle of Wight	2,000	2,000	17	18
Islington	5,000	3,000	20	14
Kensington and Chelsea	2,000	3,000	13	16
Kent	17,000	25,000	14	17
Kingston upon Hull	8,000	8,000	23	18
Kingston upon Thames	1,000	2,000	7	11
Kirklees	7,000	8,000	15	19
Knowsley	4,000	5,000	25	20
Lambeth	3,000	4,000	8	12
Lancashire	14,000	21,000	13	14
Leeds	9,000	20,000	10	15
Leicester	5,000	9,000	13	18
Leicestershire	5,000	9,000	8	14
Lewisham	5,000	5,000	16	19
Lincolnshire	7,000	10,000	12	13
Liverpool	9,000	10,000	17	15
Luton	4,000	4,000	14	16
Manchester	11,000	13,000	17	16
Medway	4,000	5,000	14	18
Merton	1,000	3,000	7	15
Middlesbrough	3,000	5,000	21	24
Milton Keynes	2,000	2,000	8	9
Newcastle upon Tyne	5,000	6,000	16	10
Newham	9,000	4,000	22	12
Norfolk	9,000	15,000	13	17
North East Lincolnshire	4,000	4,000	21	21
North Lincolnshire	2,000	2,000	15	15

Table 2: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by local education authority

	Number		Percentage	
	2001[2]	2008	2001	2008
North Somerset	2,000	2,000	10	7
North Tyneside	5,000	4,000	22	20
North Yorkshire	4,000	7,000	8	12
Northamptonshire	7,000	12,000	11	14
Northumberland	5,000	4,000	17	11
Nottingham	6,000	7,000	16	12
Nottinghamshire	10,000	12,000	14	14
Oldham	5,000	7,000	21	25
Oxfordshire	6,000	6,000	10	8
Peterborough	3,000	4,000	16	20
Plymouth	5,000	3,000	19	8
Poole	2,000	2,000	12	12
Portsmouth	3,000	3,000	10	8
Reading	3,000	2,000	13	11
Redbridge	5,000	4,000	18	14
Redcar and Cleveland	4,000	4,000	25	27
Richmond upon Thames	1,000	2,000	10	12
Rochdale	4,000	3,000	18	14
Rotherham	5,000	7,000	18	24
Rutland	1,000	*	14	9
Salford	7,000	6,000	22	22
Sandwell	5,000	9,000	17	26
Sefton	4,000	7,000	14	19
Sheffield	8,000	13,000	14	16
Shropshire	3,000	3,000	11	10
Slough	3,000	2,000	12	14
Solihull	3,000	4,000	11	18
Somerset	3,000	7,000	6	13
South Gloucestershire	1,000	2,000	6	7
South Tyneside	4,000	3,000	20	16
Southampton	3,000	4,000	9	10
Southend on Sea	3,000	3,000	19	20
Southwark	5,000	6,000	19	16
St Helens	2,000	4,000	12	21
Staffordshire	6,000	11,000	8	11
Stockport	2,000	4,000	10	13
Stockton-on-Tees	2,000	4,000	13	18
Stoke-on-Trent	5,000	5,000	15	19
Suffolk	10,000	11,000	16	16
Sunderland	7,000	6,000	21	15
Surrey	9,000	8,000	9	8
Sutton	2,000	1,000	8	8
Swindon	2,000	3,000	9	16
Tameside	3,000	6,000	14	23
Telford and Wrekin	2,000	3,000	14	15
Thurrock	2,000	3,000	12	17
Torbay	2,000	2,000	17	12
Tower Hamlets	9,000	7,000	22	22
Trafford	3,000	3,000	11	13
Wakefield	5,000	7,000	15	16
Walsall	5,000	5,000	17	17
Waltham Forest	5,000	6,000	18	18
Wandsworth	4,000	3,000	13	12
Warrington	3,000	3,000	17	14
Warwickshire	5,000	6,000	11	13
West Berkshire	1,000	1,000	7	9
West Sussex	4,000	8,000	6	11
Westminster	4,000	5,000	13	15
Wigan	6,000	5,000	18	13
Wiltshire	2,000	7,000	4	15
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,000	1,000	11	10
Wirral	4,000	6,000	13	20
Wokingham	2,000	2,000	11	11
Wolverhampton	6,000	9,000	20	29
Worcestershire	4,000	5,000	10	8
York	2,000	1,000	9	4

[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.
[2] 2001 data is from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey, the predecessor to the APS.
Base:
16 to 24 year olds, England
Source:
2001 Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey and 2008 Annual Population Survey.
* Sample size too small so number suppressed.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 658W, on the Union Modernisation Fund: audit, which accountancy firms have undertaken audits on union modernisation fund profits since the date of that Answer; [288631]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each evaluation report of the Union Modernisation Fund produced by his Department in conjunction with Leeds University Business School; [288668]

(3) for what reason no minutes are kept of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board meetings; [288672]

(4) what declaration of past and present union activity and membership each current member of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board has made; [288676]

(5) what related party transactions have been declared by each of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board members; [288677]

(6) if he will place in the Library a copy of the protocol adopted by the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board on conflicts of interest. [288678]

Mr. McFadden: I shall take the answers together and in order.

Since my response to the hon. Member for Chichester on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 658W, the additional companies listed have undertaken reports to confirm claims and expenditure from the Union Modernisation Fund.

Naylor Wintersgill
Knox Cropper
H K Jenkins FCCA
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP
Nabarro

Brooks Green
UHY Hacker Young
RSM Bentley Jennison

The independent accountants' reports have confirmed that none of the project costs claimed have been calculated to include any profit.

A copy of the final evaluation report of the first round of the Union Modernisation Fund produced by my Department in conjunction with Leeds University Business School will be published shortly and placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies of the two interim evaluations of the first round are available on the Department's website, and we will ensure that they are available from the Libraries.

An action record of decisions is taken at Supervisory Board meetings in line with the Board's terms of reference and these are communicated to Ministers by the Board's secretariat and to the applicants of all bids.

Members of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board are selected by open competition in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies, with support from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. As part of that appointment process, applicants must declare relevant experience and give details of potential conflicts of interest. All appointment letters set out the Nolan Principles of Public Life, which are the foundations of the public appointments process and provide guidance on the standards expected of public appointees. All members declare their political activities at the time of application to the Board. Board members are reminded of the need to observe the rules on conflict of interest when assessing bids.

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum proportion of the UK Atomic Energy Authority Ltd which will remain under Government control following the completion of a sale of a majority stake. [285838]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no 'minimum or maximum' estimation of the proportion of the share capital of UKAEA Ltd. which will remain under Government control following a sale process. Up to 100 per cent. of UKAEA Ltd.'s share capital has been offered for sale, but bidders have been permitted to bid for a lower proportion if they believed that this would result in a more attractive proposition for HMG.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* his predecessors have received from the management of the UK Atomic Energy Authority Ltd in favour of a sale of all or part of the business since 1997; on what dates such representations were received; and what factors were taken into account in determining the response to such representations. [285839]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The process for the sale of the business has been approved by the UK Atomic Energy Authority's Board in consultation with its financial adviser and UKAEA Ltd.'s management. The recommendation has been approved by the Secretary of State after taking into account key areas of the board's consideration.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect on competition in nuclear site decommissioning of the sale of a stake in the UK Atomic Energy Authority Ltd. [285840]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The introduction of private capital is expected to strengthen UKAEA Ltd. financially as well as permitting it to recruit and retain appropriate skills and expertise. This should allow it to compete more effectively within the nuclear site decommissioning market. This, in turn, is expected to benefit the competitive dynamics of the UK nuclear decommissioning market as a whole.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which companies have registered an interest in purchasing a stake in the UK Atomic Energy Authority Ltd. [286011]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is commercially sensitive during a live sale process.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what account has been taken of the merits of maintaining an international centre of nuclear expertise in the UK in deciding on the future of UKAEA Ltd. [286908]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The skills and nuclear expertise included within UKAEA Ltd. will be enhanced by private sector ownership. UKAEA Ltd. is one of several service providers of nuclear decommissioning services to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The NDA contracts with a broad rangeof UK and international businesses to manage decommissioning more effectively at its various sites. Contracts are awarded by the NDA by way of a competitive process.

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the reasons are for his decision to sell a majority stake in UKAEA Ltd; and what criteria he will apply to determine the suitability of potential purchasers. [285853]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The decision to sell UKAEA has been motivated by the objective of supporting the continuity of UKAEA Ltd's operations. A sale is expected to provide UKAEA Ltd. with access to the resources that it requires to participate effectively in the forthcoming Nuclear Decommissioning Authority competitions. The sale process has been opened to all categories of bidder who, inter alia, will need to satisfy the Secretary of State and the NDA with regard to their suitability as an experienced and responsible future owner of the business.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the capital value of the assets of UKAEA Ltd was in each of the last five years. [285854]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* UKAEA Ltd. was dormant until 1 April 2008. Audited statutory figures are not yet available for 2008-09.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what net financial contributions have been made by UKAEA Ltd to *(a)* the UK Atomic Authority and *(b)* the Exchequer in each year since 1997; and what the Government's most recent estimate of future such contributions in the next three years was prior to the decision to sell a majority stake in UKAEA Ltd. [285860]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* UKAEA Ltd. was dormant until 1 April 2008 hence there were no financial contributions from UKAEA Ltd to either the UK Atomic Authority or the Exchequer.

Although UKAEA Ltd. is forecast to be profitable for the three-year period following the decision to sell, distributions are a matter for the board of the UK Atomic Energy Authority to propose based on their assessment of the overall funding requirements for the authority as a whole.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information the companies which have registered an interest in purchasing a stake in UKAEA Ltd have communicated to his Department in respect of their expertise in nuclear technology. [286856]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All final round bidders for UKAEA Ltd. have been asked to provide a detailed offer. As part of this, they will need to respond to a data request to fully clarify their operating credentials. The precise nature of the questions contained in the data request and the information that is ultimately received from interested parties is commercially sensitive.

Vehicle Scrappage Scheme

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps have been taken to prevent the destruction of classic cars under the vehicle scrappage scheme. [288601]

Ian Lucas: It is for the owners of a vehicle to decide what they wish to do with their own property.

David Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many vehicles of each *(a)* age and *(b)* make had been scrapped under his Department's scrappage scheme by the latest date for which figures are available. [288684]

Ian Lucas: Government have approved or made payments for 29,542 completed transactions (a requirement of which is that a Certificate of Destruction on the old car has been obtained before the claim is made) and further claims are in the pipeline. BIS does not directly collect data on the age of vehicles scrapped, although they must have been registered in the UK before 31 August 1999. We will be publishing information on the makes of vehicles scrapped in due course.

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which 10 vocational training courses funded by his Department had the lowest participant job entry rate after completion in the last 12 months. [287740]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the job entry rate for vocational courses is not available.

Our vocational qualification reforms are creating a more flexible qualifications and skills system whereby qualifications are closely aligned to the real needs of employers and employers have a real say in what qualifications are needed across occupational areas. Sector skills councils (SSCs) have a key role in developing vocational qualifications based on their sector's needs and will only approve qualifications that fit their skills requirements and, in future, the skills funding agency will only fund those qualifications which SSCs advise them to. Allowing and encouraging employers to get their training accredited onto the new qualifications and credit framework also ensures demand-led qualifications based on employers needs.

Information on the number of awards of national vocational qualifications/Scottish vocational qualifications and vocationally related qualification (VRQs) is published in a statistical first release, including information on the subjects with the largest volume of awards. Tables 1 and 2 as follow provide information on the number of NVQ/SVQ and VRQ awards by sector subject area.

Table 1: NVQ/SVQ awards by sector subject area, 2007-08, coverage: UK

Sector subject area	*Total awards (000s)*
Total UK awards	773.2
Health, public services and care	179.2
Science and mathematics	[1] —
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	15.3
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	104.8
Construction, planning and the built environment	106.5
Information and communication technology	28.7
Retail and commercial enterprise	164.0
Leisure, travel and tourism	25.0
Arts, media and publishing	1.6
Languages, literature and culture	2.2
Education and training	16.0
Preparation for life and work	1.2
Business, administration and law	128.5

[1] Less than 1,000

Note:
Numbers may not add up to total due to rounding.

Source:
NISVQ

Table 2: VRQ Awards (as reported by participating awarding bodies) by sector subject area, 2007-08, coverage: UK

	All VRQ Awards (000s)
Sector subject area	*Total awards*
Total UK Awards	1,674.2
Health, public services and care	298.7

Table 2: VRQ Awards (as reported by participating awarding bodies) by sector subject area, 2007-08, coverage: UK

Sector subject area	All VRQ Awards (000s) Total awards
Science and mathematics	26.2
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	27.3
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	188.1
Construction, planning and the built environment	127.6
Information and communication technology	292.0
Retail and commercial enterprise	127.7
Leisure, travel and tourism	225.2
Arts, media and publishing	119.4
History, philosophy and theology	[1]
Social Sciences	[1]
Languages, literature and culture	18.8
Education and training	32.4
Preparation for life and work	42.9
Business, administration and law	147.7

Sector subject area	Full VRQ awards (000s) Total awards
Total UK awards	390.7
Health, public services and care	58.4
Science and mathematics	10.2
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	12.0
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	53.5
Construction, planning and the built environment	85.6
Information and communication technology	30.6
Retail and commercial enterprise	8.4
Leisure, travel and tourism	43.2
Arts, media and publishing	62.5
Preparation for life and work	1.3
Business, administration and law	25.1

[1] Less than 1,000

Notes:
1. Numbers may not add up to total due to rounding.
2. Numbers of awards are only for those awarding bodies submitting VRQ data to NISVQ.

Source:
NISVQ

Wind Power

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the *(a)* number of British companies which build wind turbines and *(b)* size of the workforce of each such company. [278379]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The recent Innovas (2009) report for BIS, "Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services: an industry analysis", estimated the number of companies, both British and foreign-owned, in the UK wind sector in the financial year 2007-08 at around 5,800. The definition of this sector includes the manufacture of wind turbines, but also whole wind farm systems and their associated supply chains.

The same report estimates UK wind sector employment in 2007-08 at around 87,000. This would imply an average of 15 workers per company across the whole wind sector.

Separate estimates of the number of and employment in British-owned companies building wind turbines are not available.

Working Hours

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there are restrictions on the number of hours a person who is *(a)* self-employed and *(b)* a chief executive officer of a major (i) public body and (ii) private corporation may work. [287593]

Mr. McFadden: The Working Time Regulations 1998, which govern the maximum number of hours a person may work, apply to individuals who are considered to be "workers" as defined in the regulations. The self employed, who are in business on their own account, are not usually regarded as "workers" as they are in effect their own boss. There are specific exemptions from certain provisions in the regulations for managing executives or other persons with autonomous decision-taking powers.

An individual's contract with a public or private corporation will determine if that person is covered by the regulations.

Working Hours: Members

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether EU Working Time Directive restrictions on working hours apply to hon. Members when *(a)* acting as constituency Members and *(b)* undertaking duties in the House. [287591]

Mr. McFadden: The regulations implementing the Working Time Directive in the UK apply to "workers". A "worker" is someone who works under a contract of employment or a contract to perform personally any work or services for another party whose status is not that of a client or customer. Holders of political and elected office are not regarded as "workers" and are therefore not covered by the regulations.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there is a restriction on the number of hours an hon. Member may work in their capacity as *(a)* a hon. Member and *(b)* a Minister. [287592]

Mr. McFadden: The Working Time Regulations 1998, which govern the maximum number of hours a person may work, apply to individuals who are considered to be "workers" as defined in the regulations.

A "worker" is someone who works under a contract of employment or a contract to perform personally any work or services for another party whose status is not that of a client or customer. Holders of political and elected office are not regarded as "workers" and are therefore not covered by the regulations.

Working Hours: Ministers

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether EU Working Time Directive restrictions on working hours apply to Ministers in the performance of their ministerial duties. [287590]

Mr. McFadden: The regulations implementing the Working Time Directive in the UK apply to "workers". A "worker" is someone who works under a contract of employment or a contract to perform personally any work or services for another party whose status is not that of a client or customer. Holders of political and elected office are not regarded as "workers" and are therefore not covered by the regulations.

WorldSkills Calgary 2009

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials his Department plans to send to WorldSkills Calgary 2009. [285527]

Kevin Brennan: The Department will be sending one official to the WorldSkills Calgary 2009 event.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question 280003, tabled on 10 June 2009, on the Automotive Assistance Programme. [281283]

Ian Lucas: I replied to the hon. Member on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 870W.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the reasons are for the time taken to answer question 245130, tabled on 15 December 2008, on replies to correspondence. [286350]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* I am responding to the hon. Member today.

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to provide a substantive answer to question 284440, on national skills academies, tabled on 1 July 2009. [287131]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 198W.

Yes Loans

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 422W, on Yes Loans, when he expects a decision to be made on the renewal of the consumer credit licence for Yes Loans. [285460]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of Fair Trading carried out a detailed investigation into Yes Loans and its business practices and on 13 July 2009 it imposed multiple requirements on the company to change its behaviour and to cease certain business practices. Any single failure to comply with these requirements, now or in the future, can result in a fine of up to £50,000 per occasion.

Following the OFT's requirements, which were imposed upon the company, a renewed credit licence will be issued in due course. The exact timing for reissuing Yes Loans licence is a matter for the OFT.

Written Answers to Questions

The following Justice answers were received for publication on Monday 20 July 2009

JUSTICE

Youth Justice Board: Consultants

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many consultants the Youth Justice Board has employed in each financial year since 2003-04; and how many such consultants were paid *(a)* between £10,000 and £100,000, *(b)* between £100,000 and £200,000, *(c)* between £200,000 and £300,000 and *(d)* over £300,000 in each such year. [282003]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board does not normally hire individual "consultants". If consultancy services are required for normal youth justice business, specific companies are procured to carry out defined pieces of work. The consultancy firm then decides how many staff they employ to deliver the work and the appropriate pay rates.

However, in specific specialist circumstances the YJB procure the services of named consultants to represent the YJB's interests in specialist matters, and to manage the delivery of specialist work, such as ICT. The table below shows the number of such consultants providing services to the YJB, per year and per amount received by these individuals.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
£10-100,000	27	27	16	28	69	59
£100-200,000	0	1	2	7	21	21
£200-300,000	0	0	1	1	1	1
£300,000+	0	0	0	0	0	1

Aylesbury Young Offender Institution

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many boys have been physically restrained in Aylesbury Young Offender Institution in each month since January 2009; and whether injuries were sustained by the young offender in each case. [286869]

Maria Eagle: Restraint is only ever to be used by staff as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

Because of violent and sometimes dangerous behaviour, there are occasions on which use of physical restraint is unavoidable. We must consider the interests and safety of everyone in the establishment—other young people, staff and visitors—as well as that of the young person whose behaviour is causing problems.

The number of incidents of control and restraint, together with the number and type of injuries sustained as a result, are set out in the table. The figures have been provided from records held at the establishment.

	Number of C and R incidents	*Number of injuries as a result of C and R*
January	12	1
February	22	1
March	29	1
April	23	2
May	22	5
June	17	0
Total	125	10

Complaints

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints the Office for Legal Complaints dealt with in the last 12 months. [287187]

Bridget Prentice: The Office for Legal Complaints has not considered any complaints in the past 12 months, as it is not as yet fully operational. Under current plans, this is expected to take place later in 2010. Until that time, complaints about the legal profession will continue to be handled by the professional bodies in the first instance with the Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman providing an appeal mechanism.

Convictions: Young Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 10 to 12, *(b)* 13 to 15, *(c)* 16 to 17 and *(d)* 18 to 21-year-olds were (i) convicted and (ii) issued with a caution for all offences in each police force area in each year since 1997. [286611]

Claire Ward: The number of persons found guilty at all courts and issued with a caution for all offences in England and Wales, by age group and police force area, 1997 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in tables that have been placed in the House Library.

From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These data are included in tables 5 to 8.

The Government's strategy and reforms on youth crime are working; the latest National Statistics on juvenile reoffending show that the level of juvenile reoffending is at its lowest since records for the frequency of reoffending began in 2000, with the juvenile reoffending rate down by almost a quarter between 2000 and 2007.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many facilities management contracts have been let by his Department in each of the last 12 years. [288374]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was formed in May 2007 by merging the National Offender Management Service from the Home Office with the Department of Constitutional Affairs and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform. Data in respect of the number of facilities management contracts were not therefore held centrally prior to this time, and were not subsequently held centrally prior to June 2009.

However, a data collection exercise which concluded in June 2009 has determined that a total of 227 contracts for managed, hard and soft facilities management services are in existence across the MoJ.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1662W, on departmental manpower, how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers were employed by his Department in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [285321]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was formed in May 2007. The number of press officers employed by the MoJ in 2007-08 (as at 31 March 2008) was 33. The number employed in 2008-09 (as at 31 March 2009) was 40. This includes a member of staff on maternity leave. The MoJ press office operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, dealing with all media relations for the department and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) from the international, national and regional media. The MoJ is one of the largest Departments in Government. It is right that the public know and understand the work of the MoJ and its agencies and how taxpayers' money is being spent. Communications, including the work of the press office, is an important element of this. The rise in the number of press officers is attributable to the need to increase the capability of the press office to deal with the expanded remit of the work undertaken by the MoJ, compared to its previous incarnations, and to fill vacancies.

Between April 2007 and July 2007, two special advisers were employed. These changed with the change of Secretary of State, so that between August 2007 and March 2008, two different special advisers were employed. The same two continued to be employed throughout 2008-09 and remain in post.

Departmental Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many breaches of security have been reported at *(a)* HM Courts Service, *(b)* the Land Registry, *(c)* the National Offender Management Service, *(d)* the National Archives, *(e)* the Office of the Public Guardian and *(f)* the Tribunals Service in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276934]

Mr. Straw: Ministry of Justice (MOJ) records as incidents any breach of security rules or events that have resulted in or had the potential to result in the loss of, damage to or harm to assets. The total number of centrally recorded security breaches/incidents occurring within the last five reporting years for the agencies/offices requested are broken down as follows:

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
HM Courts Service	744	940	1,010	641	295
Land Registry	77	82	76	92	77
National Offender Management Service	8,538	8,800	8,621	8,740	8,419
National Archives	0	0	1	1	1
Office of the Public Guardian	3	0	0	0	0
Tribunals Service	224	215	164	[1]	[1]

[1] Agency not created.

98 per cent. of the incidents occurred in prisons and courts. This needs to be put into the context of the challenges faced with work in the high-risk prison environment.

The Ministry of Justice is applying the Government's Security Policy Framework to effectively, efficiently and reliably control risks across its organisation.

This comprises the requirement for all areas to apply procedures for reporting security incidents robustly, including the identification and investigation of the departure, however minor, from all security procedures.

The outcome is an evidently effective security management regime which in 2008-09 saw the lowest number of escapes from prisons to date; abscond performance is good and improving.

Where incidents involve the inadvertent disclosure of personal data these include the requirement to involve managers and Senior Civil Servants within an hour of any potential disclosure being identified. The circumstances surrounding each potential incident are investigated and where appropriate disciplinary action is taken.

These figures differ from those provided by me in a written answer to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve) on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1327-28W. I will be writing to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield and will issue a corrected answer to be printed in the *Official Report*.

The figures in this answer include an additional 4,507 security incidents/breaches relating to operational breaches of security in prison establishments. These mostly relate to the smuggling of drugs into prisons.

Drugs misuse as measured by random mandatory drug testing has decreased by 63 per cent. since 1996-97, principally as a result of an effective offender management and prisoner support regime, combined with prison governors deploying a comprehensive range of robust security measures to detect contraband and prevent its importation into prisons.

Director of Offender Management

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the appointment of the Director of Offender Management in each region in England and Wales to be complete. [286582]

Maria Eagle: Appointments were made in eight of the nine regions in England and the one in Wales. The successful candidates took up post in late March and during April 2009.

There is currently an interim appointment in place in the north east. This post is due to be advertised in September with a view to filling it substantively by the end of the calendar year.

Drugs: Prisons

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what quantity of drugs of each type has been confiscated from prisoners in each prison in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286491]

Maria Eagle: To compile the data requested requires a lengthy and detailed interrogation of a National Offender Management Service (NOMS) database such that to answer this question would exceed the cost limit.

NOMS is currently part-way through the roll-out of Prison-NOMS Information System and this is due to be completed in 2010. Although this new system will not be updated with old data, any new drugs incidents in prisons will be entered onto it, meaning requests for information such as this will in future be possible to answer within the cost limit and with relative ease.

Fraud: Forgery

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* cautioned, *(c)* tried and *(d)* convicted for offences relating to fraud and forgery in each year since 1997. [286981]

Claire Ward: The number of persons cautioned, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for offences relating to fraud and forgery, in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the table.

The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Proceeded against and found guilty data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Information on the number of people who have been investigated for offences relating to fraud and forgery is not held by my Department.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The number of persons cautioned, proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts, for selected offences relating to fraud and forgery in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1,2,3,4,5,6]

	Cautioned	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
1997	7,156	24,114	17,006
1998	7,401	27,418	19,753
1999	7,204	28,434	20,303
2000	6,180	26,881	19,222
2001	5,764	25,764	18,282
2002	5,335	25,014	18,141
2003	5,484	24,739	18,019
2004	6,033	23,552	18,140
2005	6,936	23,110	18,449
2006	8,024	22,705	18,186
2007	8,587	24,170	19,932

[1] The offence group of Fraud and Forgery includes 'Indictable only' and 'triable-either way offences', it does not include summary offences. 'Indictable only' are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be dealt with at the Crown Court. 'Triable-either-way offences' may be tried at either the Crown Court or at magistrates courts.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[4] Fraud and Forgery includes the following offence classes:
Fraud by Company Director etc.
False Accounting
Other Fraud
Bankruptcy Offence
Forgery etc. of Drug Prescription
Other Forgery etc.

[5] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[6] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces (police forces only for cautions though). As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
OCJR—E&A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

Grants

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many grants have been made by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform in the last 12 months; and what the total amount of those grants is. [287130]

Mr. Straw: During 2008-09, OCJR made 174 grants totalling £49.9 million. Of this, £37.0 million was funding to Victim Support for nationwide services to victims and witnesses.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to paragraph 9.21 of the UK Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, Cm 7457, how many Muslim chaplains have received training from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS); where they are based; what estimate he has made of the size of the population they serve; what other NOMS staff have received further such training; where they are based; and at what cost to his Department the training has been provided. [286111]

Maria Eagle: As part of the National Offender Management Service's programme of work to address the risks associated with violent extremism and radicalisation, a series of briefings, written material, and training events have been delivered at both national and local level to a range of operational and non-operational staff working across prisons and probation, including Muslim chaplains. At present, there is no single central point for management information relating to training for staff across NOMS. Given the range of people employed directly by NOMS in public service prisons and in national and regional offices, as well as those employed directly by probation areas and trusts, obtaining information on associated costs to the Ministry of Justice would involve identifying and contacting sources across numerous locations and prove disproportionately expensive.

Muslim chaplains, working as part of the prison's chaplaincy team, work with the entirety of the prison population, including staff, not just with Muslim prisoners, although figures show that as of March 2009 the Muslim population of the prisons estate stood at 9,930.

National Offender Management Service: Consultants

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the National Offender Management Service spent on consultants in financial year 2008-09; and how much was spent on consultants specifically for training and development purposes. [278560]

Mr. Straw: Expenditure on external consultants by the National Offender Management Service in the financial year 2007-08 (latest available figures) was £6.9 million of which £3.5 million relates to HM Prison Service.

The information requested for how much was spent on consultants specifically for training and development purposes is not held centrally and would involve a manual trawl of each unit responsible for this work at a disproportionate cost.

National Offender Management Service: Expenditure

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the outturn expenditure on *(a)* the National Offender Management Service Head Office and *(b)* the Probation Service was in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [282855]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is set out as follows:

Financial year 2007-08

National Offender Management Service headquarters

The Resource outturn expenditure for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) headquarters in 2007-08 as published in the Ministry of Justice Resource Accounts was £1,114 million.

Although the expenditure heading in the published accounts is called NOMS headquarters, the £1,114 million expenditure does not solely represent the administration costs of running NOMS headquarters. The figures in the following table show that the majority of the expenditure related to centrally managed front line services, including electronic monitoring, prisoner escort services and prison and probation property. Other services at the centre of NOMS such as the prison and probation ombudsman, HM Inspector of Prisons and Public Protection are directly related to front line services.

NOMS headquarters expenditure for 2007-08	*£ million*
Administration costs	76
Prison and probation property, estates and capacity planning	557
Electronic monitoring	84
Prisoner escort services (including Operation Safeguard)	212
Other programme expenditure	185
Total resource expenditure	1,114

The administration costs of running NOMS headquarters in 2007-08 were £76 million; or £151 million if HM Prison Service's administration costs are included. This is 1.6 per cent. or 3.2 per cent. respectively of the total NOMS resource expenditure.

The £557 million expenditure on prison and probation property, estates and capacity planning relates to costs associated with the custodial and probation estate including: capital charges; estate management including major maintenance; and, where applicable, rent, rates, insurance and utilities.

The Probation Service

The resource outturn expenditure for the Probation Service in 2007-08 was £845 million as published in the National Probation Service Consolidated Accounts 2007-08.

Financial Year 2008-09

The information cannot be provided because the National Offender Management Service Agency Resource Accounts for 2008-09, and the National Probation Service Consolidated Accounts for 2008-09, have not yet been finalised and audited by the National Audit Office prior to their sign-off by the agency's director general.

Police

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reports he has received of allegations of the systematic gathering of information by the States of Jersey police on elected members of the States of Jersey. [286124]

Mr. Wills: I have received updates about the allegations referred to. This is currently a matter under investigation by the Wiltshire Constabulary at the request of the Government of Jersey. It would not be appropriate for me to comment further at this time.

Political Parties

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on the implementation of the new provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill on non-resident donors. [288089]

Mr. Straw: Officials from my Department have had a number of discussions with officials from HM Revenue and Customs on the taxation status provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill.

My officials will continue discussions with HM Revenue and Customs, political parties and the Electoral Commission on implementation issues prior to bringing the new restriction into force.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners are being held on their own in cells designed for more than one prisoner. [287886]

Maria Eagle: The data requested are not held centrally and would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Meat

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to HM Prison Service on the procurement of halal meat; and whether that guidance differentiates between stunned and pre-stunned meat. [287723]

Maria Eagle: All Halal denoted products provided via national NOMS supply contracts to prison establishments are accredited by a certifying Islamic body.

There is no agreed national or international standard for Halal products. Additionally differing views in regard to interpretations of Islamic Law, in particular to stunning and mechanical slaughter issues, further compound the difficulty of fully ensuring consumer confidence among all Muslim prisoners when providing meals.

The NOMS Muslim adviser, together with some Muslim chaplains, has consulted widely on the issue of Halal meat. The work culminated in the introduction of a NOMS Halal Standard which has been agreed by senior Muslim scholars from across all the different Muslim schools of thought. It has also been acknowledged by a senior official at the English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX) as an example of best practice. The Halal Standard together with comprehensive commodity specifications helps ensure that all Muslim prisoners are provided with assured, quality products. Since 1 April 2009, all Halal raw poultry products have been accredited and supplied to this new standard.

If any prisoner has any doubt about the credibility of the Halal menu option offered, despite the introduction of these standards, there is always an option to choose a vegetarian or vegan option as an alternative.

All contracted suppliers are required to comply with Food Quality Standards provided by the authority. This includes the standard for Halal, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

The Halal Standard states:

"the animal may be stunned, anaesthetised or otherwise rendered wholly or partially insensible before slaughter."

Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average a prisoner spent in *(a)* production workshops, *(b)* education and *(c)* rehabilitation in each month in the last five years. [285262]

Mr. Straw: The average time a prisoner has spent in *(a)* production workshops, *(b)* education and *(c)* rehabilitation in each month in the last five years is set out in the following table.

Month	*(a) Average hours per prisoner per month in workshops*	*(b) Average hours per prisoner per month in education*	*(c) Average hours per prisoner per month in rehabilitation*
April 2004	2.7	6.2	1.3
May 2004	2.9	6.5	1.3
June 2004	3.2	6.9	1.4
July 2004	3.1	6.8	1.5
August 2004	3.0	6.4	1.3
September 2004	3.3	6.9	1.4
October 2004	3.2	6.9	1.4
November 2004	3.3	6.9	1.5
December 2004	2.7	6.0	1.2
January 2005	3.1	6.9	1.5
February 2005	3.1	7.0	1.5
March 2005	2.8	6.6	1.4
April 2005	2.9	6.7	1.3
May 2005	2.9	6.7	1.4
June 2005	3.2	7.1	1.6
July 2005	3.2	7.1	1.6
August 2005	3.0	6.6	1.5
September 2005	3.2	7.2	1.5
October 2005	3.1	7.0	1.5
November 2005	3.1	7.2	1.6
December 2005	2.7	6.2	1.3
January 2006	3.0	7.1	1.5
February 2006	3.1	7.3	1.5
March 2006	3.1	7.5	1.5
April 2006	2.8	6.8	1.4
May 2006	2.9	7.1	1.5
June 2006	3.0	7.3	1.6
July 2006	3.0	7.2	1.6
August 2006	2.8	6.9	1.6
September 2006	2.9	7.3	1.6
October 2006	2.9	7.2	1.6
November 2006	3.0	7.3	1.7
December 2006	2.5	6.2	1.4
January 2007	2.9	7.3	1.9
February 2007	2.9	7.3	1.7
March 2007	2.8	7.4	1.7
April 2007	2.9	6.9	0.9
May 2007	2.9	6.8	0.9
June 2007	3.2	7.5	0.9
July 2007	3.2	7.5	0.9
August 2007	2.9	6.6	0.8
September 2007	3.2	7.3	0.9
October 2007	3.1	7.3	0.9
November 2007	3.2	7.3	1.0
December 2007	2.6	6.2	0.8
January 2008	3.1	7.4	1.0
February 2008	3.1	7.4	1.0
March 2008	2.9	7.0	0.9
April 2008	3.0	7.3	0.9
May 2008	2.7	6.9	0.9
June 2008	2.9	7.4	0.9
July 2008	2.8	7.2	0.9
August 2008	2.7	6.9	0.9
September 2008	2.8	7.2	0.9
October 2008	2.8	7.3	0.9
November 2008	2.8	7.2	0.9
December 2008	2.2	6.0	0.7
January 2009	2.8	7.4	0.9

Month	(a) Average hours per prisoner per month in workshops	(b) Average hours per prisoner per month in education	(c) Average hours per prisoner per month in rehabilitation
February 2009	2.7	7.3	0.9
March 2009	2.8	7.6	0.8

There is a clear drop in the level of activity from 2007-08 onwards. This is in part attributable to the existence of fewer activities following a review of the collation of data as well as their use to monitor and manage prisoner activity.

Prisoners on Remand

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners on remand in each financial year from 2005-06 to 2008-09 were found not guilty of the charges on which they were remanded to prison; and how many days on remand were served on average by such prisoners in each of those years; [285831]

(2) how many prisoners on remand in each financial year from 2005-06 to 2008-09 who were found guilty of the charges on which they were remanded to prison did not return to prison because their period on remand equalled or exceeded the terms of imprisonment that they would have been due to serve on conviction; and how many days on remand on average were served by such prisoners in each of those years. [285832]

Maria Eagle: The estimated number of defendants remanded in custody by all courts in England and Wales for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (latest available) who were subsequently acquitted or not proceeded against was 14,500, 12,800, and 11,400 respectively.

The estimated number of defendants remanded in custody by all courts in England and Wales for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (latest available) who were subsequently found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody was 41,300, 39,700 and 38,800 respectively. From information held on the Court Proceedings Database, it is not possible to determine how many of these defendants did not return to custody because they had already served their sentence on remand.

These data include those held in custody at any stage during proceedings and relate to the final outcome of the court proceedings. They are taken from the 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales' publications, 2005-07 which is published annually and presents data by calendar year.

Data from Offender Management Caseload Statistics indicate that during 2007 the average length of time served on remand was 55 days. This figure relates to all defendants and it is not possible to provide separate figures for those defendants who were subsequently acquitted and those subsequently found guilty.

Prisoners: Assaults

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisoner on prisoner and *(b)* prisoner on prison officer assaults have been recorded in each prison in each month of 2009 to date; and if he will make a statement. [286487]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is compiled on an annual basis.

The figures for 2009 will be available in early 2010. However, I refer the hon. Lady to the latest information covering the years 2004 to 2008 that I have placed in the Libraries of the House.

Violence in prisons is not tolerated. The National Offender Management Service is working with the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that perpetrators of violence in prisons are dealt with through the courts where is appropriate to do so.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on drug testing in prisons in each financial year from 2002-03 to 2008-09. [285884]

Maria Eagle: Many prison officers responsible for the mandatory drug testing (MDT) process do not work exclusively on the testing of prisoners. The cost of MDT staff resources cannot be disaggregated from the overall prison running costs.

Probation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of offenders to probation service staff in the Hampshire probation area was in each of the last five years. [281377]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown the following table. A data validation exercise is currently taking place on the area work force information for 2008.

	Hampshire
2004	10.5
2005	10.1
2006	10.3
2007	10.6

Probation Officers: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation service officers and *(b)* probation officers there were in the Essex probation area in each of the last five years. [286535]

Maria Eagle: The number of probation service officers (PSOs) and probation officers (POs) in Essex probation area in each of the last five years is shown in the table.

Financial year	POs	PSOs	Total frontline
2004-05	78	168	246
2005-06	94	191	285
2006-07	90	183	273
2007-08	81	194	275
2008-09	68	205	273

The trend towards employing larger numbers of PSOs and fewer POs is one that has occurred in many counties and recognises that there are many tasks that can be undertaken by PSOs that historically were completed by POs. In Essex probation area this change was completed

as part of a planned staff restructuring process and was undertaken following full consultation with the local trade unions.

Probation: West Midlands

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average change in caseload for trained probation officers in West Mercia between 2002 and 2007 was. [282643]

Maria Eagle: The average case load per qualified probation officer was 15 orders in 2002 and 23 orders in 2007.

Prosecutions: Metals

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for offences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [288248]

Claire Ward: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences in relation to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. From information held by my department it is not possible to separately identify prosecutions for specific offences detailed within the Act.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts, offences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 England and Wales, 2003-07[1, 2]

	Proceeded against
2003	5
2004	5
2005	7
2006	5
2007	5

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

Reoffenders: Manchester

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders from Greater Manchester were charged with each category of violent offence while under supervision by the Probation Service in each of the last five years. [282041]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service holds information on the number of offenders charged with serious further (violent) offences whilst under probation supervision for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, this does not include all types of violent offence. The following table contains data on the number of offenders, managed by Greater Manchester probation area, who were charged with certain violent offences, where there was a requirement initially to notify the National Offender Management Service, in line with the Serious Further Offence Probation Circulars 06/2006 and 41/2006.

Notifications of serious further offence (violent offence) charges received by National Offender Management Service for 2006-07 and 2007-08. Serious Further Offence breakdown of Greater Manchester cases notified to NOMS PPU between 1 April 2006 —31 March 2008

Serious violent offence description	*Initial notifications received 2006-07*	*Initial notifications received 2007-08*
Aggravated burglary (section 10 of the Theft Act 1968)	0	6
Aggravated theft	4	5
Arson (section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971)	10	9
Attempt to commit murder or a conspiracy to commit murder	7	6
Burglary with intent to (a) inflict grievous bodily harm on a person or (b) do unlawful damage to a building or anything in it. (section 9 of the Theft Act 1968)	0	2
Causing death by dangerous driving (section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988)	4	2
False imprisonment	3	6
Kidnapping	6	6
Manslaughter	1	0
Murder	9	6
Other offences against the person	5	2
Other serious violent offence	6	5
Possession of firearm at time of committing or being arrested for offence specified in Schedule 1 to that Act (section 17(2) of the Firearms Act 1968)	0	1
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life (section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968)	0	1
Robbery or assault with intent to rob (section 8 of the Theft Act 1968)	0	1
Serious firearms offences (SFO)	8	22
Wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861)	40	57
Total	103	137

Security

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many breaches of security at his Department's Petty France office were recorded in the last 12 months. [279222]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) records as incidents any breach of security rules or events that have resulted in or had the potential to result in the loss, damage or harm to assets.

The total number of recorded security breaches/incidents occurring in 102 Petty France (MoJ HQ) for the last reporting year was 25.

Most of these were low-level departures from security procedures by staff and none were assessed to be significant, for example not displaying their passes adequately. They were identified via enforcement activity/inspections. Remedial action was taken in all cases to address areas of non-compliance and ensure no re-occurrence.

The MoJ is applying the Government's Security Policy Framework to control risks effectively, efficiently and reliably across its organisation. This includes a regime of education and awareness for staff/contractors, robust implementation of controls to manage risks to a reasonably practicable level and a physical security monitoring/ inspection and auditing regime across its HQ estate.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many breaches of security at his Department were recorded in each of the last two years. [279223]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice records as incidents any breach of security rules or events that have resulted in or had the potential to result in the loss of, damage to or harm to assets. The total number of centrally recorded security breaches/incidents occurring within the Ministry of Justice for the 2008-09 and 2007-08 reporting year is broken down as follows:

	2008-09
Information	394
IT	922
Buildings/physical	4,022
Personnel	2
Operational	4,745
Other	269
Total	10,354

	2007-08
Information and IT	563
Buildings/physical	1,882
Personnel	0
Operational	8,435
Other	—
Total	10,880

Of the total, over 80 per cent. relate to incidents involving prisons and courts. This needs to be put into the context of the challenges faced with work in the high-risk prison environment. 2008-09 saw the lowest number of escapes from prisons to date; abscond performance is good and improving.

The Ministry of Justice is applying the Government's Security Policy Framework to control risks across its organisation.

Although, there has been a 43 per cent. increase in reported information and IT security related breaches/ incidents, much of this is the result of the implementation of a robust information assurance programme. This has included the need for all areas to robustly apply procedures for reporting security incidents, including the identification and investigation of the departure, however minor, from all security procedures. The result is an evidently improving information security management system. This has seen a 70 per cent. reduction in the number or significant information security incidents/breaches between the two reporting years.

The figures above detail a 47 per cent. increase in building/physical related breaches/incidents and 87 per cent. decrease in operational security breaches between the two years. 97 per cent. of these relate to either prison or court physical security operational breaches/ incidents. The split is solely attributable to the change in the way HM Prison Service have assigned breaches/incidents to classifications between the two years.

Sentencing: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 86W, on sentencing: foreigners, (1) how many of the three prisoners discharged from a mandatory life sentence were *(a)* handed over to the custody of the UK Border Agency and *(b)* transferred to approved premises; [287735]

(2) what the nationality was of each of the three prisoners discharged from a mandatory life sentence. [287938]

Mr. Straw: Of the three prisoners discharged from a mandatory life sentence, one was an Irish national, one an Indian national and one a Pakistani national. None of the offenders was subject to deportation or, therefore, taken into UK Border Agency custody. One of the three was released into approved premises; the other two were released into alternative accommodation, which had been risk-assessed by the probation service.

All three were released subject to supervision on life licence by the probation service.

There are 101 approved premises in England and Wales. Approved premises are used primarily to supervise certain high risk of harm offenders on release from custody. They provide for the kind of effective and close supervision of certain offenders which would be much more difficult to achieve if those offenders were dispersed into less suitable accommodation elsewhere in the community.

Trespassing: Agricultural Land

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for trespass on agricultural land *(a)* resulted and *(b)* did not result in a conviction in the last three years. [286254]

Claire Ward: Offences related to "trespass on agricultural land" are covered by sections 61, 63, 68, and 70 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for these offences under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 are shown in the table.

It should be noted that offences under the aforementioned statute and appropriate sections are not solely for "trespass on agricultural land".

The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty of a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Sections 61, 63, 68, and 70, in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1,2,3]

		Proceeded against			Found guilty		
Statute	*Offence description*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Public Order Act 1986 Part II S.14B(3) as added by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.70	Inciting another to take part in a prohibited trespassory assembly	1	1	0	0	0	1
Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.61	Failing to leave land when directed or to return as a trespasser within three months	1	3	2	0	2	2
Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.63	Failing to leave land when directed or returning within 7 days of the direction (raves)	0	1	13	0	1	9
Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.68	Disrupting or obstructing a lawful activity or seeking to intimidate	60	36	87	39	26	69
Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.63 (7A) and (7B) as added by Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 S.58	Committing an offence knowing that a direction under S.63(2) applies and making preparations for or attending a gathering (rave) within 24 hours starting when the direction was given	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		62	41	102	39	29	81

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Visas: Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences of fraud in relation to visa applications there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England region, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* Castle Point in each of the last 10 years. [286368]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in relation to visa application frauds for offences under the Immigration Act 1971 in England and Wales, the Essex police force area and the East of England Government Office Region from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the table.

The statistics given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Information held by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database is not available at constituency level.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn 2009.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences under the Immigration Act 1971, by area, 1998 to 2007[1,2]

Offence description	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England and Wales										
Person who is not a British citizen: obtaining or seeking to obtain leave to enter or remain in the UK by deception; obtaining or seeking to obtain the avoidance, postponement or revocation of enforcement action—sections 24A(1)(a), 24A(1)(b), 3	—	—	9	106	169	117	136	146	74	83
Entering the UK in breach of a deportation order—Section 24(1)(a)	4	5	2	1	7	7	7	6	7	6
Entering the UK without leave—section 24(1)(a)	7	15	14	24	36	39	24	33	63	26
Failing to observe condition of leave—section 24(1)(b)(ii)	5	5	2	8	1	2	1	1	1	—
Sub-total	16	25	27	139	213	165	168	186	145	115
Essex police force area										
Person who is not a British citizen: obtaining or seeking to obtain leave to enter or remain in the UK by deception; obtaining or seeking to obtain the avoidance, postponement or revocation of enforcement action—sections 24A(1)(a), 24A(1)(b), 3	—	—	—	2	3	9	11	27	7	1
Entering the UK in breach of a deportation order – Section 24(1)(a)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Entering the UK without leave—section 24(1)(a)	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
Sub-total	—	1	—	2	3	11	11	28	7	3
East of England Government Office Region										
Person who is not a British citizen: obtaining or seeking to obtain leave to enter or remain in the UK by deception; obtaining or seeking to obtain the avoidance, postponement or revocation of enforcement action—sections 24A(1)(a), 24A(1)(b), 3	—	—	—	2	6	20	16	30	8	2
Entering the UK in breach of a deportation order—Section 24(1)(a)	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences under the Immigration Act 1971, by area, 1998 to 2007[1,2]

Offence description	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Entering the UK without leave—section 24(1)(a)	—	1	—	—	3	11	—	2	3	—
Sub-total	2	1	—	2	10	31	16	32	11	4

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Figures given represent case that went through the courts on offences from all prosecuting departments including the police and Serious Organised Crime Agency.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what percentage of *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 year-olds who were released from each young offender institution in each of the last five years were reconvicted within a year of release; [282914]

(2) what percentage of *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 year-olds who were released from young offender institutions after serving a sentence for a non-violent offence were reconvicted within a year for a violent offence in each of the last five years. [282915]

Maria Eagle: Juvenile reoffending covers those aged 10 to 17. A release from custody could be from a Secure Training Centre, a Secure Children's Home or a Young Offender Institution. Data are not broken down by type of release establishment or by individual release establishment.

The following table shows the frequency of reoffences per 100 offenders and the actual rate of reoffending for each of the last five years for which data are available. Those aged 10 through to 15 have been banded due to the small number of offenders in each of the groups.

Juvenile actual and frequency rates per 100 offenders for custody

	Age band	*Number of offenders*	*Actual reoffending rate (%)*	*Frequency of reoffences (per 100 offenders)*
2003	10-15	133	78.2	424.8
	16	235	76.6	465.1
	17	418	70.8	435.4
	Total	786	73.8	442.5
2004	10-15	209	80.4	461.2
	16	244	77.0	401.6
	17	362	73.8	397.0
	Total	815	76.4	414.8
2005	10-15	195	80.0	463.1
	16	275	70.2	424.7
	17	374	71.7	370.3
	Total	844	73.1	409.5

Juvenile actual and frequency rates per 100 offenders for custody

	Age band	*Number of offenders*	*Actual reoffending rate (%)*	*Frequency of reoffences (per 100 offenders)*
2006	10-15	200	83.0	463.5
	16	262	79.4	433.2
	17	355	71.8	349.0
	Total	817	77.0	404.0
2007	10-15	171	78.9	407.0
	16	246	77.2	370.7
	17	361	72.3	328.3
	Total	778	75.3	359.0

The information on the re-offence of juveniles released from custody for non-violent offences is not available at this level of detail.

Reoffenders that are aged 18 and 19 are included in the adult dataset. We do not have the facility to determine those that were released from young offender institutions. Further information on adult re-offending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/reoffending-adults-2007.pdf

For information on the latest juvenile re-offending statistics please consult:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/reoffending-juveniles-2007.pdf

Youth Justice Board: Finance

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what methodology was used to calculate the budget of the Youth Justice Board for the provision of youth custody when the Board was formed in 1998. [287900]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board took responsibility for commissioning and purchasing places in the under 18 secure estate in 2000-01. The funding allocated to the Youth Justice Board by the Home Office was based on historical information on the cost of placing young people in custody and anticipated levels of need. YJB funding requirements are reviewed annually.

The following answers were received between Wednesday 22 July and Friday 28 August 2009

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 78W, on 10 Downing Street: repairs and maintenance, how much was paid to Ecovert FM for the works carried out in August and September 2008. [287280]

Angela E. Smith: Information on capital expenditure on improving Cabinet Office buildings, including the Downing Street estate for 2008-09 is included in the Resource Accounts published in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Charities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance the Charity Commission has issued on whether registered charities may *(a)* register as third parties with the Electoral Commission and *(b)* engage in political campaigning during a regulated election period. [287264]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated July 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on what guidance the Charity Commission has issued on whether registered charities may *(a)* register as third parties with the Electoral Commission, and *(b)* engage in political campaigning during an election period.

Charity law on campaigning and political activity is set out in our published guidance 'Speaking Out—Guidance on Campaigning and Political Activity by Charities' (CC9) and 'Charities and Elections' which are available on our website at www.charitycommission.gov.uk. This guidance makes clear that a charity can carry out campaigning and political activity as a means of furthering or supporting its charitable purpose, but that under charity law a charity must never carry out party political activity.

On part *(a)* of your question regarding the issue of a charity's registration as a third party with the Electoral Commission, our guidance signposts charities to the Electoral Commission and to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. We do not provide detailed guidance ourselves. Charities must not support or oppose any party political campaign, candidate or manifesto. Therefore we do not envisage circumstances where it would be necessary for a charity to register with the Electoral Commission as a third party. We would be concerned about any charity that was recognised in this way, and would certainly want to explore this further with them.

As to part *(b)*, the Commission's guidance on political campaigning during an election period makes clear that the principles for a charity engaging in any campaigning or political activity continue to apply. The key principle of charity law in terms of elections is that charities must be, and be seen to be, independent from party politics. We therefore urge charities to think carefully about what activities they engage in during this period, and how they might be perceived.

We are currently in the process of arranging to meet with the Electoral Commission to discuss further the issue of third party registration. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have other questions. I hope this is helpful.

Civil Servants: Vacancies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1473W, on civil servants: vacancies (1) how many civil service jobs were advertised in the last 12 months *(a)* externally and *(b)* internally; [287283]

(2) what the job titles were of each of the vacancies in the last 12 months which were advertised on the internal gateway; and in which Department each of the vacancies was. [287284]

Angela E. Smith: Further to the answer given on 17 March 2009, since civil service jobs online service went live on 25 February 2009, 4,587 vacancies in the civil service have been advertised externally on the website and 2,789 have been advertised to civil servants. Further information about these vacancies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cybercrime

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding the Government plans to provide to protect UK IT networks from cyber attacks in 2009-10. [286994]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

While there is no one budget for cyber security, and the Government do not provide details of the resources employed by the UK intelligence and security agencies, cyber security is a key priority and as such is appropriately resourced. A number of Government bodies contribute towards the protection of UK networks. For example: CPNI, Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure, provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities companies and banks CPNI also runs a CERT service which responds to reported attacks on private sector networks; and CESG, part of GCHQ, provides Government Departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

CESG also runs the computer emergency response team, GovCertUK, which provides warnings, alerts and assistance in resolving serious IT incidents for the public sector. In addition to this existing work, the June 2009 Cyber Security Strategy also announced the provision of additional programme funding for the development of innovative future technologies to protect UK networks; the details will be reported to Parliament in the autumn.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what percentage of invoices to *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Office of the Leader of the House from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288936]

Angela E. Smith: In June 2009 the Cabinet Office paid 97.4 per cent. of correctly rendered invoices within 10 days. This figure covers the whole of the Cabinet Office, including the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on services from Royal Mail in each of the last five years. [288790]

Angela E. Smith: Details of expenditure with the Royal Mail is shown in the following table:

	£000
2004-05	370
2005-06	271
2006-07	168
2007-08	221
2008-09	203

Departmental Publications

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will restore the Cabinet Office publication Public Bodies to its 1997 format. [288551]

Tessa Jowell: The annual "Cabinet Office Public Bodies" publication provides headline information on the NDPB sector and on public appointments. Detailed information on individual NDPBs is provided by relevant sponsor departments. Following representations by my hon. Friend, links to this detailed information, together with the latest publication Public Bodies 2008, are now located on the Civil Service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/index/ndpbs.aspx

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what expenditure her Department incurred in the production of its document, Building Britain's Future; and how many copies were printed. [286918]

Tessa Jowell: 1,000 copies of the main document were produced in print. In addition, 4,500 of the 15 page summary document were printed. 1,000 copies of the summary document are also being produced in Welsh. The total cost was £39,047.00 (excluding VAT).

Departmental Training

Mr. Heath: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answers of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 22W, and 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1020W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Leader of the House's Office have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251338]

Tessa Jowell: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the "Ministerial Code".

Ministers: Gifts and Endowments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criteria are used to ascertain whether a Minister has received a gift or hospitality in a private capacity for the purposes of declarations under the Ministerial Code. [287250]

Tessa Jowell: Guidance on the acceptance of gifts and hospitality is set out in paragraphs 7.20-7.24 of the "Ministerial Code".

Public Appointments Unit

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1464W, on public appointments, what financial saving was attributed to the closure of the Public Appointments Unit when it was counted as a Gershon efficiency saving; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the closure on the costs of other Government departments. [287282]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office Public Appointments Unit was disbanded in July 2007 in response to recommendations arising from the 2006 Capability Review of the Cabinet Office, rather than as a result of the Gershon Review, and its responsibilities transferred elsewhere within the Department.

Costs would be available only at disproportionate cost.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds have been fired by British forces in each Brigade rotation in Afghanistan since Herrick 6, broken down by type of ammunition used. [23[illegible]644]

Mr. Hutton: Officials are collating and validating the data needed to answer this question and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will therefore write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1518W, how many rounds *of (a)* 0.338 ammunition of all natures, *(b)* 12 bore shotgun ammunition, *(c)* 30 mm armoured fighting vehicle ammunition of all natures, *(d)* 30 mm attack helicopter ammunition of all natures and *(e)* 105 mm ammunition of all natures were used in Operation Herrick 7. [268012]

Mr. Hutton: Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of *(a)* 51 mm and *(b)* 81 mm mortar ammunition of all natures were used in Operation (i) Herrick 4, (ii) Herrick 5, (iii) Herrick 6 and (iv) Herrick 7. [268210]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 1 April 2009]:* Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Adam Holloway:

I am writing to provide you with the information promised in mine and my predecessor's holding replies to your Parliamentary Questions regarding ammunition expenditure in Afghanistan on 20 April 2009 (Official Report, column 46W); 31 March 2009 (Official Report, column 1034W) and 26 November 2008 (Official Report, column 1518W).

The Ministry of Defence has recently completed a review of the data on ammunition usage required to answer this question, and has revised the manner in which we classify and present data to ensure consistency. The table below shows all ammunition expenditure for UK forces in Afghanistan from the beginning of retained records (August 2006) to the end of Operation HERRICK 9 (October 2008-April 2009), in April of this year.

You will note that, unfortunately, this review has resulted in corrections to the ammunition figures previously issued for the HERRICK 6 (April 2007-October 2007) and HERRICK 7 (October 2007-April 2008) roulements. These figures have been found to be incorrect due inconsistency of tour dates taken, inconsistency of inclusion of training rounds and a failure to include all variations of ammunition in all cases.

Ammunition type	*Herrick 4 (13 August 2006-October 2006)*[1]	*Herrick 5 (October 2006-April 2007)*	*Herrick 6 (April 2007-October 2007)*	*Herrick 7 (October 2007-April 2008)*	*Herrick 8 (April 2008-October 2008)*	*Herrick 9 (October 2008-April 2009)*
7.62 mm all variants	210,000	520,000	1,300,000	1,380,000	700,000	908,400
5.56 mm all variants	235,000	615,000	1,490,000	1,390,000	1,000,000	1,080,000
0.5 inch all variants	25,000	90,000	200,000	180,000	113,000	196,000
12.7 mm all variants	2,400	350	4,800	21,000	13,000	10,600
9 mm all variants	10,000	69,000	30,000	69,000	71,700	61,400
0.338 inch all variants	200	1,700	5,600	7,300	8,200	12,100
12 bore shotgun all variants	5	45	660	15,100	300	525
105 mm all variants	8,600	4,300	12,100	12,400	5,600	11,200
30 mm armd fighting veh rounds	1,200	5,000	3,600	2,800	745	4,500
30 mm Attack helicopter rounds	29,800	21,000	27,800	15,700	34,400	34,200

[1] Accounting records exist only from 13 August 2006—mid Herrick 4.

Notes:

1. All tour dates are taken from the Transfer of Authority from one Brigade to the next.
2. All figures rounded to nearest 10,000, 1,000 or 100.

Ammunition expenditure is shown for the whole of Afghanistan, rather than just Helmand Province as the information is collated centrally for UK forces in Afghanistan. The data include all training rounds used and all variants of each ammunition type. They are collated by each HERRICK roulement, at the end of which the data are finalised for records.

All data shown above are data based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

I hope that the above information addresses your concerns on this matter.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition have been discharged by British forces in Afghanistan in each rotation since 2006. [251707]

Mr. Hutton: Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition have been discharged in Helmand province by British forces in each roulement since June 2006, broken down by ammunition type. [257687]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1993W.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I am writing to provide you with the information promised in my predecessor's holding reply to your Parliamentary Questions regarding ammunition expenditure in Afghanistan on 11 February 2009, (Official Report, column 1992W), and 26 February 2009, (Official Report, column 1050W).

The Ministry of Defence has recently completed a review of the data on ammunition usage required to answer this question, and has revised the manner in which we classify and present data to ensure consistency. The table below shows all ammunition expenditure for UK forces in Afghanistan from the beginning of retained records (August 2006) to the end of Operation HERRICK 9 (October 2008- April 2009), in April of this year.

You will note that, unfortunately, this review has resulted in corrections to the ammunition figures previously issued for the HERRICK 6 (April 2007 - October 2007) and HERRICK 7 (October 2007 - April 2008) roulements. These figures have been found to be incorrect due inconsistency of tour dates taken, inconsistency of inclusion of training rounds and a failure to include all variations of ammunition in all cases.

Ammunition type	HERRICK 4 (13 August 2006 - October 2006)[1]	HERRICK 5 (October 2006 - April 2007)	HERRICK 6 (April 2007 -October 2007)	HERRICK 7 (October 2007 - April 2008)	HERRICK 8 (April 2008 - October 2008)	HERRICK 9 (October 2008 - April 2009)
7.62mm all variants	210,000	520,000	1,300,000	1,380,000	700,000	908,400
5.56mm all variants	235,000	615,000	1,490,000	1,390,000	1,000,000	1,080,000
0.5 inch all variants	25,000	90,000	200,000	180,000	113,000	196,000
12.7mm all variants	2,400	350	4,800	21,000	13,000	10,600
9mm all variants	10,000	69,000	30,000	69,000	71,700	61,400
0.338 inch all variants	200	1,700	5,600	7,300	8,200	12,100
12 bore shotgun all variants	5	45	660	15,100	300	525
105mm all variants	8,600	4,300	12,100	12,400	5,600	11,200
30mm armd fighting veh rounds	1,200	5,000	3,600	2,800	745	4,500
30mm Attack helicopter rounds	29,800	21,000	27,800	15,700	34,400	34,200

[1] Accounting records exist only from 13 August 2006 - mid HERRICK 4

Notes:

All tour dates are taken from the Transfer of Authority from one Brigade to the next.

All figures rounded to nearest 10,000, 1000 or 100.

Ammunition expenditure is shown for the whole of Afghanistan, rather than just Helmand Province as the information is collated centrally for UK forces in Afghanistan. The data include all training rounds used and all variants of each ammunition type. They are collated by each HERRICK roulement, at the end of which the data are finalised for records.

All data shown above is data based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of shots fired by UK armed forces in Helmand province since 2006. [273309]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the right hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of shots fired by the armed forces in Helmand province in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and how many shots were fired in the latest period for which figures are available. [249208]

Mr. Hutton: Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition were fired by UK armed forces in Afghanistan in 2007-08. [235233]

Mr. Hutton: Officials are collating and validating the data needed to answer this question and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will therefore write to the hon. Members when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Michael Ancram:

I am writing to provide you with the information promised in mine and my predecessor's holding replies to your Parliamentary Questions regarding ammunition expenditure in Afghanistan on 11 February 2009 (Official Report, cols 1992-1993W), 11 May 2009 (Official Report, col 605W) and 26 November 2008 (Official Report, col 1518W).

The Ministry of Defence has recently completed a review of the data on ammunition usage required to answer this question, and has revised the manner in which we classify and present data to ensure consistency. The table below shows all ammunition expenditure for UK forces in Afghanistan from the beginning of retained records (August 2006) to the end of Operation HERRICK 9 (October 2008 - April 2009), in April of this year.

You will note that, unfortunately, this review has resulted in corrections to the ammunition figures previously issued for the HERRICK 6 (April 2007 - October 2007) and HERRICK 7 (October 2007 - April 2008) roulements. These figures have been found to be incorrect due inconsistency of tour dates taken, inconsistency of inclusion of training rounds and a failure to include all variations of ammunition in all cases.

Type	HERRICK 4 (13 August 2006 -October 2006)[1]	HERRICK 5 (October 2006 -April 2007)	HERRICK 6 (April 2007 -October 2007)	HERRICK 7 (October 2007 - April 2008)	HERRICK 8 (1 April 2008 -October 2008)	HERRICK 9 (October 2008 -April 2009)
7.62mm all variants	210,000	520,000	1,300,000	1,380,000	700,000	908,400
5.56mm all variants	235,000	615,000	1,490,000	1,390,000	1,000,000	1,080,000
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Type	HERRICK 4 (13 August 2006 -October 2006 [1]	HERRICK 5 (October 2006 -April 2007)	HERRICK 6 (April 2007 -October 2007)	HERRICK 7 (October 2007 - April 2008)	HERRICK 8 (1 April 2008 -October 2008)	HERRICK 9 (October 2008 -April 2009)
12 bore shotgun all variants	5	45	660	15,100	300	525
105mm all variants	8,600	4,300	12,100	12,400	5,600	11,200
30mm armd fighting veh rounds	1,200	5,000	3,600	2,800	745	4,500
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[1] Accounting records exist only from 13 August 2006 - mid HERRICK 4

Notes:
All tour dates are taken from the Transfer of Authority from one Brigade to the next.
All figures rounded to nearest 10,000, 1000 or 100.

Ammunition expenditure is shown for the whole of Afghanistan, rather than just Helmand Province as the information is collated centrally for UK forces in Afghanistan. The data include all training rounds used and all variants of each ammunition type. They are collated by each HERRICK roulement, at the end of which the data are finalised for records.

All data shown above are data based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

I hope that the above information addresses your concerns on this matter.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received reports of Taliban forces seeking to acquire ground-to-air missiles. [288197]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding this information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

We constantly monitor the threats faced by our personnel in Afghanistan and ensure that we take all possible steps to respond to these threats as they evolve.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has assessed the potential effectiveness of infrared surveillance capabilities used by the police for deployment for military purposes in Afghanistan. [288691]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) undertakes a wide-ranging research programme supporting the needs of our troops on current and future operations. As part of continuing successful coalition operations, the MOD is currently discussing infrared surveillance with several parties including the Metropolitan Police Service.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 899W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, how many British troops were required to serve in the Regional Command South Headquarters between May 2007 and February 2008. [289094]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 264W.

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has commissioned on the relative merits of RAF bases *(a)* in the UK *(b)* overseas in the last three years. [288607]

Bill Rammell: The number and operation of RAF bases both in the UK and overseas is constantly under review to ensure that the best use is made of the Defence estate for our armed forces. The outcome of this work is reflected in the Defence Estate Development Plan 2009, which can be found at the following link:

http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/publications/dedp.php

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints Modern Housing Solutions received in each area in each month in 2008. [289138]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information for 2008 is provided in the following table:

Month	Region	Number of complaints
January	East	39
	London	120
	North	37
	South East	116
	South West	105
	West	33
	Total for month	450
February	East	44
	London	114
	North	41
	South East	101
	South West	101
	West	25
	Total for month	426
March	East	37
	London	98
	North	30
	South East	108
	South West	91

Month	Region	Number of complaints
	West	18
	Total for month	382
April	East	63
	London	121
	North	29
	South East	102
	South West	88
	West	25
	Total for month	428
May	East	49
	London	113
	North	29
	South East	106
	South West	85
	West	15
	Total for month	397
June	East	48
	London	110
	North	21
	South East	84
	South West	102
	West	14
	Total for month	379
July	East	38
	London	152
	North	24
	South East	124
	South West	88
	West	32
	Total for month	458
August	East	31
	London	129
	North	30
	South East	104
	South West	71
	West	33
	Total for month	398
September	East	53
	London	150
	North	27
	South East	119
	South West	96
	West	34
	Total for month	479
October	East	56
	London	154
	North	45
	South East	135
	South West	83
	West	36
	Total for month	509
November	East	53
	London	112
	North	22
	South East	103
	South West	92
	West	25
	Total for month	407
December	East	44
	London	128
	North	18
	South East	90
	South West	78
	West	32
	Total for month	390

British Forces Post Office: Manpower

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent consideration he has given to future staffing levels in the British Forces Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [288609]

Bill Rammell: The staffing levels of the British Forces Post Office are determined by the requirement to ensure that our personnel have access to appropriate postal facilities. Support to operations, exercises and to HM Ships can be provided only by British Forces Post Office staff. However, we have identified that savings may be realised if personnel based in countries with a well developed postal infrastructure utilise the indigenous postal service rather than relying on British Forces Post Office staff. To that end the Forces Post Offices servicing the UK elements of NATO HQs in SHAPE, Brussels, Brunssum, Stavanger, Karup, Rome, Milan, Lisbon, Valencia and Norfolk Virginia are due to close.

Defence: Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by each of the armed services on defence procurement in the latest year for which figures are available; and how much such expenditure was incurred by each service in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Northern Ireland, *(c)* England and *(d)* overseas. [289137]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The defence budget is not allocated by service or by sub-UK level. Defence Procurement provides the UK armed forces with the equipment needed as efficiently as possible to deliver the best value for money for the armed forces. The Defence Budget is planned solely on this basis.

The latest estimates of direct MOD expenditure on equipment and non-equipment procurement are provided in the following table.

£ million at current prices (VAT exclusive)

2006-07	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*	*England*	*Overseas*
Total	220	200	15,230	2,330
of which:				
Equipment expenditure	120	60	9,620	2,170
Non equipment expenditure	100	140	5,610	160

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest £10 million

The data underlying the estimates of direct expenditure on procurement cannot be broken down by service. In addition, these figures do not take into account expenditure by main contractors to sub-contractors in these geographic areas, nor do they take account of monies paid for work done in that area if the company's billing address is elsewhere.

The MOD reports spend on procurement in the UK Defence Statistics can be found at the following link;

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/UKDS2008/ukds.html

This annual report presents the MOD procurement of goods and services in the UK broken out by industry sector and estimates of aggregate MOD equipment expenditure.

Defence: Research

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what cash allocations his Department has made for defence research for each of the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [288608]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The current planning assumption is that the science innovation and technology budget will have available approximately £439 million in 2010-11. This compares with £544 million in 2009-10 when calculated on the same basis. Departmental expenditure limits have not yet been set for the years beyond 2010-11.

Departmental Budgets

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's science innovation and technology budget is for 2010-11. [284525]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The current planning assumption is that the SIT budget will have available approximately £439 million in 2010-11. This compares with £544 million in 2009-10 when calculated on the same basis. Departmental expenditure limits have not yet been set for the years beyond 2010-11.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much compensation his Department has paid to former and serving *(a)* members of the armed forces and *(b)* civil servants in cases of (i) sexual discrimination, (ii) bullying and (iii) other infringements of employment rights in the last 12 months. [288200]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Some £182,600 was paid out to Military personnel in the last 12 months to settle two sexual discrimination cases, comprising one payment each by the Army and RAF. An additional claim was settled in 2008-09 for £90,000 in respect of the previously operated MOD policy of debarring homosexuals from serving in the armed forces.

In respect of civilian staff in the last 12 months, some £43,500 was paid to settle sexual discrimination cases. This figure includes one payment in respect of an age discrimination case the cost of which cannot be separately identified. One case, where bullying was alleged, was settled with £3,250 of compensation. Some £233,920 was paid to settle cases where other infringements of employment rights occurred.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 23W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288992]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The name and version of the web browser used by the Ministry of Defence's Permanent Secretary, chief information officer, head of communications and head of finance, on their officially designated desktop and laptop computers, is Internet Explorer Version 6.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of employees in his Department are (a) women and (b) men; and what the average hourly pay is of those (i) male and (ii) female employees. [288605]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The percentage breakdown of employees by gender in the Department, as of 1 June 2009, is as follows:

Men: 61.47 per cent

Women: 38.53 per cent

The average hourly pay rates between genders, as of 1 June 2009, is as follows:

Male: £12.139

Female: £10.368

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284974]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the civil service code.

Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust. Details of numbers of civil servants from the Ministry of Defence who have undertaken such an attachment are not held centrally.

Ex-servicemen: Sleeping Rough

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department's Taskforce established to tackle rough sleeping among forces veterans has made; and what his most recent estimate is of the number of veterans sleeping rough at the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [288610]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Service men and women should be provided with the best possible support as they move back to civilian life, and this is recognised in the Service Personnel Command Paper, The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans, published in July 2008.

Measures proposed in the Command Paper to improve access of ex-Service personnel to housing include: a change in legislation to enable Service personnel to establish a local connection with the area in which they are serving; an investigation to see what steps are required to ensure that local authorities follow good practice in respect of 'cessation to occupy' certificates when service-leavers are threatened with homelessness; the consideration of how 'void' military accommodation can be used to temporarily accommodate injured ex-service personnel; and an extension to the Key Worker Living programme to ex-service personnel for up to 12 months after discharge.

The Department does not hold figures on the number of veterans sleeping rough. However, independent research carried out, specifically in London, last year by the University of York shows that the proportion of veterans among the homeless population has fallen dramatically over the last 10 years. Veterans are now some 6 per cent. of the homeless population in London.

The MOD works closely with the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Devolved Administrations, veterans' organisations and other service providers to ensure a co-ordinated and structured approach to this problem as it affects a small minority of our ex-service personnel. We aim to prevent new service leavers becoming homeless and to provide an effective safety net for those veterans who are homeless.

Current measures, including new commitments in the July 2008 Service Personnel Command Paper, provide a comprehensive package of support. Mike Jackson House provides 25 units of secure short-term supported accommodation built in Aldershot for young single ex-service leavers identified at risk of homelessness. Mike Jackson House opened in March 2008 on land gifted by MOD.

There are service charities who are able to offer assistance with housing matters. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Families Association (SSAFA Forces Help) for example offer assistance and advice relating to housing needs

Gurkhas

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gurkhas were stationed in the UK in each year from 1992 to 1997. [288395]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of Gurkhas stationed in the UK in each year from 1992 to 1997 is provided in the following table.

Date of strength as at 31 March each year	*Officers*	*Soldiers*	*Total*
1992	40	1,340	1,390
1993	40	1,380	1,420
1994	50	1,570	1,620
1995	60	1,730	1,780
1996	70	1,640	1,710
1997	70	1,930	2,000

Notes:
1. Figures have been roundol to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
2. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.

Over the same period the trained strength of the Brigade of Gurkhas reduced from around 7,180 to 3,760, as the Brigade progressively withdrew from Hong Kong to be based in the UK. This process was completed on 1 July 1997.

Merlin Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Merlin helicopters Agusta Westland has offered to supply to his Department; and *(a)* at what cost and *(b)* to what timetable Agusta Westland has offered to supply those helicopters. [288834]

Mr. Quentin Davies: During recent consideration of whether the acquisition of new medium helicopters could be advanced in lieu of the planned life-extension of Puma and Sea King Mk4 helicopters informal discussions were held with a number of aircraft manufacturers, including Agusta Westland. These discussions are commercial-in-confidence and so it would be inappropriate to disclose details as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interest.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft of each type are in service with the Royal Air Force. [289133]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The number of aircraft in the Royal Air Force in-service fleet are provided in the following table. The figures show the service fleet position as of 30 June 2009.

In-service fleet

Aircraft type	*Number*
BAe 146	2
BAe 125	6
C-17	6
Dominie	9
Harrier	74
Hawk T1	129
Hawk T2	11
Hercules C130K	14
Hercules C130J	24
Nimrod MR2	11
Nimrod R1	3

In-service fleet

Aircraft type	*Number*
Sea King (SARF)	25
Sentinel	5
Sentry	7
Tornado F3	62
Tornado GR4	138
Tristar	9
Tucano	93
Typhoon	56
VC10	16
Vigilant	64
Viking	82

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters there are in the British armed forces. [288239]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD departmental fleet consists of 585 helicopters as at 30 June 2009.

This figure excludes helicopters that are leased by the MOD.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum *(a)* loaded weight and *(b)* take-off weight for all variants of helicopters used by UK forces is when operating in ambient temperatures of 50 degrees celsius at a density altitude of 6,000 feet. [289129]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The operation of helicopters in hot conditions and at high altitudes, such as those experienced on current operations, is particularly demanding. Details of helicopter operating parameters, such as maximum loaded and take-off weights, is operationally sensitive information and cannot be released as it would or would be likely to prejudice the effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters of each type are in service with each service. [289132]

Mr. Quentin Davies: "In service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet, which includes all aircraft barring those that are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

The number of effective aircraft within each helicopter type and service, as at 30 June 2009 is provided in the following tables.

Royal Navy

	Number
Lynx MK3/8	61
Merlin Mk1	42
Sea King Mk4/6C	42
Sea King Mk5	15
Sea King Mk7	13

Army

	Number
NSRW	4
Apache	67
Gazelle	39
Lynx Mk7/9	94

Royal Air Force

	Number
Chinook Mk2/2a	40
Merlin Mk3/3a	28
Puma	34
Sea King Mk 3/3a	25

These figures do not include aircraft leased by the MOD.

Navy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of operating a *(a)* Type 22, *(b)* Type 23 and *(c)* Type 42 vessel was in the last year for which information is available; and what the estimated annual cost of operating a Type 45 vessel is. [287196]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Operating costs for Royal Navy vessels are not held centrally. Officials are, however, in the process of compiling this information and I will write to you once the work has been completed.

Nigeria: Military Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received any recent requests for military assistance from the Nigerian government. [289016]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 340W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith).

In addition we provide support to enhance the Nigerian peace-keeping capacity, advice on defence management, and professional officer education and training. We maintain a regular dialogue with Nigeria on defence and security matters.

Puma Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how long after contract signature he expects the first upgraded Puma helicopter to be *(a)* delivered and *(b)* available for operational deployment; [288837]

(2) whether he has plans to deploy the upgraded Puma helicopter to Afghanistan. [288838]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We expect to place the Puma Life Extension contract with Eurocopter later this year, though this remains subject to negotiations and final approvals. It would not be appropriate to make public any specific details of the proposed programme schedule while negotiations are ongoing.

It is for the chain of command to determine how many and which of their aircraft should be deployed and when.

Royal Hospital Haslar

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent consideration he has given to the future use of the Royal Hospital Haslar site; and if he will make a statement. [288769]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement published on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 95WS.

The MOD ran an Expressions of Interest campaign earlier this year and a number of bids were received by the closing date. I have announced today that Our Enterprise, a community interest company that brokers and delivers bespoke commercial partnerships between charities, social investors, commercial operators and the public sector to deliver large-scale integrated regeneration projects, has been chosen as our preferred bidder for the site. Our Enterprise has been chosen as our preferred bidder for the site in accordance with Government policy on the disposal of historic buildings. We expect to exchange contracts with the purchaser and complete the transfer by the autumn, if not earlier.

Our Enterprise has a vision of promoting the quality of life for both individuals residing on the site and for Gosport as a whole. I believe that the choice of preferred bidder for Haslar is good news for the local community, and will preserve the heritage and visual aspects of this important site.

Royal Military Academy: Foreigners

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many foreign nationals of each nationality passed out from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [288414]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is provided in the following tables. In accordance with MOD release protocols that protect us from unintentionally revealing the identity of an individual, any number less than five is represented by a asterisk (*) and any number equal to zero is represented by an Em dash (—).

Commonwealth and dual nationality officer cadets who commissioned into the British Army in 2006, 2007 and 2008

Nationality/ year	2006	2007	2008	Total
Australian	—	—	*	*
Canadian	*	—	*	*
Citizen Irish Rep	*	*	*	5
Fijian	—	—	*	*
German/ British	—	—	*	*
Ghanaian	*	—	—	*
Indian	—	—	*	*
Japanese/ British	—	*	—	*
Kenyan	*	*	—	*
Nepalese/ British	—	*	—	*
New Zealander	—	*	—	*
South African	5	5	5	15

Commonwealth and dual nationality officer cadets who commissioned into the British Army in 2006, 2007 and 2008

Nationality/ year	2006	2007	2008	Total
Trinidadian	*	—	—	*
Zimbabwean	*	*	*	5
Total	15	12	14	41
Grand total		41		

Overseas officer cadets who commissioned into a Foreign Army in 2006, 2007 and 2008

Nationality/ year	2006	2007	2008	Total
Afghan	*	*	—	*
Algerian	—	*	*	*
Antiguan	*	—	—	*
Bahrain	*	*	*	10
Bangladeshi	*	—	*	*
Belizean	*	*	*	*
Botswana	*	*	*	*
Brunei	*	*	*	10
Chinese	—	—	*	*
Egyptian	*	—	—	*
Ethiopian	*	—	—	*
Fijian	*	—	—	*
Filipino	—	*	—	*
Gambian	*	—	*	*
Ghanian	—	—	*	*
Guatemalan	*	—	—	*
Guyanese	*	—	—	*
Iraqi	*	*	*	5
Jamaican	*	5	*	15
Jordanian	*	*	*	5
Kenyan	*	*	*	*
Kuwaiti	*	5	*	10
Lesothian	—	*	—	*
Malawian	*	*	*	*
Malaysian	*	*	—	*
Maltese	*	*	*	*
Maldivian	—	—	*	*
Namibian	—	—	*	*
Nepalese	*	*	*	5
Nigerian	*	*	*	*
Omani	5	*	5	15
Pakistani	*	*	*	*
Palestinian	—	—	*	*
Qatar	*	—	*	*
Rwandan	—	—	*	*
Saudi Arabian	*	*	*	5
Senegalese	*	—	*	*
Singaporean	*	*	*	*
South African	—	*	—	*
Sri Lankan	*	*	—	*
Sudanese	—	—	*	*
Tanzanian	*	—	*	*
Thai	*	*	—	*
U.A.E.	5	5	10	20
Ugandan	*	*	*	*
Yemeni	*	*	—	5
Total	67	54	64	185
Grand total		185		

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288950]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its final report, which can be found at:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A Steering Group has been established under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Chairman's recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of conventional forces protecting Trident was in 2008-09. [288764]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We do not routinely calculate the operating cost of specific committed or contingent force elements in support of the deterrent, and such estimates are necessarily illustrative. The answer that my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne), as Defence Secretary, gave to the hon. Member on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2131W, estimated the annual operating costs of committed conventional force elements to be around £25-30 million. We have not prepared a more recent estimate as to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on Trident II; and what his Department's estimate is of how much it would cost to order *(a)* three and *(b)* four boats to replace Trident I. [287200]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current Trident II D5 missile is expected to remain in service until 2042. No expenditure has been incurred on a successor to the Trident II D5 missile.

As set out in the 2006 White Paper, we estimate that the procurement costs of the replacement for the current Vanguard class submarines will be between £11-14 billion at 2006-07 prices. The total spent on the replacement submarine and associated propulsion system since the beginning of April 2007 to the end of June 2009 is some £250 million.

Work is ongoing to assess whether continuous at sea deterrence could be achieved with a three boat fleet, and at what cost.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies his Department has undertaken into the skill levels and qualifications required to fly unmanned aerial vehicles. [288198]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The UK's armed forces currently operate a range of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The Medium Altitude Long Endurance Reaper System is flown by fully qualified pilots following their completion of conversion training. Smaller systems, such as Hermes 450 and Desert Hawk, do not require the full range of pilot skills and can therefore be operated by non-pilots who have received specialist UAV training only.

Several UK studies have been undertaken into current and future requirements for skill levels and qualifications for UAV operators as our capabilities in this area have developed. These include studies to define the skills and competences required to underpin operator selection and training and to derive formal standards for training programmes. This work is ongoing.

USA: Arms Trade

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on the Defence Technology Transfer Treaty between the US and UK; and if he will make a statement. [288606]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Her Majesty's Government continue to discuss the Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty with the US Government at all levels. The Treaty still awaits ratification by the US Senate. The UK has worked hard to ensure that members of the Senate are aware of the importance the UK places on the Treaty and the benefits for both nations in operational and industrial terms. MOD and FCO officials in the British embassy in Washington regularly discuss Treaty implementation with their US colleagues in preparation for ratification.

White Phosphorus

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1160W, what information his Department holds on munitions containing white phosphorus manufactured in the UK. [288805]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* The 120 mm white phosphorous shell is the only white phosphorous munition in the UK armed forces inventory manufactured in the UK. The inventory also includes the 60 mm and 81 mm white phosphorous mortar bombs, which are manufactured outside the UK.

The Department holds a range of information on the 120 mm white phosphorous shell, as it does on all its munitions. This includes, but is not limited to, information on contracts, Through Life Management, safety, legality/International Humanitarian Law, composition, performance, storage, handling, transportation, training, in-service surveillance, stockpile, and usage.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287800]

Dan Norris: The Department does not request or hold any central or local information on the number of staff in each of its suppliers. The number of staff in a supplier may vary over a period. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 386W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288994]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 386W.

All DEFRA staff, including the permanent secretary, chief information officer, head of communications and head of finance, are provided with Internet Explorer 7 on their desktop computers or laptops via our internal office system.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288958]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its Final Report, which can be found on the Commission on Scottish Devolution website.

A steering group has been established under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within the United Kingdom.

Water Charges

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have accessed social tariff schemes in each water company area in each of the last five years. [288505]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of customers accepted on to the vulnerable groups scheme by water companies in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

This will not strictly equal the number of customers currently on the tariff, owing to applications expiring during the year, bereavements, changes of occupancy and applications still being processed at year end.

Ofwat only routinely collects these data for the compulsory vulnerable groups tariff (WaterSure), and not for any other social tariffs which individual companies may offer.

Total number of successful applications for vulnerable groups tariff

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Anglian and Hartlepool	682	719	904	3,385	3,068
Dwr Cymru	319	426	580	899	1,070
United Utilities	1,114	1,447	1,565	2,286	2,551
Northumbrian and Essex and Suffolk	483	672	898	1,077	1,403
Severn Trent	916	1,223	1,508	2,385	3,399
South West	1,645	2,962	3,857	5,837	6,782
Southern	258	324	280	197	641
Thames	1,323	1,780	2,053	2,333	2,747
Wessex	481	622	751	837	972
Yorkshire and York	1,059	1,308	1,663	2,090	2,702
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	118	96	222	274	381
Bristol	211	391	478	511	620
Cambridge	81	97	108	128	163
Dee Valley	10	16	36	73	83
Folkestone	33	42	106	176	270
Portsmouth	24	30	30	43	73
South East Water (including mid-Kent)[1]	229	217	143	249	156
South East Water (excluding mid-Kent)	*91*	*114*	*102*	*97*	—
Mid-Kent	*138*	*103*	*41*	*152*	—
South Staffs	39	139	198	259	364
Sutton and East Surrey	38	64	91	110	113
Tendring Hundred	313	328	425	468	533
Three Valleys	251	284	316	504	788
Industry total	9,627	13,187	16,212	24,121	28,879

[1] In 2007, South East Water absorbed mid-Kent water. The figures shown above for the new South East Water (including mid-Kent) until 2007-08 are a sum of the figures reported by the former separate companies. The split between the former companies is shown in italics for information. These figures do not contribute to the industry totals.

HEALTH

Brain Cancer

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the five-year survival rate for cases of brain cancer in each strategic health authority area was in each of the last six years; [288890]

(2) what the five-year survival rate for cases of brain cancer in each primary care trust within the ceremonial county of Hampshire was in each of the last six years. [288891]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking (1) what the five-year survival rate for cases of brain cancer in each strategic health authority area was in each of the last six years [288890] and (2) what the five-year survival rate for cases of brain cancer in each primary care trust within the ceremonial county of Hampshire was in each of the last six years [288891].

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not produce five-year survival rates for brain cancer for (1) strategic health authorities or (2) primary care organisations.

The latest available survival figures for brain cancer for England, among adult patients diagnosed during 2001-2006 and followed up to the end of 2007, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=192

Cardiovascular System: Children

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of cardiovascular failure in children was in the latest period for which figures are available. [288384]

Ann Keen: The numbers of finished consultant episodes in English national health service hospitals or in independent hospitals but commissioned by the NHS in England where the primary diagnosis was cardiovascular failure for children for 2007-08, the last year for which figures were available were as in the following table.

Age group	*Number of episodes*
Under 16	244
16 to 18	25

Notes:

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

1. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

Primary diagnosis

2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the FCE Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

3. The ICD-10 codes used to identify Cardiovascular failure are as follows:

I50.0 Congestive heart failure
I50.1 Left ventricular failure
I50.9 Heart failure, unspecified
I11.0 Hypertensive heart disease with (congestive) heart failure
I11.0 Hypertensive heart and renal disease with (congestive) heart failure
I11.0 Hypertensive heart and renal disease with both (congestive) heart failure and renal failure
P29.0 Neonatal cardiac failure

Data quality

4. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Ungrossed data

5. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mechanisms for identifying cardiovascular risk in children. [288385]

Ann Keen: We have made no recent assessment of mechanisms for identifying cardiac risk in children but we believe that lack of exercise and poor diet are major factors. We are attempting to address these through the Change 4 Life programme, launched in January of 2009.

Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food Consumer Products and the Environment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment spent on external consultancy services in each of the last five years. [289055]

Gillian Merron: The Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and Environment has not employed external consultant services in the last five years.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288930]

Phil Hope: The formal data collection to measure performance against the Prime Minister's target of paying commercial suppliers within 10 days of receipt of a valid invoice is being coordinated across Government by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Data provided to BIS shows that in June 2009 96.39 per cent. of payments made by the Department of Health were made within 10 working days of receipt of the invoice.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2060W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since November 2008. [289165]

Phil Hope: Comprehensive information on spend for flat screen televisions, DVD players and stereo equipment, since November 2008, is not held centrally and to collect it would incur disproportionate cost.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 972W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [289001]

Phil Hope: The Department currently uses Internet Explorer Version 6 on the desktop and laptop computers it uses. This includes those used by the Permanent Secretary, the Chief Information Officer, the Head of Communications and the Head of Finance.

The exception to this is the use of Mozilla Firefox Version 3.0.1.1 on a small number of desktop machines used by:

the web publishing team, for compatibility with a web publishing system; and

the information technology development team, for the purposes of testing our systems.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of (i) male and (ii) female employees is. [288305]

Phil Hope: The percentage of employees in the Department who are women is 56 per cent. and the percentage who are men is 44 per cent.

The average hourly rates of pay for men and women are presented in the following table.

Hourly pay (£)

Type of average	*Men*	*Women*	*Percentage difference*
Median	20.10	16.17	19.6
Mean	22.06	19.03	13.7

Although median and mean hourly pay (excluding overtime as do the figures above) provide useful comparisons of men's and women's earnings, they do not reveal differences in rates of pay for comparable jobs. This is because such broad measures do not allow for the different employment characteristics of men and women, such as the proportion in different occupations and their length of time in jobs.

NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the office premises for the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement was in each of the last five years. [288686]

Phil Hope: This is set out in the following table.

£

Premises	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Coventry House at University of Warwick	325,690	414,922	434,441	397,615	414,922
Victoria House, London	110,117	163,371	147,355	207,581	233,098
Manchester, Gateway House	30,636	32,632	40,015	34,638	30,944
Birmingham, Birmingham Hospital	37,452	38,864	37,835	37,426	37,558
Total	503,895	649,789	659,646	677,260	716,522

Out of Area Treatment

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each primary care trust (PCT) area received referrals to consultant specialists based in a different PCT area in each of the last five years. [287875]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available data on number of patients in each primary care trust (PCT) area that received referrals to consultant specialists based in a different PCT area in each of the last five years are shown in the document, referrals to consultant specialists based in a different primary care trust area, provided by the NHS Information Centre, which has been placed in the Library.

Out of Area Treatment: South West

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients from Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust area did not keep an appointment following a referral to an out of county consultant specialist in each of the last five years. [287853]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally. However, the number of out-patient appointments from Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust where a patient did not attend or cancelled an appointment following a referral to an in county or out of county consultant specialist in each of the last five years has been placed in the Library.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients from Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust area have been referred to out of county consultant specialists in each of the last five years. [287874]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally. However, the number of out-patient appointments for patients resident in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust area who received referrals to out of county consultant specialists in each of the last five years has been placed in the Library.

Parkinson's Disease: Consultants

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of professionals in the NHS available to deliver high quality care to patients with Parkinson's Disease. [288272]

Ann Keen: Professionals working in this area of patient care are not identified separately in the National Health Service Workforce Census.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288946]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the United Kingdom Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its final report, which can be found here:

www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/20090612calmfinalreport2009bookmarked.pdf

A steering group has been established under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger UK.

PRIME MINISTER

Civil Service: Bullying

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what Civil Service procedures govern the handling of complaints of bullying of civil servants by Ministers. [287291]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

Complaints made by civil servants of bullying are dealt in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code which can be accessed online at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

TRANSPORT

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1566W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since November 2008. [289167]

Chris Mole: The information is as follows:

	(i) Flat screen televisions	*(ii) DVD players*	*(iii) Stereo equipment*
			£
(a) Department	2,556	0	0
(b) Agencies	13,346	55	0

This excludes spend at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency as the requested information is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288743]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport spent £21,419,317.41 on Royal Mail services in 2007-08 and £22,348,405.74 on Royal Mail services in 2008-09.

This excludes spend at the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency as the information requested is not recorded.

Departmental

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on foreign language training for its officials in each year since 1997; [289175]

(2) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on training in coping with traumatic incidents for its officials in each year since 1997; [289176]

(3) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on pre-retirement courses for its officials in each year since 1997; [289177]

(4) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on stress management training for its officials in each year since 1997; [289178]

(5) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on training in mentoring for its officials in each year since 1997; [289179]

(6) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on personal *(a)* development and *(b)* effectiveness courses for its officials in each year since 1997; [289180]

(7) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on talent management training for its officials in each year since 1997; [289181]

(8) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on health and safety training for its officials in each year since 1997; [289182]

(9) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on avoiding harassment and anti-bullying courses for its officials in each year since 1997; [289183]

(10) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on training relating to the European Union for its officials in each year since 1997; [289184]

(11) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on absence management training for its officials in each year since 1997; [289185]

(12) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on diversity awareness training for its officials in each year since 1997; [289186]

(13) how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on training in telephone skills for its officials in each year since 1997. [289187]

Chris Mole: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what provision is made to enable students to undertake work experience in his Department; how members of the public may obtain information about work experience in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [288729]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport takes part in the Summer Development and the Summer Placement intern programmes which are administered by the Cabinet Office. These schemes are aimed (respectively) at ethnic minority and disabled undergraduates/graduates interested in the Fast Stream development programme.

The Department also employs a number of economist summer interns each year through the Government Economics Service central recruitment process.

The schemes are advertised on the civil service website, the Government Economic Service website and university and graduate websites. They are also promoted at career fairs.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [289569]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its Final Report, which can be found at:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009-bookmarked.pdf

A steering group has been established under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

WALES

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much his Department has spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment since November 2008. [289170]

Mr. Hain: Expenditure during this period amounts to £79.99 which was for a replacement digital radio. There has been no other expenditure on such equipment during this period.

Economic Situation

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he next plans to meet the First Minister to discuss ways to deal with the economic downturn. [288798]

Mr. Hain: I have regular meetings with the First Minister to discuss the economic situation in Wales, continuing the dialogue and close working relationship that my right hon. Friend developed. Indeed, I last met the First Minister at the 7th All Wales Economic Summit on Friday 17 July 2009 in Bangor.

Employment Schemes

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of the £5 billion of funding to create new jobs and assist people back into work, as referred to in paragraph 40 in chapter 2, page 43 of Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654, will be available in Wales. [288120]

Mr. Hain: We are investing an extra £5 billion to help people back into work across the UK. The £3 billion investment in Jobcentre Plus will enable the recruitment of 600 additional advisers in Wales by the end of the year.

The £1 billion Future Jobs Fund has already approved 10 bids for funding from organisations in Wales which were announced on 29 July 2009. These bids will create over 2,000 jobs and are a demonstration of our determination to deliver the help that people need where and when they need it most.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what schemes the Government has made available to families in Wales who face mortgage repossessions. [288900]

Mr. Hain: The UK Government have a number of initiatives to help Welsh homeowners—the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme and the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme, both apply in Wales. In addition, we have also put in place a number of other measures, including new court protocols to protect homeowners, secured commitments from major lenders not to repossess homes within three months of arrears and have invested

a further £25 million to extend free debt advice. All of these measures are available to consumers across the country.

The Welsh Assembly Government also provides support to struggling homeowners, through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Holtham Commission report. [287540]

Mr. Hain: The Welsh Assembly Government established an Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales, headed by Gerald Holtham. The Commission published their first report 'Funding devolved government in Wales: Barnett and Beyond' on 7 July 2009. I have discussed the recommendations contained within the report with both the First Minister and Gerald Holtham.

As this is a Welsh Assembly Government commissioned review, we await their response to the report and look forward to the final report to be published next year.

Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289670]

Mr. Hain: The last period for which figures are available covers January to March 2009. During this period, the Wales Office recycled 84 per cent. of its waste.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many contracts let by her Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287807]

Michael Jabez Foster: During financial year 2008-09, the Government Equalities Office awarded 45 contracts to businesses with fewer than 50 members of staff. The total monetary value of these contracts was £526,460.96

The Government Equalities Office became a stand alone department in October 2007 so no data are available for previous years.

Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment has been made of the effect of the new duties on public authorities in the Equality Bill on Travellers' access to public services. [288263]

Michael Jabez Foster: Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are covered by the existing race duty as recognised ethnic groups, and will continue to be covered as part of that strand in the forthcoming Equality Duty. This should mean public bodies considering the needs of all groups, including Irish Travellers, when taking decisions and planning services.

When the Bill was published, Government Equalities Office officials assessed the potential impact of the provisions in the Equality Bill, including plans for the Equality Duty, upon stakeholders. The assessment and its conclusions were published. That assessment concluded that the introduction of the Equality Duty would not have any adverse impact on different racial groups.

The other public sector duty in the Equality Bill, covering socio-economic inequalities, should benefit travellers, many of whom suffer significant levels of socio-economic disadvantage.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Absenteeism: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases of unauthorised absence from school were recorded in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [285325]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is shown in the table. Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2] number and percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence 2003-04 to 2007-08[3]

	North East		*Tees Valley*		*Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency*	
	Total half days missed due to unauthorised absence	*Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[4]*	*Total half days missed due to unauthorised absence*	*Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[4]*	*Total half days missed due to unauthorised absence*	*Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[4]*
2007-08	801,580	0.83	269,050	1.02	39,660	1.21
2006-07	809,630	0.81	289,430	1.04	[5]	[5]
2005-06	788,110	0.77	247,180	0.90	[5]	[5]
2004-05	708,070	0.67	266,810	0.92	[5]	[5]
2003-04	685,750	0.62	229,190	0.73	[5]	[5]

[1] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Figures in italics have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from the School Census.
[4] The number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
[5] Not readily available. To provide further information would incur disproportionate cost.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Absence in Schools Survey and School Census (3)

Advanced Skills Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many advanced skills teachers there were in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [288340]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table provides the headcount number of full and part-time advanced skills teachers in service in local authority maintained schools in England, January 2006 to 2009.

Full and part-time head count number of advanced skills teachers (ASTs) in service in the local authority maintained sector[1]—2006-09: England

	ASTs
2006	4,010
2007	4,060
2008[2]	4,300
2009[3]	4,030

[1] The figures exclude academies and CTCs because they are not funded by Las and therefore not part of the 618g collection.
[2] This figure is approximately 200 too high because a small number of local authorities overstated the numbers of ASTs they employed in 2008.
[3] Provisional.
Source:
Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies (618g).

Children: Disabled

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will develop a national strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities into society, based on the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [289213]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have taken action to promote an inclusive society in which disabled children will play a full part. We ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons on 8 June. Further, we outlined in the Children's Plan our desire to make Britain the best place for all children and young people to realise their full potential, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

We have legislated to ensure that disabled children and young people are not discriminated against and are actively encouraged by their school to participate in school life and in the local community. We amended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to require public bodies (including schools and local authorities) to increase access to the curriculum and school premises over time for disabled students by making reasonable adjustments.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 has also been amended to place a general duty on all public bodies, when carrying out their functions to have due regard to the need to: promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people; eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; eliminate harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability; promote positive attitudes by disabled people in public life; and take steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment. Additionally, public bodies have a specific duty to work with disabled people to develop, implement and publish a disability equality scheme outlining how the general duty will be met.

Children: Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have been added to the barred list maintained under the Protection of Children Act 1999 by the Independent Safeguarding Authority since January 2009. [287923]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1408W and 1443W.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283482]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not carried out an estimate of the proportion of statutory obligations deriving from EU law within its policy remit. The key policy areas within the Department's remit (education in schools, children's social care and substantive family law) fall outside Community competence.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible to sit a *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English and *(c)* science GCSE in 2007 were not entered for an examination in each subject. [286383]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is shown in the following table:

GCSE attempts of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4: England 2006-07

Subject	*Number of pupils eligible for subject*	*Number of pupils entered for subject*	*Number of pupils not entered for subject*
Mathematics	649,200	616,900	32,300
English	649,200	619,500	29,700
Science	649,200	599,700	49,500

[*] All figures to nearest 100.

These figures are derived from the Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006-07 (Revised) at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288927]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State currently has no plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment.

Head Teachers: Age

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average age of headteachers in maintained schools was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [288343]

Dawn Primarolo: In March 2008, the latest period for which information is available, the average age of full-time head teachers in service in local authority maintained schools in England was 50. This figure is from the Database of Teacher Records and is provisional.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at how many and what proportion of primary schools *(a)* 25 per cent. or more and *(b)* 50 per cent. or more of pupils did not achieve a Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics in their Key Stage 2 tests in the latest period for which figures are available. [286804]

Dawn Primarolo: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Offences against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* funding, *(b)* materials and *(c)* other support his Department provides for children who have experienced online abuse. [288850]

Dawn Primarolo: Details on the funding, materials and support made available specifically for the victims of online child abuse are not held centrally.

However, expenditure on children's social care in England has increased from £2.218 billion in 1997-98 to £5.728 billion in 2008-09. This is a real terms increase of over 90 per cent., which equates to an average real terms increase of 6.1 per cent. per annum. In addition, the Government are investing £130 million in social work reform over the full spending review period including £109 million in the next two years of which £57.8 million is additional new investment as part of the Government's detailed response to Lord Laming's Report.

The Department of Health also makes available to local authorities £100.045 million in 2009-10 for child and adolescent mental health services through the local authority area based grant. It is for local authorities to determine how to use those resources in order to deliver local and national priorities in their areas. These grants account for less than 20 per cent. of spend on CAMHS and the actual reported spend on CAMHS increased by 62 per cent. between 2003-04 and 2006-07 to £523 million (latest available figure) when NHS spending is considered also.

Statutory guidance contained in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' explains the procedures to be followed if somebody has concerns about the welfare of a child and in particular has concerns that a child may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering, significant harm. Chapter 5 sets out the principles that underpin work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Where online abuse is concerned children and or parents can seek support from children's social care.

In addition, the Government have committed £30 million to the NSPCC's Childline services which offers trusted 1:1 counselling to children. The money will allow the NSPCC to expand their services significantly and improve them so that more children can be given the advice and help that can be so important.

Pupil Exclusions: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many exclusions from schools there have been in each year group in *(a)* Test Valley Borough and *(b)* Southampton in each of the last three years; and how many of those pupils who were excluded were also (i) cautioned for and (ii) charged with criminal offences. [287767]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information on the number of exclusions (not the number of students) is shown in the table.

Data on permanent exclusions are available for the full period requested. Data on fixed period exclusions were collected for the first time in 2003-04 via the Termly Exclusions Survey. Since 2005-06 collection has been via the School Census, but in that first year was for secondary schools only, therefore, comparable information for fixed period exclusions in 2005-06 is not available. In 2006-07, collection was extended to primary and special schools.

Information for Test Valley Borough could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Statistics are not collected by the Department on the numbers of pupils that have been cautioned or charged for criminal activity.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of exclusions by age, Southampton LA: 2004-05 to 2007-08

	2004-05		2005-06	2006-07		2007-08	
Number of exclusions	*Permanent exclusions[4]*	*Fixed period exclusions*	*Permanent exclusions[4]*	*Permanent exclusions[4]*	*Fixed period exclusions*	*Permanent exclusions[4]*	*Fixed period exclusions*
Age (5):							
4 and under	0	10	0	0	x	0	0
5	0	20	0	0	10	0	10
6	0	20	x	0	40	0	20
7	0	70	x	0	70	0	60
8	x	90	0	0	90	0	40
9	x	140	0	x	130	x	120
10	x	160	x	x	160	x	120
11	x	290	x	10	550	x	350
12	10	560	x	10	600	x	550
13	x	620	10	10	780	10	760
14	10	630	10	10	860	10	740
15	x	300	x	0	540	10	460
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	x
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	x
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	30	2,890	30	40	3,820	40	3,240

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both CTCs and academies (including all-through academies). Information is as reported by schools.
[3] Includes maintained special schools. Non-maintained special schools are included from 2006-07.
[4] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.
[5] Age as at 31 August.
Notes:
1. x less than 5.
2. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Schools: Absence

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases of unauthorised absence from school were recorded in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* the South East in each year since 1997. [285893]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is shown in the table. Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2] number and percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence 2003-04 – 2007-08[3]

	Hemel Hempstead constituency		*Dacorum*		*Hertfordshire*		*South East*	
	Total half days missed due to unauthorised absence	*Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[4]*	*Total half days missed due to unauthorised absence*	*Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[4]*	*Total half days missed due to unauthorised absence*	*Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[4]*	*Total half days missed due to unauthorised absence*	*Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[4]*
2007-08	30,210	0.81	[5]	[5]	307,380	0.73	2,812,270	0.95
2006-07	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	318,620	0.74	2,729,370	0.90
2005-06	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	281,050	0.66	2,580,910	0.84
2004-05	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	243,780	0.56	2,307,730	0.75
2003-04	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	240,980	0.54	2,044,600	0.65

[1] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[2] Includes maintained and non maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Figures in italics have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from the School Census.
[4] The number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
[5] Not readily available. To provide further information would incur disproportionate cost.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Absence in Schools Survey and School Census[3]

Schools: Wakefield

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size was in Wakefield local authority area for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [289119]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Average class size in Wakefield local authority area

School type	1997	2008
Primary	28.2	26.2
Secondary	22.2	21.8

Notes:
1. Classes as taught by one teacher on the day of the Census in January.
2. The 1997 figures exclude the three middle schools that existed in Wakefield local authority at that time.
3. In 2008 there were no middle schools in Wakefield local authority.

Source:
School Census.

More detailed information can be found in the 'Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England (tables B12 and B14)' Statistical First Release: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/LATablesWeb.xls

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average spend per head in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Wakefield local authority area was in (i) 1997 and (ii) in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [289120]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on the average spend per head in primary and secondary schools in Wakefield local authority in 1997 and the last 12 months is shown in the following table:

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained schools in Wakefield in 1997-98 and 2007-08

	1997-98		2007-08	
	Pre-primary and primary education	Secondary education	Primary education	Secondary education
Wakefield	1,560	2,150	3,590	4,340

Notes:
1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DCSF (then DfES). 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. From 2002-03 school based expenditure is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table A line 51 net current expenditure (NCE). For 2001-02 and earlier years the expenditure is calculated as lines 1 to 12 less lines 29, 30, 35 and 37. This differs from the old Net Institutional Expenditure (NIE) calculation only in the treatment of meals and milk which is no longer excluded and no adjustments for balances are now made. This is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table 3 for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 and from the RO1 form previously.
3. The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years.
4. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
5. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.
6. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 and in cash terms.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in the discussions between Xafinity Paymaster and the Post Office on the payment of armed forces pensions into the Post Office Card Account. [284813]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

I will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested shortly.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Frank Field:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 13 July (Official Report, column 506W), asking for a progress update about discussions between Xafinity Paymaster and the Post Office concerning the payment of armed forces pensions into the Post Office Card Account.

In order for the MOD or Xafinity Paymaster to introduce a POCA facility for Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) payments a new contractual agreement between MOD and the Post Office for this provision would be required. This would incur significant set up costs, as well as higher ongoing costs, especially as the MOD volumes would be significantly lower than those which enabled DWP to negotiate the current rate. The Service Personnel Veterans Agency (SPVA) will continue, as always, to work closely with Xafinity Paymaster to ensure that we provide our customers with services that are both convenient and represent value for money.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Departmental Land

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, on departmental land, to what purposes the £59.7 million of capital receipts obtained by the Church Commissioners following the sale of agricultural land in 2007 has been allocated. [288902]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners do not ring-fence capital receipts for specific purposes. Receipts are reinvested with the aim of maximising the fund's long-term total return in support of the Commissioners' various responsibilities. These include meeting clergy pension commitments and providing maximum sustainable funding for bishops and cathedrals as well as parish mission and ministry support.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, on departmental land, what the rate of return was on *(a)* the £59.7 million of capital receipts obtained by the Church Commissioners following the sale of agricultural land in 2007 and *(b)* agricultural assets retained by the Church Commissioners in the same period. [288941]

Sir Stuart Bell: The information requested is as follows.

(a) As the Commissioners do not ring-fence capital receipts, it is not possible to state the return on the capital receipts obtained by them from a specific transaction.

(b) I can, however, tell the hon. Gentleman that the total return on the Commissioners' assets in 2007 was 9.4 per cent. The total return on the rural holdings was 36.6 per cent. which included sales significantly above valuation.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, on departmental land, what the monetary value is of the assets in which the £59.7 million of capital receipts obtained by the Church Commissioners following the sale of agricultural land in 2007 was invested. [288942]

Sir Stuart Bell: Because the Commissioners pursue a total return investment strategy rather than ring-fencing receipts for specific reinvestment or expenditure, it is not possible to give a monetary value for the capital receipt obtained by the specific transaction to which the hon. Gentleman refers.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners (1) how many tenanted agricultural holdings with rights of succession under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 were sold in whole or in part following the death or retirement of the previous tenant in each of the last five years; [289110]

(2) how many tenanted agricultural holdings with rights of succession under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 were re-let in whole or in part as farm business tenancies to *(a)* individuals unconnected to previous tenant family and *(b)* members of the previous tenant's families following the death or retirement of the previous tenant in each of the last five years. [289122]

Sir Stuart Bell: None.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many tenanted agricultural holdings with rights of succession under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 had successful successions following the death or retirement of the previous tenant of those holdings in each of the last five years. [289121]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners do not record succession data.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will make it his policy to ensure that district authorities in Lancashire publish their waiting lists for local authority-provided allotments; what recent assessment he has made of local authorities' performance in the provision of allotments; and what formula his Department provides for local authorities to determine the number of allotments each should provide; [287690]

(2) if he will estimate the number of allotments which each district authority in Lancashire should provide under the formula prepared by his Department; and if he will estimate the number of allotments each such local authority provides. [287810]

Mr. Malik: Local authorities are responsible for keeping and managing waiting lists for allotments they provide. We have no plans to direct local authorities to publish their waiting lists.

Information on the number of allotments provided by local authorities is not held centrally. The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities; Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide allotments where they perceive a demand for them in their area.

Government do not provide a formula for local authorities to determine the number of allotments they should provide. However, the Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation 2002 (PPG17) requires local authorities to make provision for all types of open space and requires them to undertake robust assessments of local needs and audits of existing open space, to establish standards for new provision. Setting national standards for provision cannot cater for local circumstances, such as differing demographic profiles and the extent of building development in an area. The accompanying guidance to PPG17 advises local authorities on setting local standards.

A revised good practice guide, "Growing in the Community", was published by the Local Government Association in March 2008, and includes a section on allotment provision and how to assess the need for allotments as outlined in PPG17.

Building Regulations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contraventions of Part L of the Building Regulations have been identified in each year since 2000; how many of these were resolved before project completion; and how many of those unresolved at project completion resulted in prosecution. [288042]

Mr. Malik: Enforcement of compliance with the Building Regulations is undertaken by local authorities. There is no central register of enforcement notices served or prosecutions brought. In the main, local authorities aim to resolve issues that arise through inspection of and advice to those undertaking work. Enforcement notices and prosecution are only used as a last resort.

The consultation on revising Part L in 2010 published on 18 June included proposals for specifically improving compliance. The consultation paper can be accessed via the link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/partlf2010consultation

Building Regulations Advisory Committee

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent employees the Building Regulations

Advisory Committee employs; what its budget for 2009-10 is; and how much it will receive in support from his Department in 2009-10. [288481]

Mr. Malik: The Building Regulations Advisory Committee has no full time employees. The Committee's budget for 2009-10 is £20,000 which is funded by the Department and used for members' expenses and the essential costs of its meetings. The Department also provides the Committee's secretariat and its resources for this comprise the equivalent of approximately three-quarters of a full-time post.

Council Housing: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority housing units have been *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in the last 12 months. [288283]

Mr. Malik: 330 local authority dwellings were started, and 520 local authority dwellings were completed in England in the 2008-09 financial year.

The latest statistics on house building starts and completions in England were published in the Communities and Local Government Statistics Release of 21 May 2009 and accompanying live tables. The web links are shown as follows:

Link to House Building Statistics Release:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/housebuildingq12009

Link to House Building Live Tables:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

Council Housing: Fire Prevention

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by his Department's Head of Housing to each local authority following the Lakanal House fire. [288105]

John Healey: I have arranged for the letter to Chief Executives in all local authorities to be placed in the Library of the House.

The enclosures to the letter can be found on the Communities website at

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/camberwellupdate

Council Tax: Debt Collection

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions each local authority in England *(a)* issued a court order and *(b)* authorised bailiff action in respect of council tax arrears in each of the last three years. [288537]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Communities and Local Government does not collect this information.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1128W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since November 2008. [289163]

Mr. Malik: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department spent the following on these commodities since November 2008:

i. £6,360 on two flat screen televisions and associated equipment

ii. £0 on DVD players

iii. £0 on stereo equipment.

(b) The Department's agencies spent the following on these commodities since November 2008:

i. £1,350 on flat screen televisions

ii. £582 on DVD players

iii. £0 on stereo equipment.

Departmental Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the proposals contained in the Draft Legislative Programme 2009, what changes will be made to the programme budgets of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in order to finance the £1.5 billion housing package; what proportion of the package will be funded by his Department; and over what timescale. [288782]

Mr. Malik: Details of the funding package for the £1.5 billion housing pledge announced in Building Britain's Future were announced on 17 July:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1286956

Departmental ICT

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects involving information technology elements being sponsored by his Department and its agencies are *(a)* behind schedule and *(b)* overbudget. [288284]

Mr. Malik: The criteria set out in the question currently apply to several CLG projects as follows.

Communities and Local Government (including the regional co-ordination unit and Government offices in the regions)

FiReControl: The FiReControl project is a business change project with an IT component. On 15 July 2009 I announced a 10 month rescheduling of the project. The IT costs will remain the same although total costs might increase as a result of the extended delivery schedule.

FireLink: The Firelink project is primarily providing a radio system for the Fire and Rescue Service, and contains a small element of IT. Completion of the roll-out is scheduled for April 2010 compared to the previously published completion date of December 2009. The whole life project costs remain on target.

Planning Inspectorate

Charging for Appeals: This project, originally for delivery by April 2009, has been re-planned, and split into two stages. This recognises the time needed for the charging regime to be developed

and consulted on. Stage 1 is expected to be complete by October 2009, and stage 2 by April 2010. Costs are increasing by £65,000 as a result.

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of (i) male and (ii) female employees is. [288298]

Mr. Malik: The workforce of Communities and local Government is 50.58 per cent. female and 49.42 per cent. male.

Data on Civil Service pay, including average pay for men and women, can be found in the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey statistics published by ONS at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cds0109.pdf

Please note the ONS collects the annual gross salary of civil servants and does not produce hourly rates of pay.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* salaries, *(b)* benefits in kind and *(c)* payments for expenses each of his Department's non-executive directors have received in the last 24 months. [288829]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Non-executive members of the board are not employees of the Department, and do not therefore receive salaries. Rather, each receives a fee of £10,000 per year. As agreed on a case-by-case basis, however, this fee may be paid to the employer and not to the individual as reimbursement for their time spent on non-executive business. (Within the last 24 months, this has applied for Sir Bob Kerslake, a former board member and formerly chief executive of Sheffield city council; and Rob Vincent, the chief executive of Kirklees council and a current board member.)

No non-executive board member has received any benefits in kind during the last 24 months.

Non-executive board members are entitled to reimbursement of all reasonable expenses properly and necessarily incurred in respect of their appointment. Payments made to individual non-executive board members between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2009 are summarised in the following table. All business expenses reimbursed to non-executive board members, and also to senior civil servants at the director general and above level, from 1 April 2009 onwards will be published quarterly.

		£
	2007-08	*2008-09*
Peter Doyle	1,094.13	337.60
Sir Bob Kerslake	2,886.81	442
Sarah Weir	79.40	0
Polly Cochrane	0	157
Rob Vincent	0	2,007.83

On occasion, the Department also books travel and accommodation for all board members and incurs that expenditure centrally.

Departmental Recruitment

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which posts filled by his Department in the last three months were not advertised on either his Department's public website or the public part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway; and what the job title and remit of each such vacancy was. [286644]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Staff are from time to time recruited through limited competition on a time-limited basis to provide additional expertise and capacity as required, and are not permanent civil servants who can only be appointed through fair and open competition.

20 posts were not advertised and were filled through limited competition (including three student placements). The job title and remit for the remaining 17 posts are as follows:

Project Adviser—Local Analysis and Delivery Unit;
Marketing Assistant—Planning Portal;
Lawyer—Legal Directorate;
Grade 6—Residential Property Tribunal Service;
Team Leader—Olympics Legacy Planning and Delivery;
Personal Assistant, Strategy and Performance;
Development Team Admin.—Planning Portal;
HR Communications Manager;
Research Assistant—Planning Portal;
HR Helpdesk Operator;
Workforce Equalities Team Member;
Policy Adviser—Local Government Restructuring;
HR Management Information Manager;
Deputy Director—Communities Futures;
Policy Adviser—Strategy and Performance;
Executive Officer—Total Place;
HR Resourcing Manager.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many job vacancies have been filled in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many of them were advertised on *(a)* his Department's public website and *(b)* the public part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway. [286683]

Mr. Malik: 270 job vacancies were filled in the Department in the last 12 months, and most were filled internally. 82 job vacancies were advertised externally. A high proportion of external adverts are for specialist and senior roles. Advertising methods are chosen to ensure a strong field of candidates. It is standard procedure to advertise all external vacancies (below SCS level) on the public part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway and on the Department's public website, in addition to the use of other means such as Local Employment Partnerships and Jobcentre Plus.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision is made to enable students to undertake work experience in his Department; by what means members of the public may obtain information about work experience in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [288731]

Mr. Malik: This year Communities and Local Government has offered internships to Greenwich university students, under/recent graduates from the ADAB Trust and students from the Cabinet Office Summer Development programme for Ethnic Minorities and Summer Placements scheme for disabled students. In addition we have taken on summer students and sandwich students via the Government Economic Service and Legal Directorate has offered summer placements to legal trainees.

Members of the public may obtain information about work experience opportunities from a variety of sources including the contact phone number and email address found on the Communities and Local Government website.

Eco-Towns: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to page 122 of the Draft Legislative Programme 2009-10, whether his Department's target to build five eco-towns by 2016 remains in place. [288456]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 42WS, on eco-towns and zero carbon homes, which sets out the first locations with potential to have an eco-town and our aims and proposals for the further development of eco-towns.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 902W, on energy performance certificates and home information packs, what the reasons are for the difference between the period of validity of energy performance certificates *(a)* included in and *(b)* not included in home information packs. [288109]

John Healey: The reasons were set out in paragraphs 7.1-7.3 of the Explanatory Memorandum to The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2008 which can be viewed online at

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20082363_en.pdf

Fire Service College

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the net cost to the public purse of the Fire Service College is; and whether an assessment has been made of the potential for increasing its commercial revenue. [288826]

Mr. Malik: In 2008-09 the expenditure of the Fire Service College was £23.840 million, which it funded from £21.579 million income and £2.261 million reserves. It was unable to pay the required dividend (net of loan interest) of £1.521 million.

Over the past year the Department and College management team have jointly carried out a detailed review of all aspects of the College's business to determine how it could continue to meet the training and development needs of the Fire and Rescue Service on a financially sustainable basis. This review looked at building College income through growing current market share and developing new public and private sector markets and products and concluded that financial sustainability could be achieved in 2010-11.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget for the Homes and Communities Agency for 2009-10 is. [288471]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 202W.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1002W, on housing, on what dates the Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process has met since 23 March 2009; what was discussed at each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [288437]

John Healey: The Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process has met twice since 23 March 2009, on 19 May and 13 July. This work is ongoing and disclosure of what was discussed at each meeting could restrict the contribution of Working Group members to those discussions and limit their input.

Housing Market

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of time was between a home being placed on the market and being sold in the latest period for which figures are available. [287506]

John Healey: We do not collect the data requested.

Housing: Construction

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new housing units were completed in 2008-09; and how many are predicted to be completed in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [287508]

Mr. Malik: 133,710 new build dwellings were completed in England in 2008-09.

The latest statistics on house building starts and completions in England were published in the Communities and Local Government Statistics Release of 21 May 2009 and accompanying live tables. The web links are as follows:

Link to House Building Statistics Release:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/housebuildingq12009

Link to House Building Live Tables:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

The Department does not publish forecasts for house building.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets his Department and its agencies have set for affordable house building in each of the next two years. [288224]

John Healey: As set out in Building Britain's Future, we will be providing a total of 110,000 new affordable homes over the next two years.

Housing: Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes classified as energy efficient were built in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [286917]

Mr. Malik: All new homes built in England in the last five years have been required to meet the energy efficiency standards set out in part L of the Building Regulations. The part L standard for new homes was raised by 25 per cent. in 2002 and by a further 20 per cent. in 2006. This requirement will progressively increase leading up to the target for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016. Tables showing the total number of new build dwellings per year in each English region can be found on my Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141239.xls

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 31 of the Building Britain's Future document, Cm 7654, what criteria will be used to decide where to deploy the £1.5 billion of new investment in energy efficient affordable homes. [287866]

John Healey: Criteria for allocations for these funds vary across the different component programmes, although all funding will be allocated on a competitive basis. For affordable housing units, standards and costing will be in line with those of the National Affordable Housing Programme. For private housing completions, the level of public subsidy required, fit with national, regional and local priorities and the quality of the homes will all be assessed. The bidding guidance and criteria for the schemes will be made available through the website of the Home and Communities Agency at

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many energy performance certificates have been issued by local authorities in respect of privately-rented properties in each year since their introduction; what recent progress has been made in increasing the energy efficiency of buildings; and if he will make a statement. [288022]

John Healey: The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/991) ("the 2007 regulations") require the seller, prospective landlord or builder of a property to make an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) available to a prospective buyer or tenant whenever a building in England or Wales is sold, constructed or rented out. Local authorities are not therefore expected to issue EPCs in respect of privately rented properties.

The Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation paper (HESS), published in February this year, sets out the combination of measures the Government have adopted and proposes for increasing the energy efficiency of existing homes, including targeted help to households on using energy better, insulating their homes, accessing low carbon heat and power, and reducing their fuel bills. The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (UKLCTP), publish on 15 July, also sets out the route to cut emissions by 34 per cent. in comparison to 1990 levels by 2020. Consultation on the HESS has now been completed and the final policy proposals will be published later this year.

Housing: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which month in 2009 data collection funds from the second round of housing and planning delivery grant will be allocated to local authorities; over what period of data collection his Department will base its second round allocations; and over what period his Department will take a decision on how to allocate the funding. [288824]

John Healey: A consultation paper setting out changes to the formula for distributing Housing and Planning Delivery Grant was issued in May 2009. The data used to calculate the allocations of the second year of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (2009-10) have been collected and we hope to make provisional allocations shortly. Following comments from local authorities we will make final allocations and payments in the autumn.

The proposed formula is based on data for housing supply (average net additions) in local authorities over the period 2005-6 to 2007-8. For planning the formula is based on data from 2008-9 for the delivery of local development frameworks, providing land for housing and publishing strategic housing land assessments.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed Social Homebuy transactions there have been in each Government Office region. [288225]

Mr. Malik: The following table shows the number of social homebuy sales in each Government office region between April 2006 and June 2009. Social homebuy is a voluntary and demand-led scheme in which only some social landlords choose to participate. It is one of several options available to help social tenants into home ownership. Purchasers can buy shares of between 25 and 100 per cent.

Region	*Number of social homebuy sales*
North East	16
North West	63
Yorkshire and the Humber	19

Region	Number of social homebuy sales
West Midlands	21
East Midlands	9
East	6
South East	32
Greater London	151
South West	2
Total	315

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of social housing units contained households with at least one person in paid work in *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [288226]

Mr. Malik: Estimates of the number and proportion of social sector households with at least one person in employment in 1997 and 2008 are provided in the following table. Data are not available for 1979. These estimates are based on data from the ONS Labour Force Survey.

Social sector households with at least one person in employment, England, 1997 and 2008

	Thousands	Percentage
1997	1,433	35
2008	1,425	39

Source:
ONS, Labour Force Survey.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards the Government's target of delivering at least 70,000 affordable houses by 2010. [288324]

Mr. Malik: Provisional figures from the Homes and Communities Agency show a total of 47,000 affordable homes were provided in 2008-09. Market conditions have made the delivery of affordable housing much more challenging. Along with additional investment from the Housing Pledge and steps the Government have already taken, we will deliver 20,000 more affordable homes than would otherwise have been possible and allow us to deliver over 56,000 affordable homes in 2010-11.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what formula is used to allocate between regions additional monies under the National Affordable Housing Programme. [288475]

John Healey: Flexibility will be applied to the additional funding for the national Affordable Housing Programme and will reflect the extent to which local areas in regions respond on delivery and value for money.

Independent Housing Ombudsman

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent employees the office of the Independent Housing Ombudsman employs; what its budget for 2009-10 is; and how much it will receive in support from his Department in 2009-10. [288479]

Mr. Malik: The Independent Housing Ombudsman (THO) currently employs 35.5 full-time equivalent employees. Its budget for 2009-10 is £3,326,734. The IHO does not receive any financial support from the Department.

Leasehold Advisory Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent employees the Leasehold Advisory Service employs; what its budget for 2009-10 is; and how much it will receive in support from his Department in 2009-10. [288478]

Mr. Malik: LEASE currently employs 19 full-time equivalent staff. The expenditure forecast by LEASE for 2009-10 is £1,468,851. Communities and Local Government expects to provide a grant-in-aid amount of £1,325,000 for the year 2009-10.

Leasehold Advisory Service: Managers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what remuneration the Chief Executive of the Leasehold Advisory Service received in the most recent year for which figures are available. [288487]

Mr. Malik: The remuneration for the chief executive of the Leasehold Advisory Service with effect from 8 October 2008 is equivalent to £72,235 per annum.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what individual funding streams there are within the area-based grant; and which elements of area-based grant derive from funding streams which are managed by other Government departments. [288162]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on individual area based grant funding streams and their contributing central Government Departments for the period 2009-10 is available from the CLG website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/780467118.xls

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the amount of area-based grant will be in each of the next three years. [288163]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total of area based grant in 2010-11 is currently scheduled to be £4,776,748,906. This total is subject to change as departments contributing to ABG have the option to increase their previously announced allocations or to include new funding streams within ABG. Details of department allocations are available on the CLG website at the following link:

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/areabasedgrant/

Spending plans for 2011-12 onwards have yet to be determined.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the number of resident migrants who are not recorded on the census in a particular locality are reckoned for the purposes of local government finance settlements. [288982]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The distribution of Formula Grant funding takes into account a measure of the usual resident population, and does not use estimates of migrant numbers separately.

Communities and Local Government use sub-national population projections and the mid-year estimates that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). These statistics take into account changes in the population through natural change (births and deaths), internal migration (movements between local authorities) as well as international migration.

Local Government: Debt Collection

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions each local authority in England *(a)* issued a court order and *(b)* authorised bailiff action in respect of rent arrears in each of the last three years. [288538]

Mr. Malik: Data are not yet available on possession or eviction orders granted by the courts to local authority landlords in respect of rent arrears.

Local Government: East of England

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for the parliamentary timetable for secondary legislation in relation to local government restructuring in Norfolk, Suffolk and Devon. [288300]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following the High Court judgment in the case of Forest Heath District Council and Others v. the Boundary Committee for England, the Boundary Committee informed us that it was not able to provide the requested advice on unitary local government in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk by 15 July. We agreed that the deadline for providing advice should be extended. Once it is clear when any appeal against the court's judgment may be determined a new date by which the Boundary Committee is requested to advise will be specified.

The statute provides that the Secretary of State may not make a decision about any unitary proposals put to him within six weeks of the date the Committee has been requested to provide advice.

Any Orders to implement unitary proposals in Norfolk, Suffolk or Devon would be laid before Parliament as soon as practicable after statutory decisions are taken.

Local Government: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assumptions his Department makes of the level of local government pay inflation in determining the local government finance settlement; and what measure of pay inflation is used. [288983]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No assumption on the level of local government pay inflation is made in determining the local government finance settlement. Cost pressures are considered as part of Spending Reviews. Differences in labour costs between areas are reflected in the Area Cost Adjustment.

Migration Impacts Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 200 projects will be funded under the Migration Impacts Fund; where each is based; what the purpose of each is; what the name of the recipient of funding in respect of each is; and how much each will receive. [288831]

Mr. Malik: On 9 July 2009 we announced the successful proposals for England to receive a share of the Migration Impacts Fund. The Fund is financed by a levy on migrants and provides £35 million across the UK for 2009-10 and, subject to a review in the autumn, a similar amount in 2010-11. This money will be used to reduce local pressure on public services and tackle illegal working practices. Councils and other frontline services have identified projects in their area that will make the biggest contribution to insulating them and local people against the impact of migration.

A list of funding allocations for 2009-10 has been deposited in the Library of the House. This does not cover payments to voluntary sector bodies, or to enforcement agencies to protect existing workers in local areas as amounts are subject to funding agreements. Details of these payments will be published shortly.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 959W, on mortgages: Government assistance, on what date *(a)* the Bank of Ireland, *(b)* GMAC, *(c)* Kensington Mortgages, *(d)* GE Money and *(e)* the Post Office joined the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme. [287604]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 498W.

Non-Domestic Rates: Appeals

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many business rate appeals the Valuation Tribunal Service has considered in each of the last five years. [288825]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table sets out the number of national non-domestic rate appeals, considered by the 56 valuation tribunals in England, in each of the last five years.

Total VT decisions on NNDR appeal types

	Number
2008-09	8,101
2007-08	13,825
2006-07	23,779

Total VT decisions on NNDR appeal types

	Number
2005-06	36,581
2004-05	34,725

Opencast Mining: Planning Permission

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the size of buffer zones between proposed opencast mining planning developments and residential housing in England to the size they are in Scotland. [287011]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1156W. There is no current intention to review existing planning policy on opencast mining and introduce buffer zones in England.

Residential Property Tribunal Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent employees the Residential Property Tribunal Service employs; what its budget for 2009-10 is; and how much it will receive in support from his Department in 2009-10. [288470]

Mr. Malik: The Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) is an umbrella organisation for five regional panels which draw on a pool of tribunal members, including nine full-time equivalent (FTE) paid presidents and vice presidents. Although they receive funding for expenses and pay from the Department, members of tribunals are not Communities and Local Government staff. They are supported by 92.5 FTE administrative staff who are civil servants employed by Communities and Local Government. The total budget for the RPTS for 2009-10 is £11 million.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288966]

Mr. Malik: Communities and Local Government has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation and does not plan to do so.

Social Rented Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of social housing dwellings have received new tenants in each of the last five years. [288108]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1198W.

Social Rented Housing: Foreigners

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households of non-UK nationals have received new social housing tenancies in each of the last five years. [288098]

John Healey: Information on the number of foreign national households receiving social housing is collected through the continuous recording of letting form (CORE). Historically CORE has only collected information from registered social landlords. An increasing number of local authorities are now providing information through this process as well, but there are still some gaps in the data.

A question on nationality was first introduced to the form for the 2006-07 data collection period. It was estimated that around 6 per cent. (equivalent to around 11,000) general needs lettings to new social housing tenants were made to foreign nationals in 2006-07. This estimate was adjusted for the missing local authority data, and included lets made to nationals from EEA countries.

It is estimated that around 12,000 general needs lettings to new social housing tenants were made to foreign nationals in 2007-08 (equating to 6.6 per cent.). Figures for 2007-08 are based on an improved imputation method to adjust for missing local authority data. 2007-08 figures are published on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1228921.xls

Social Rented Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding will be provided from *(a)* the National Affordable Housing Programme and *(b)* other funding streams to meet regional affordable housing targets in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [287847]

John Healey: Through Building Britain's Future we are investing, via the Homes and Communities Agency, over £7.5 billion in 2009-10 and 2010-11 from the National Affordable Housing Programme and other HCA programmes.

With regard to regional targets, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin) on 8 July, *Official Report*, column 905W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proportion of funding allocated to the National Affordable Housing Programme for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 is expected to be spent; [287848]

(2) what proportion of funding allocated to the National Affordable Housing Programme for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 was expected to be spent prior to the agreement of the new regional targets for affordable housing. [287849]

John Healey: I expect all of the national Affordable Housing Programme budget for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be spent.

Social Rented Housing: Service Charges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average annual service charges were for social housing run by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* arms length management organisations and *(c)* housing associations in each region in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [287510]

John Healey: Information on average service charges is available for housing associations through the Regulatory and Statistical Return, collected by the Tenant Services Authority. Most service charges are eligible for housing benefit, with the exception of heating and hot water charges.

Table 1 gives average service charges eligible for housing benefit as at 31 March 2008 and is based on only general needs dwellings that have an eligible service charge.

Table 1: Average service charges by region for general needs stock owned by large registered social landlords, as at 31 March 2008

		Benefit-eligible service charge	
	Total stock (Unitholds basis)	*Stock with service charge*	*Average for stock with service charge (£ per week)*
East Midlands	78,046	34,256	4.11
East of England	176,712	67,786	4.08
London	259,670	162,113	7.56
North East	106,673	37,928	4.19
North West	308,744	119,394	3.97
South East	230,853	114,203	4.46
South West	135,689	61,217	3.63
West Midlands	193,624	95,447	3.83
Yorkshire and the Humber	130,602	55,339	4.32
England	1,619,615	747,683	4.83

Notes:
1. Figures include data from all housing associations that completed the long version of the RSR and made a valid return (in general those HAs that own or manage 1,000 or more dwellings and/or bedspaces, including shared ownership dwellings).
2. The data cover general needs housing, including Estate Renewal Challenge Fund stock, but exclude all supported housing and housing for older people.

Source:
Tenant Services Authority's Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR), part 1a, 2008.

The average service charge ineligible for housing benefit in England, as at 31 March 2008, was £5.11 per week, based on 113,985 dwellings with an ineligible service charge.

Comparable information is not available for local authorities and arms length management organisations.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department has allocated in respect of the Decent Homes programme in 2009-10; and what funding he intends to allocate in 2010-11. [286602]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government investment in the Decent Homes programme will be provided through the housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy system in the form of local authorities' supported capital expenditure (SCE), arms length management organisations' supported borrowing allocations and major repairs allowance (MRA). The level of spending is reducing as landlords come to the end of the decent homes investment programmes.

We have also reprioritised funding from the ALMO programme. On 17 July, I announced £150 million in 2010-11 would be reprioritised from this programme, to enable investment of a further £1.5 billion to build an extra 20,000 new affordable homes for rent and low cost sale. This includes a new role for local authorities in the delivery of housing, enabling them to build 3,000 additional council homes over the next two years, which is a four-fold expansion of the scheme announced at the Budget. 12 ALMOs that have not yet met the Audit Commission's two-star standard to be eligible for support are more likely to receive funding in 2011-12. We remain fully committed to complete the Decent Homes programme, and once completed, to seeing this standard maintained in the future. The reforms to the council housing finance system set out in the consultation document I published on 21 July will safeguard our commitment to future decent homes.

		£ million
	2009-10	*2010-11*
Local authorities supported capital expenditure	266	259
ALMO supported borrowing allocations	896	609
Major repairs allowance	1,277	[1]

[1] Not yet known.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how long on average a household was on a social housing waiting list before being allocated social housing in each region in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the longest time was for which a household in each region had been waiting during that period. [287511]

Mr. Malik: Information on the length of time households spend on a housing waiting list is not collected centrally.

Supporting People Programme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities were eligible to receive Supporting People grants in each of the last three years. [288484]

Mr. Malik: Supporting People is a locally devolved programme administered through top tier authorities in partnership with local Housing, Health, Social Services and Probation bodies. Before the structural changes to local government on 1 April 2009, 150 authorities were eligible to receive funding, this has now increased to 152 eligible authorities.

Tenant Services Authority: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the budget for the Tenant Services Authority for 2009-10 is; [288472]

(2) how much he expects to give the Tenant Services Authority in grant-in-aid in 2009-10. [288486]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the responses given by the then Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 3 February, 23 March and 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1160W, 78W and 202W respectively.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 752W, what subsidy his Department provided for staff dining facilities at Cockspur Street in 2008-09. [289101]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department paid £90,000 for staff catering facilities at Cockspur Street. In addition, the costs of running the kitchen are about £40,000.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1336W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency has spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since November 2008. [289193]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since November 2008 my Department and the Royal Parks Agency have spent the following:

		£
	DCMS	*Royal Parks Agency*
Flat screen televisions	633.28	0
DVD players	0	15
Stereo equipment	0	400

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay is of (i) male and (ii) female employees. [288625]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* The percentage of employees who are male and female along with the average hourly pay is set out in the following table.

	Percentage		*Average rate per hour*	
Grade	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
Director (SCS2)	25	75	48.99	58.48
Deputy Director (SCS1)	53	47	34.55	38.34
Grade A (Upper)	42	58	29.45	29.80
Grade A	45	55	24.21	24.74
Grade B (Faststream)	40	60	16.46	17.22
Grade B	46	54	15.40	16.13
Grade C	46	54	12.91	12.68
Grade D	58	42	10.73	10.34
Overall	46	54	19.09	21.84

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287135]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is making good progress in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report, "Accelerating the SME Economic Engine". In particular:

(a) The Department already makes use of a free portal "Supply2gov.uk" for advertising its contract opportunities, which attracts a wide range of SMEs.

(b) Electronic issuing of tender documentation is standard practice, which is inclusive of the publication of contract award notices.

(c) The Department has invested in new systems which allow us to track and map spend annually with SME's since 2006-07. Presently 27.5 per cent. of spend goes through SMEs, close to the recommended target of 30 per cent. over the next five years.

The Department has also made progress with the other recommendations within the report, having completed its procurement innovation plan. We are also making progress in using more outcome based specifications.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in the last three years. [287882]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The percentage of sick leave taken by Department for Culture, Media and Sport staff reported as stress-related in each of the last three financial years is as follows:

	Percentage of sick leave
2006-07	13
2007-08	4.6
2008-09	1

Departmental Travel

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies spent on travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [287883]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The travel and subsistence costs incurred by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency body, the Royal Parks Agency in the 12-month period June 2008 to the end of May 2009 are as follows:

	£
DCMS	444,677
Royal Parks Agency	28,403

In addition, the Department also makes use of the Government Car Service for general ministerial duties, details of which were published in a written ministerial statement on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS.

Neither DCMS or RPA are able to separate travel costs from subsistence costs without incurring disproportionate costs.

Gambling Commission

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was claimed in expenses by staff of each grade at the Gambling Commission in the last 12 months. [287772]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows expenses claimed for each type by Gambling Commission staff between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009.

Expenses claimed in 2008-09

Type	£
Conference and hospitality[1]	6,399
Information technology	858
Office accommodation costs	78
Office equipment and stationery	2,533
Other	433
Employee costs including professional fees and memberships	3,353
Postage and telephone	2,404
Publications	310
Recruitment	240
Training	1,226
Travel and subsistence[2]	330,498

[1] Including expenses that occurred at events staged by the Commission.
[2] Travel and subsistence includes travel costs for routine travel undertaken by employees performing compliance and enforcement duties. This includes more than 50 compliance managers based around the country.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each of the senior officials at the Gambling Commission spent on official *(a)* hospitality, *(b)* travel, *(c)* office expenses and *(d)* other expenses in the last 12 months. [287773]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table lists expenses claimed by type for the senior officials at the Gambling Commission in 2008-09.

Expenses claimed and expenditure incurred by Commission credit card (see definition) by senior officials of the Gambling Commission 2008-09 to the nearest £

Official	*Hospitality (see note)*	*Travel (including related subsistence)*	*Office expenses*	*Other expenses*
Chief Executive	1,561	10,724	16	1,842
Deputy chief executive	0	3,119	0	0
Director of regulation (formerly director of operations)	839	4,205	40	1,283
Director of corporate services	147	806	725	2,583
Director of people and organisational development (formerly director of human resources)	0	136	0	0
Director of policy and communications	0	825	0	1,427
Director of licensing and compliance[2]	12	351	0	165
Director of monitoring and enforcement[3]	101	101	0	0
Corporate affairs director[4]	257	4,002	25	355
Legal director[4]	0	27	0	0
Director of finance[4]	41	77	0	413
Director of strategy research and analysis[5]	0	146	0	523

[1] to 31 October 2008
[2] to 3 January 2009
[3] to 20 July 2008
[4] from 1 November 2008
[5] from 10 November 2008

Note:
The Commission's credit card has been used to pay for a range of goods and services including professional membership; occasional room hire, air travel booked online; meeting refreshments which are included under hospitality covering meals provided for Commission guests and their Commission hosts. The Commission does not provide any hospitality or entertainment in the wider sense of, for example, taking people to sporting or cultural events. Some of the entries relate to goods and services procured on behalf of other Commission employees and functions that do not hold an organisational credit card.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288908]

Mr. Bradshaw: Not currently but having done a number of visits in England and one in Wales I am hoping to visit Scotland shortly.

Olympic Games 2012: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the sporting legacy for Scotland of the London 2012 Olympics. [289111]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games will offer Scotland a wonderful opportunity to create a lasting legacy. In the run up to the games, Scotland offers 30 facilities in the London 2012 Pre Games Training Camp Guide and at games time, Hampden Park will host some of the matches to be held in the football tournament. Scotland will also benefit from the increased funding for Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

Sport is a devolved matter for which responsibility lies with the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government have indicated that they will publish their Games Legacy Plan in relation to both the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games later this summer and this will include their plans for the sporting legacy in Scotland.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288948]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its Final Report, which can be found on the Commissions website.

A Steering Group has been established under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to the national governing body of each Government-funded sport in each of the last five years. [288781]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England and UK Sport have advised that the following funding has been allocated to the national governing bodies of each Government-funded sport in each of the last five years:

Sport England funding

	Governing body	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	£ *2008-09*
Angling	Angling Development Board (NFA, NFSA and STA)	135,000	185,000	0	40,000	0
Archery	Grand National Archery Society	30,000	15,000	15,000	0	0
Athletics	UK Athletics, AAA and England Athletics	605,000	775,000	367,000	748,480	1,048,480
Badminton	Badminton Association of England	802,990	951,069	519,533	753,403	1,699,876
Baseball/Softball	Baseball/Softball UK	41,000	0	0	0	0
Basketball	England Basketball	743,251	274,309	299,907	938,756	760,547
Boxing	Amateur Boxing Association	50,000	0	5,000	714,819	410,681
Canoeing	British Canoe Union	775,004	409,159	872,401	743,237	661,734
Cricket	England and Wales Cricket Board	2,475,064	4,811,127	6,397,110	2,983,223	4,216,640
Cycling	British Cycling	811,611	758,373	1,194,433	534,187	1,639,065
Equestrian	British Equestrian Federation	65,000	35,000	30,000	30,000	25,000
Fencing	British Fencing Association	50,000	50,000	30,000	0	0
Football	The Football Association	2,548,925	5,433,769	1,744,784	6,102,495	6,181,874
Golf	England Golf Partnership	189,000	149,000	412,552	379,511	670,741
Gymnastics	British Gymnastics	895,046	947,572	1,224,417	597,534	1,365,688
Handball	British Handball Association	7,000	7,000	3,500	0	0
Hockey	England Hockey	739,417	619,246	1,256,880	1,339,388	451,422
Ice Skating	National Ice Skating Association	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0
Judo	British Judo Association	203,574	845,267	1,700,608	151,795	145,120
Lacrosse	English Lacrosse Association	159,000	289,333	10,000	25,000	25,000
Mountaineering	British Mountaineering Council	65,000	170,000	0	0	0
Movement and Dance	Exercise Movement and Dance Partnership (plus others)	98,001	106,500	27,000	4,750	0
Netball	England Netball	844,275	473,405	831,460	814,381	1,241,632
Orienteering	British Orienteering Federation	130,000	135,000	45,000	42,750	42,750
Pentathlon	Modern Pentathlon Association	8,500	0	0	0	0
Petanque		4,583	0	0	0	0
Real Tennis	Tennis and Rackets Association	0	6,000	3,000	0	0
Rounders	National Rounders Association	37,000	100,000	0	50,000	0

Sport England funding

	Governing body	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
						£
Rowing	Amateur Rowing Association	1,110,792	464,077	927,179	624,076	1,271,378
Rugby League	Rugby Football League	525,574	371,537	1,427,644	2,749,052	1,418,622
Rugby Union	Rugby Football Union	6,772,941	2,879,564	4,000,262	4,278,455	6,379,890
Sailing	Royal Yachting Association	210,000	75,000	117,500	112,625	112,625
Shooting	English Target Shooting Association	8,125	6,500	0	0	0
Skiing	Snowsport England	40,000	40,000	30,000	0	0
Squash	England Squash	415,666	146,000	200,700	419,288	1,110,379
Surf Life Saving	Surf Life Saving Association of Great Britain	7,000	7,000	3,500	0	0
Swimming	Amateur Swimming Association	680,000	709,991	1,324,673	1,002,791	1,306,590
Table Tennis	English Table Tennis Association	627,700	222,426	1,909,369	165,445	1,287,945
Tennis	Lawn Tennis Association	2,008,562	4,331,032	2,937,865	5,710,276	2,815,020
Tenpin	Tenpin and Rackets Association	6,000	0	0	0	0
Triathlon	British Triathlon Association	75,000	75,000	15,000	225,000	20,000
Tug of War	Tug of War Association	3,521	3,250	1,500	0	0
Volleyball	English Volleyball Association	250,083	397,917	75,000	123,250	63,250
Waterskiing	British Water Ski	35,000	35,000	0	0	0
Weightlifting	British Weight Lifters Association	40,000	40,000	30,000	0	0
Wrestling	British Wrestling Association	10,000	10,000	5,000	0	0
Yoga	British Wheel of Yoga	10,000	6,000	0	0	0
Total		25,369,205	27,391,423	30,019,777	32,403,967	36,371,949

UK Sport funding

Sport	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
					£
Archery	0	50,000	283,904	264,101	334,509
Archery—Paralympic	0	0	94,180	176,420	251,400
Athletics	2,462,699	2,418,550	3,476,724	2,171,251	3,566,919
Athletics—Scotland	111,000	29,000	23,000	0	0
Badminton	3,758	0	98,687	858,501	597,702
Baseball and Softball	9,000	107,100	170,000	170,000	0
Basketball	0	0	0	1,939,010	1,823,069
Bobsleigh	55,000	62,500	82,500	110,000	70,000
Boccia	0	0	0	138,894	225,344
Bowls	8,600	0	0	0	0
Bowls—Wales	7,050	0	0	0	0
Boxing	16,800	8,400	432,370	1,031,859	1,218,229
Canoeing	808,819	477,000	979,000	1,001,509	1,473,186
Caving	20,000	11,000	5,500	0	0
Cricket—Scotland	16,594	0	0	0	0
Curling	56,730	67,130	0	0	0
Cycling	2,414,795	2,432,500	3,621,456	4,208,106	3,080,248
Cycling—Paralympic	0	199,000	199,000	0	48,100
Cycling—Scotland	8,297	8,297	0	0	0
Disability Athletics	0	0	116,150	348,450	690,100
Disability Fencing	0	0	0	53,670	137,745
Disability Football	0	0	0		83,869
Disability Swimming	0	0	75,000	104,983	606,078
Disability Table Tennis	0	0	0	137,340	269,460
Disability Tennis	0	0	41,500	162,700	167,600
Diving	0	0	138,787	218,477	406,466
Equestrian	805,755	287,000	1,334,484	2,432,915	2,509,447
Equestrian—Scotland	1,281	0	0	0	0
Fencing	140,000	50,000	285,958	514,089	638,198
Football	2,000	0	0	0	86,331
Football—Ireland	6,200	0	0	0	0
Football—Scotland	0	6,378	0	0	0
Gliding	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	20,000
Goalball	0	0	4,000	56,000	55,000

UK Sport funding

£

Sport	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Golf	20,666	0	10,334	0	0
Gymnastics	501,258	720,000	424,043	822,981	1,470,922
Gymnastics—Scotland	4,994	5,269	0	0	0
Handball	0	4,700	417,270	871,935	1,029,349
Hang Gliding and Paragliding	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	15,000
Hockey	70,000	21,780	2,419,453	2,536,331	1,953,291
Hockey—Scotland	579	1,175	0	0	0
Hockey—Wales		1,000	0	0	0
Judo	872,535	282,000	457,009	576,033	653,613
Judo—Visually Impaired	0	0	22,500	65,200	69,600
Karate	65,000	0	0	0	0
Lacrosse	73,500	0	24,500	0	0
Modern Pentathlon	376,949	155,000	350,000	411,000	458,000
Mountaineering	186,000	73,500	51,000	19,000	11,325
Netball	6,258	0	0	0	0
Netball—Wales	1,400	0	0	0	0
Orienteering	122,000	220,000	220,000	250,000	200,000
Orienteering—Scotland	12,000	1,630	0	0	0
Orienteering—Wales	—	1,932	0	0	0
Parachuting	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	12,500
Paralympic Skiing	0	0	20,000	15,000	71,500
Paralympic Volleyball	0	0	16,800	0	213,392
Powerlifting	0	0	0	99,138	208,162
Rowing	2,160,617	2,439,789	6,343,283	5,886,241	4,271,504
Rowing—Adaptive		0	159,000	0	0
Rowing—Scotland	6,665	0	0	0	0
Rugby—Ireland	3,386	0	0	0	0
Rugby League	54,120	36,080	0	0	0
Rugby Union—Scotland	69,664	17,415	0	0	0
Rugby Union—Wales	8,000	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union—Women	9,400	4,700	0	0	0
Sailing	1,178,917	1,847,185	3,152,553	3,052,509	2,741,433
Sailing—Northern Ireland	0	1,161	0	0	0
Sailing—Paralympic	0	60,000	195,950	379,800	289,350
Shinty	6,665	0	0	0	0
Shooting	0	0	0	126,404	128,896
Skating	163,750	129,000	64,500	0	292,202
Skeleton	95,225	128,562	5,998	0	112,000
Ski and Snowboard	126,668	160,000	154,000	244,000	329,323
Squash—Scotland	16,594	0	0	0	0
Swimming	1,335,175	334,200	1,877,357	1,535,370	1,897,822
Swimming—Scotland	6,750	0	0	0	0
Swimming—Wales	25,436	8,479	0	0	0
Synchronised Swimming	0	0	154,192	461,427	636,844
Table Tennis	3,758	9,680	361,408	385,442	450,795
Taekwondo	0	40,000	274,383	360,293	333,880
Target Shooting	291,248	180,000	523,125	956,700	1,154,811
Target Shooting—Scotland	6,665	0	0	0	0
Triathlon	239,500	322,000	165,500	355,000	450,413
Volleyball	0	8,000	414,500	1,034,531	1,430,943
Volleyball—Scotland	6,297	2,000	0	0	0
Water Polo	0	0	327,332	866,986	1,026,498
Water Skiing	150,000	189,170	207,500	220,000	220,000
Weightlifting	105,948	90,000	166,650	427,050	377,144
Wheelchair Basketball	40,000	55,000	123,700	295,100	310,400
Wheelchair Curling	5,125	14,875	46,500	35,750	71,750
Wheelchair Rugby	—	—	18,000	170,045	243,955
Wrestling	75,000	20,000	275,730	338,590	436,942
Grand total	15,553,089	13,894,137	30,991,270	38,991,131	41,932,560

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's expenditure for advertising *(a)* on UTV, *(b)* on commercial radio, *(c)* in the Belfast Telegraph, *(d)* in the News Letter, *(e)* in The Irish News and *(f)* in weekly papers was in each of the last five years. [287492]

Paul Goggins: The finance system of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not break down advertising expenditure in the detail requested therefore these figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288932]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, paid 92.4 per cent. of invoices from suppliers within 10 days of receipt in June 2009.

Departmental Dismissal

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff in his Department were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last five years. [287480]

Paul Goggins: In the Northern Ireland Office, no member of staff has been dismissed for under-performance and 20 members of staff in total have been dismissed from 2005 to date. The following table shows a breakdown of dismissals since 2005:

	Number of staff dismissed
2005	1
2006	5
2007	8
2008	4
2009	2

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay is of the (i) male and (ii) female employees. [288602]

Paul Goggins: The percentage of employees in the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies are 40.2 per cent. male and 59.8 per cent. female. The average hourly rate in the latest period for which figures are available for male employees is £11.94 and for female employees is £10.36.

Parades

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on security and policing of the 12 July events in each of the last five years. [287493]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers had disciplinary action brought against them for each type of disciplinary offence in the last five years. [287666]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many security licences have been *(a)* refused and *(b)* revoked by his Department in each of the last five years. [287644]

Paul Goggins: The number of licenses refused and revoked are shown in the following table.

	Number of licenses refused	*Number of licenses revoked*
2004	0	0
2005	0	0
2006	0	0
2007	0	0
2008	5	0

OLYMPICS

Departmental Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many contracts let by her Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287805]

Tessa Jowell: My ministerial portfolio requires my Office to operate within both the Cabinet Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and this information will therefore be included in the answers provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each database expected to become operational in the next five years and which will be managed by her Office; what estimate she has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if she will make a statement. [286140]

Tessa Jowell: My ministerial portfolio requires my Office to operate across the estates of the Cabinet Office and Department for Culture, Media and Sport and this information will therefore be included in the answers provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

National Lottery: Olympic Games 2012

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which grants to the London 2012 Olympic Games project approved by the Big Lottery Fund have been *(a)* notified to and *(b)* authorised by the EU Commission for state aid clearance. [289134]

Tessa Jowell: The Big Lottery Fund has made no grants to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games project.

Olympic Games 2012

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the work of establishing temporary facilities to house the International Broadcast Centre and the Main Press Centre during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [284553]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* It was always the intention that the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre (IBC/MPC) would be a combination of temporary and permanent elements. As it became clear that a private sector deal was not going to offer best value for money, a full assessment of the IBC/MPC site was undertaken to determine ways to make temporary those proposed permanent elements not required in legacy.

The MPC offices, the two-storey IBC studio and part of the car parking facilities will be permanent buildings for games and legacy as originally planned but slightly smaller (totalling just under 100,000 sq m rather than 125,000). Some of this reduction is due to catering facilities, originally intended to be housed temporarily in office space during the games, now being provided in separate wholly temporary facilities. Other temporary elements of the project include both the other part of the car parking facilities and temporary retail facilities for media and broadcast personnel.

Assessment of temporary versus permanent facilities is ongoing as the design and procurement teams continue to ascertain those components required solely for games-time. As such, careful attention is being given to identify those elements that can either be hired in for the duration of the games or that can be relocated following the games. For example, we are considering hiring much of the mechanical and electrical plant required to service the IBC in games-time and the generators for back-up power.

Games-time operations are the responsibility of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), in conjunction with the Olympic Broadcast Service and Host Broadcaster, who will be providing much of their own broadcast equipment and operational functions.

It remains the intention to create facilities that leave a real long-term employment legacy for Hackney and the buildings have been designed to be as flexible as possible. The public sector will retain ownership of the asset and receipt of all revenues from its sale after 2012.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will make it her policy that the traditional folk culture of the nations of the United Kingdom feature in the opening and closing ceremonies of the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [288747]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) will be developing its plans for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games in due course. It is too early to say which organisations will take part in these events in three years' time. However, the Cultural Olympiad provides opportunities for folk culture to be represented in the London games in the run up to and including 2012. Information and opportunities for involvement will be highlighted on the London 2012 website at:

www.london2012.com

Olympic Games 2012: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps her Office is taking to *(a)* define and *(b)* measure the carbon footprint of the London 2012 Olympics. [285207]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games has led a project to define and measure the carbon footprint of London 2012, working closely with the Olympic Delivery Authority and London Development Agency, and also stakeholders such as the Government Olympic Executive, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Greater London Authority.

The outcome of the analysis will be published in the autumn alongside a carbon management strategy setting out how we are ensuring that carbon emissions are minimised as part of our commitment to a genuinely sustainable 2012 Games, including by making sustainable choices during procurement, by reducing energy at source and by minimising waste at every stage.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of contracts relating to the London 2012 Olympics had been advertised on the CompeteFor website on the latest date for which figures are available. [283902]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority has directly awarded contracts to over 950 suppliers to date. The ODA was formed in April 2006, and began procurement from its inception to ensure that it was on programme. It was already working with a number of suppliers, 550 in all, by the time CompeteFor was launched in January 2008. Due to the scale and complexity of its procurements, the ODA has procured some of its contracts using established OGC frameworks to simplify the process, and a number are closed, for example, for security reasons.

As of June 2009, 2,872 contract opportunities had been advertised on CompeteFor. These break down as follows:

The ODA, its contractors, and buyers in their supply chains have advertised 2,335 opportunities

LOCOG and its supply chain have advertised 88 opportunities

Other partners, including the London Development Agency, and their supply chains have advertised 449 opportunities

It is anticipated that the ODA's and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games' direct procurement will generate around 75,000 supply chain contracts. Contractors are encouraged to place as many as possible of their unallocated contract opportunities on CompeteFor.

It is estimated that for around 80 per cent. of these contracts, contractors will rely on their existing suppliers and sub-contractors leaving around 15,000, approximately 20 per cent., of opportunities to be placed on the system. The 20 per cent. figure is an estimate based on other large projects and the way in which contractors have decided to package and procure their sub-contracts. Given that the majority of these will be private procurements, we are unable to state precisely what proportion of these have been advertised on CompeteFor.

As expected, the vast majority of CompeteFor opportunities have been posted by the ODA's contractors and buyers in their supply chains, and the ODA continues to work with its contractors to ensure that as many as possible of their new opportunities are placed on the system. Some of the ODA's contractors are now also beginning to use CompeteFor for some of their 'non-Olympic' contract opportunities, opening up further opportunities.

LOCOG is in the early stages of its procurement activity, and will start buying the majority of the goods and services required for staging the games from early 2010.

CompeteFor was established to help open up games-related opportunities to businesses across the UK and to provide a means of offering them any business support they need to win contracts. Our ambition is not only a legacy of businesses winning contracts but also one of businesses inspired to be fitter, more innovative and more competitive as a result. To date over 31,000 businesses have received business support as a result of registering on CompeteFor, and over 2,500 have received an intensive level of assistance.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has for the use of the Olympic Village after the London 2012 Olympics. [287701]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Olympic Village will provide 2,818 homes after the London Games in 2012. Of these new homes, 1,379 will be available as affordable housing, including affordable rented, intermediate market rented and part-buy/part-rent (shared ownership), together with shared equity housing.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which Government grants to the London 2012 Olympic Games project have not been notified to the European Commission for the purposes of compliance with the requirements of state aid rules; and for what reasons in each case. [289135]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority is the statutory body charged with preparing for the 2012 games, including procuring the necessary infrastructure. For this purpose it receives grants from central government, the Greater London Authority, the London Development Agency, the Olympic Lottery Distributor and Sport England. These grants do not constitute state aid under European Union rules and, accordingly, have not been notified to the European Commission. In procuring games-related infrastructure, the Olympic Delivery Authority complies with European Union public procurement rules.

Olympic Games 2012: Hertfordshire

Mr. Walker: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games is taking to ensure that residents of Hertfordshire benefit from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [285956]

Tessa Jowell: The Broxbourne white water canoe centre (BWWCC) will provide benefits for the residents of Hertfordshire before, during and after the games. It will be open to the public before the London 2012 games.

Events were held on 3 July to mark the beginning of construction work at the BWWCC site. As part of these events, 550 local residents attended and took the opportunity to find out more about the construction of the BWWCC and its lasting legacy for Hertfordshire as a world-class white water canoeing and rafting centre that will be open to the public after the games.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) work with representatives of the East of England through their joint Nations and Regions Group (NRG) to ensure that the region, and more broadly the whole of the UK, benefits from the opportunities the games provide. Across the East of England, nearly 600 schools and colleges are involved in LOCOG's domestic education programme, Get Set, while 66 LOCOG-approved facilities have been included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide. 13 community projects are now using the Inspire Mark, LOCOG's non-commercial brand. At last year's handover celebrations, 49 events were held across the region and 60 special '2012 handover' flags were raised.

The county has 17 pre-games training camps for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and links are being built with national Olympic committees to attract teams to these venues. Hertfordshire also has over 2,000 businesses registered with the London 2012 business network and six contracts awarded through CompeteFor, the free brokerage service between buyers throughout the London 2012 supply chain. Hertfordshire also has a number of events planned for the forthcoming London 2012 Open Weekend to be held on 24-26 July including the Junk Percussion workshops being held in and around the Broxbourne area.

Olympic Games 2012: ICT

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she has taken to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in the digital and information technology industries to provide services for the London 2012 Olympics; and what online services relating to the games will be available to the public while they are in progress. [288377]

Tessa Jowell: CompeteFor was designed to open up supply chain opportunities to businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, across the UK in many sectors, including those working in digital and information technology. As well as opening up contract opportunities, CompeteFor sign posts businesses to support services, helping them get fitter to compete for games-related, and other, contracts. At games time, the London Organising Committee will provide comprehensive coverage online, including with new media technologies, enabling everyone to access, share and participate in the games.

Olympic Games 2012: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the legacy to Lancashire from the London 2012 Olympics. [288450]

Tessa Jowell: Lancashire is already benefiting from the London 2012 Games. 19 businesses in the county have won Games-related contracts and 115 Lancashire schools have registered for 'Get Set' the official 2012 education programme, enabling them to use a range of Games-related materials.

Lancashire is also heavily involved in the region's cultural legacy programme WE PLAY. For example, Abandon Normal Devices is a festival of new cinema and digital culture and is a new regional partnership between Film, Art and Creative Technology (FACT) (Liverpool), Comerhouse (Manchester) and Folly (Lancashire) and is partly funded by Legacy Trust UK. Another example is New Cultural Journeys which is a major youth culture and sport programme for the Fylde Coast and Lancashire.

Lancashire, and the Northwest region as a whole, is playing an active part in maximising the benefits of the London 2012 Games. A key part of the region's plans are to ensure that all parts of the NW benefit and as such each sub region is represented on the NW Steering Group for the 2012 Games. This group feeds directly in to the Nations and Regions Group which is the joint Government Olympic Executive and London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games initiative aimed at deriving the maximum benefit from the Games for the whole of the UK.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Administration of Justice: Domestic Visits

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many official visits have been undertaken by the Government's Crime and Justice Adviser in the last six months; when each such visit was undertaken; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each such visit; and in which constituency each such visit was undertaken. [288859]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* The Government's Crime and Justice adviser has undertaken 12 official visits in the last six months as part of the work to ensure that crime is tackled and justice delivered more visibly and in response to community priorities

Dates and locations are as follows.

Destination	*Purpose*	*Constituency*	*Cost[1] (£)*
24 February 2009			
London to Nottingham	Speech and official visits to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	Nottingham, North and South	365.19
Nottingham—Bulwell, Broxtowe			
25 February 2009			
Nottingham—Bestwood, Central			
Nottingham to Southampton			
25 February 2009			
Nottingham to Southampton	Speech and official visits to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	Southampton, Itchen	261.47

Destination	Purpose	Constituency	Cost[1] (£)
26 February 2009			
Southampton—Polygon, Central			
Southampton to London			
21 April 2009			
London to Liverpool	Speech and official visits to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	Liverpool, Riverside and Liverpool, Walton	648.60
Liverpool—Liverpool 8			
22 April 2009			
Liverpool—Central, Walton Hall Park (Liverpool 4), Kirkdale			
Liverpool to London			
27 April 2009			
London to Surrey	Visit to Surrey police to discuss local work	Spelthorne	50.12
Surrey to London			
29 April 2009			
London	Visit to Community Payback project—to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	Poplar and Canning Town	213.50
11 June 2009			
London to Middlesbrough	Speech and official visits to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	South Shields and Sunderland, North	1,297.10
Middlesbrough—Gresham, Pallister Park, Cargo Fleet			
South Tyneside—South Shields			
12 June 2009			
South Tyneside—South Shields			
Sunderland—Southwick			
Sunderland to London			
16 June 2009			
London to Liverpool	Speech and official visits to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	St. Helens, North, Knowsley, South and Liverpool, Riverside	661.98
St. Helens—Moss Lodge, Parr			
Knowsley—Huyton			
Liverpool—Central			
17 June 2009			
Liverpool to London			
18 June 2009			
London to Birmingham	Official visit on Community Payback in Birmingham	Birmingham, Erdington	537.46
Birmingham—Witton Lake			
Birmingham to London			
19 June 2009			
Tower Hamlets, London	Speech and visit to Community Payback project—to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	Bethnal Green and Bow, Vauxhall	107.07
Vauxhall, London			

Destination	Purpose	Constituency	Cost[1] (£)
21 June 2009			
London to Bradford	Speech and official visits to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	Bradford, South, Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Pontefract and Castleford	670.15
Bradford—Central			
22 June 2009			
Bradford—Central			
Kirklees—Deighton, Lees			
Wakefield—Castleford			
Wakefield to London			
7 July 2009			
Barking and Dagenham, London	Official visit to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	Barking and Dagenham	168.25
16 July 2009			
London to Hull	Speech and official visits to raise levels of involvement by local people in work to tackle crime and to ensure local services are responsive to local people's needs on crime and justice	Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle, Kingston upon Hull, North, City of York	680.81
Hull—Priory Drive, Shawpark Playing Field, Courtland Road			
York			
17 July 2009			
York to London			

[1] Costs include local transportation as necessary for Louise/members of local staff/local residents and hotels, meals, rail fares and taxi transfers.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prosecutions were brought against public house licensees for serving alcohol to minors in each local authority area within the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years; and how many such public houses closed after the licensee was convicted in such cases; [286282]

(2) how many prosecutions were brought against retail store licensees for serving alcohol to minors in each local authority area within the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [286428]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for 'selling alcohol to persons under 18' in the Hampshire police force area 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is contained in the table. Information held centrally cannot be broken down to local authority area.

It is not possible to differentiate between sales on and off premises in the court proceedings database or to identify which premises closed after being convicted of the above offence.

2008 data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18', by offence, Hampshire police force area 2003 to 2008[1]

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Selling intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises	—	—	9	7	11	8	2	—	—	—
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Total	—	—	9	7	11	8	2	—	4	4

[1] Selling alcohol to persons under 18 includes the following offences:
(a) Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.
Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
(b) Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.
(c) Sale of alcohol to person under 18.
(d) Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18.
(e) Persistently selling alcohol to children.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform Ref: IOS 366-09 and 367-09.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in each police force area in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008; and when he plans to publish qualitative analysis of the impact and effectiveness of each type of anti-social behaviour intervention. [288860]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* Data on the number of Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued and breached in England and Wales are available up 31 December 2007. The number of ASBOs issued during 2007 and the number proven in court to have been breached at least once during 2007 (latest available) is shown in the table. It is important to note that many of the breaches counted in this table will have arisen due to ASBOs issued in years prior to 2007.

The Home Office has commissioned two pieces of work evaluating interventions to tackle antisocial behaviour. These are:

Research to examine local variations in the use of antisocial behaviour interventions. This was the first step to developing further work into the comparative effectiveness of different approaches to tackling antisocial behaviour. The findings of this study are due to be published in autumn 2009; and

An evaluation of the comparative effectiveness of interventions to address anti-social behaviour. Results from this evaluation are due in 2010.

Three independent reports have confirmed that our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. The National Audit Office (NAO) reported that two thirds of people stop committing ASB after one intervention, rising to nine out of 10 after three interventions. Many of these were warning letters and antisocial behaviour contracts which are voluntary measures.

Antisocial Behaviour: Southampton

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders issued against people in each age category are in force in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* the City of Southampton. [288407]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The latest available published data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007 and are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the Hampshire Criminal Justice System area to young people (defined as being aged 10 to 17 at the date of appearance in court) and adults (defined as being aged 18 or over at the date of appearance in court) is 199 and 226 respectively. In addition, there were five ASBOs issued to persons whose age was not reported.

ASBOs can be of a fixed duration (for a minimum of two years) or made until further order. It is therefore not possible to determine from centrally collected data how many ASBOs are in force at a particular point in time.

Asylum

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases have been resolved since July 2006. [287779]

Mr. Woolas: In her update to the Home Affairs Select Committee, Lin Homer, the UK Border Agency Chief Executive, has stated that 197,500 older asylum cases have been resolved, up to 31 May 2009. The Case Resolution Directorate have made good progress and remain committed and on track to conclude these cases by summer 2011.

Asylum Seekers: Detention of Children

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained at immigration detention centres in each location in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the average period of detention was. [289141]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Families

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications made by those under the age of 18 years and resident in their country of origin to join their parents who *(a)* have been granted refugee status, *(b)* have been granted humanitarian protection, *(c)* have been granted discretionary leave to remain and *(d)* are awaiting a decision on their immigration application in the UK have been accepted in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286941]

Mr. Woolas: The number of visas issued to overseas nationals under the age of 18 in the Family Reunion category in each of the financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09 is shown in the following table. The Family Reunion category comprises dependents of *(a)* those granted refugee status before 2005 and *(b)* those granted refugee status and humanitarian protection after 2005, but such dependents are not recorded separately by the UK Border Agency.

Financial year	*Family reunion visa issue*
2004-05	5,663
2005-06	4,714
2006-07	3,521
2007-08	3,069
2008-09	2,552
Total	19,519

There is no provision in the Immigration Rules for entry clearance to dependents of *(c)* those granted discretionary leave to remain before they have obtained indefinite leave to remain, or *(d)* those awaiting a decision on their application for leave to remain on the basis of their claim for asylum.

Bichard Inquiry

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in implementing the Bichard Inquiry; what steps still require to be implemented; and when implementation is expected to be completed. [287913]

Mr. Hanson: Good progress has been made in implementing Sir Michael Bichard's recommendations. 22 of the 31 recommendations are now substantially delivered. The Government remain committed to implementation and action continues under various strands of work.

Much of this ongoing work relates to the larger, more complex projects within the Bichard programme. These include transmitting court results direct to the Police National Computer, delivering the IMPACT Programme to strengthen national police intelligence sharing capabilities, taking account of broader developments in identity management and establishing the Independent Safeguarding Authority to administer the new Vetting and Barring Scheme. All these projects are expected to be completed or to have made further substantial progress by the end of 2010.

Biometrics

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the error rate of face recognition systems installed at points of entry by the UK Border Agency. [288517]

Alan Johnson: Automated Clearance Systems (ACS) are currently in use at Manchester and Stansted airports. They are being independently monitored for the UK Border Agency, as well as by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch.

The system can reliably pick out impostors and even distinguish between identical twins. The face matching system uses statistically based algorithms and error rates are in line with system specifications. The system is monitored by UKBA officers, who will examine any passengers rejected by the gate, as well as carrying out random manual checks.

Borders: Patrol Craft

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many patrol boats of each type *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the UK Border Agency have operated in each of the last 10 years; and for what purpose. [288545]

Alan Johnson: HM Customs and Excise, HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency have operated five offshore patrol ships in the years stated.

These are interdiction vessels, conducting intelligence-led operations.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Royal Navy has taken on any *(a)* functions and *(b)* operations previously conducted by vessels of HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency. [288546]

Alan Johnson: HM Customs and Excise, HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency have all operated offshore patrols and operations with other organisations, including the Royal Navy.

The UK Border Agency's maritime branch can call on the military for support and protection at a time of operational need. In the same way, maritime branch has supported the military during major operations and for boarding expertise.

No direct transfer of roles has taken place.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vessels were *(a)* intercepted and *(b)* boarded by crew from vessels of HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency in UK territorial waters in each of the last 10 years. [288548]

Alan Johnson: The combined number of interceptions and boardings of vessels made by HM Customs and Excise, HM Revenue and Customs, and the UK Border Agency in the last 10 years are as follows:

Financial year	*Number of interceptions and boardings*
1999-2000	514
2000-01	661
2001-02	716
2002-03	1,046
2003-04	1,170
2004-05	1,075
2005-06	1,240
2006-07	1,352
2007-08	1,472
2008-09	1,981

It is not possible to break these figures down further.

These figures are based on locally collated management information and as such are subject to change and do not form part of national published statistics.

Burglary Prevention

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many burglary prevention advice packs are planned to be distributed; how they will be distributed; and what the timetable is for their distribution. [288846]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office is supplying 360,000 burglary advice packs. The contracted distributors, Prolog, are despatching them to members of the public who have ordered them via the dedicated public order telephone line, and to named contacts in all police forces in England and Wales which have requested the packs. All packs are due to be distributed to the police by the end of August 2009.

Children: Rights

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an assessment has been made of the compatibility of *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders, *(b)* curfews, *(c)* dispersal zones and *(d)* mosquito devices with children's rights to freedom of movement and peaceful assembly. [288134]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has not carried out an assessment, however we have always made clear that tackling antisocial behaviour is not about intolerance of different lifestyles.

The freedom of assembly and association, found in Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, is a qualified right. This means that it may be subject to restrictions which are in accordance with the law, when such restrictions are necessary, and therefore proportionate, for the prevention of disorder or crime or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Crime: Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which projects have *(a)* been funded or *(b)* had funding allocated to them from the crime prevention budget in the 2009-10 financial year. [287919]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not have a single crime prevention budget. Funding through the Local Area Agreements and support for Crime and Disorder Partnerships, including police funding, all contributes to locally agreed work to prevent crime.

In addition to this, the Home Office funds projects and initiatives targeted at preventing crime through: offender-based interventions (to reduce recidivism); diversion and deterrence, especially around young people and those exposed to the problems of drug and alcohol misuse, antisocial behaviour, delinquency, chaotic families and poor parenting; support for victims, particularly victims of sexual or domestic violence (to reduce repeat victimisation and encourage the reporting of crime); improved local agency responses to antisocial behaviour and crime problems; and advice and practical measures of support for members of the public.

Funding goes towards national initiatives, support for police and other crime-reduction partners in the development and use of new techniques, tools and powers, and grants for third sector organisations for the delivery of Home Office programmes or to support innovative approaches that contribute to crime reduction. In terms of national initiatives, programme and capital expenditure for 2009-10 has been planned for the following areas:

Acquisitive crime

1. Preventing serious acquisitive crime, including the Safer Homes Action Against Burglary projects, the Vigilance Programme, and funding towards AVCIS (the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service).

Public space violence

2. Tackling gang-related crime, and preventing gun and knife-related violence, including the Community Fund grant programme for voluntary and community sector organisations located in areas where gun and knife crime are a particular problem.

3. Tackling serious youth violence, including the Tackling Knives Action Programme.

4. Preventing the incidence of hate crime, including through the Government's Victims' Fund and the delivery of the hate crime action plan.

Sexual and domestic violence

5. Supporting sexual and domestic violence victims, including funding for multi-agency risk assessment conferences, and the expansion of ISVA (independent sexual violence adviser) services and sexual assault referral centres.

6. Reducing violence against women, including the Together We Can End Violence against Women and Girls public consultation.

7. The Child Sex Offender Disclosure Pilots.

8. Preventing the incidence of other forms of interpersonal violence, including funding for the Forced Marriage Unit and a cross-Government co-ordinator on female genital mutilation.

Youth crime, antisocial behaviour, and community justice

9. Youth Crime Action Plan initiatives.

10. Youth Justice Board crime prevention initiatives.

11. Supporting members of the public and local agencies in dealing with antisocial behaviour, including the Antisocial Behaviour Action Squad.

12. Piloting a community justice panel.

Wildlife crime

13. Funding towards the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit.

Preventing re-offending

14. Offender-based intervention, including the Prolific and other Priority Offenders programme, Drug Interventions Programme, and encouraging the take-up of Integrated Offender Management approaches.

Alcohol and drugs misuse

15. The 2008 drug strategy delivery programme, including pilots to test new approaches to drug treatment and a national cannabis cultivation coordinator.

16. Named drug workers within youth offending teams.

17. Piloting family drug and alcohol courts.

18. Alcohol Arrest Referral pilots.

19. Improving alcohol law enforcement, including a programme of training and guidance for local practitioners.

20. The Positive Futures social inclusion programme for disadvantaged and socially marginalised young people.

21. Drugs licensing and compliance (issue of licences to companies and individuals within England, Wales and Scotland who wish to produce, supply, possess or import/export controlled drugs).

Partnerships

22. Grant funding support for crime third sector organisations, including the Crimestoppers Trust and the Neighbourhood Watch movement.

Crime: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of crimes committed in Suffolk resulted in *(a)* a caution, *(b)* a fixed penalty notice and *(c)* a conviction in each of the last five years. [286265]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available in the form requested as it is not possible to track individual offences through to their outcome at court. The available information relates to the number of offences recorded and detected by means of a caution or penalty notice for disorder in Suffolk in each financial year. Convictions data are based on the number of offenders and have been provided by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence.

For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Table 1 gives the police recorded crime data for Suffolk. Table 2 provides data on the number of offenders convicted for all offences.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in Suffolk

	Number of offences	*Number detected by a caution*	*Percentage detected by a caution*	*Number detected by a penalty notice for disorder*	*Percentage detected by a penalty notice for disorder*
2004-05	52,101	3,161	6	173	0
2005-06	52,831	4,236	8	526	1
2006-07	51,096	4,047	8	1,206	2
2007-08	48,330	4,096	8	1,661	3
2008-09	46,504	4,004	9	1,733	4

Table 2: Offenders convicted at all courts for all offences in Suffolk[1, 2]

	Number of convictions
2003	16,098
2004	18,685
2005	19,320
2006	17,817
2007	17,405

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces.

As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Criminal Records Bureau

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest time taken for the completion of a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced disclosure check was in each year since the inception of the CRB. [283826]

Mr. Hanson: The performance of the CRB remains good and in 2008-09 the CRB exceeded its targets for issuing 90 per cent. of all standard checks within 10 days and issued 88 per cent of all Enhanced checks in 28 days. In 2008-09, the CRB witnessed an unprecedented increase in demand for its service which caused a dip below the 90 per cent. target for processing Enhanced checks in 28 days.

The disclosure process comprises broadly several stages involving the applicant, the registered body (RB) (the organisation that handles the application on behalf of an employer), the CRB and the police. Each stage is reliant on the accuracy of the data provided by the applicant and the subsequent verification of these data by the RB from the outset.

A number of factors can cause delays, including the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with the initial application; the accurate completion of the application form; the clarity of the information provided; the existence of conviction or non-conviction information and the operational effectiveness of the Disclosure Units of the police forces involved in the enhanced disclosure process following recent high volumes of applications.

The majority of applications spend between three and four days at the CRB and analysis undertaken by the Bureau has shown that the majority of delays that occur do so before the CRB receives an application and after it has been sent to the police.

The CRB has set up an improvement plan with its delivery partners, including the police forces, to address the problems associated with delays. This is aimed at maintaining a balanced output of applications on the system while also reducing the number of cases that have been in process for more than five days. This work has started to show an improvement in turnaround times but the CRB will continue to monitor forces' performance in line with its own performance.

Where applications are returned to customers to acquire further information, reminders are issued but some customers can fail to provide this information or withdraw their application from the Bureau's systems where they no longer require their disclosure.

The following table provides details of the longest time taken for the completion of a CRB standard and enhanced disclosure in each year since the inception of the Bureau. The figures have been calculated based on the date the disclosure was issued in each year, counting back from the date of completion.

	Longest time taken in days - enhanced disclosure	*Longest time taken in days - standard disclosure*
2002-3	406	345
2003-4	684	692
2004-5	954	803
2005-6	1,189	1,198

	Longest time taken in days - enhanced disclosure	Longest time taken in days - standard disclosure
2006-7	1,414	1,203
2007-8	1,680	1,512
2008-9	1,606	864
2009-10	1,434	393

It is likely that these applications will have been referred back to the applicant or Registered Body; the delays in issue are not necessarily representative of the Bureau's performance.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process an application for a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure was in the latest period for which figures are available. [288339]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80W.

Criminal Records Bureau: Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Records Bureau checks in respect of individuals applying for posts which would require their names to be added to the list maintained under the *(a)* Protection of Children Act 1999 and *(b)* Protection of Vulnerable Adults Act 2003 were undertaken in each police force area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [288174]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not maintain the lists of the Protection of Children Act 1999 (POCA) and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Act 2003 (POVA). The POCA list is maintained by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the POVA list is maintained by the Department of Health (DOH).

Departmental Databases

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 918W, on departmental databases, what marketing campaigns have been targeted using ACORN data; and what ACORN codings were used in each such campaign. [288884]

Mr. Woolas: We have used the ACORN hard pressed category to inform our marketing planning to tackle youth crime and antisocial behaviour, and acquisitive crime.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288736]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's payments to Royal Mail is set out in the following table.

	2008-09	£000 2007-08
Core Home Office and UKBA	1,282	1,247
Identity and Passport Service	1,134	1,931
Criminal Records Bureau	2	3
Total Home Office	2,418	3,181

Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on the implementation of drugs policies in each category in each of the last 10 years. [286735]

Alan Johnson: Total expenditure on Home Office drugs programmes was captured within the HM Treasury database on our previous strategic objective that fewer people's lives are ruined by drugs (and alcohol).

The relevant figures for *(a)* the Department are set out in the following table, whereas *(b)* Home Office agencies whose strategic and operational activities include elements of our drugs policies do not budget specifically for them but for their overarching enforcement aims and objectives.

Changes in the classification of funding in Spending Review 2000 mean that comparison with previous years is not possible.

Total expenditure by the Home Office on drugs

	Resource	£000 Capital
2000-01	0	0
2001-02	1,825	0
2002-03	80,619	0
2003-04	96,351	0
2004-05	206,904	2,174
2005-06	200,382	800
2006-07	211,472	1,390
2007-08	199,450	774
2008-09	180,688	500

Note:
Capital funding of £20,262,000 in 2006-07 and £19,702,000 in 2007-08 20,262 previously reported on to the HMT database erroneously included and classified Safer and Stronger Communities funding as Drugs expenditure. This is being corrected in the HMT database.
Source:
HMT database.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce the supply of prohibited substances to problem drug users at street level. [287498]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As part of 2008 drug strategy, we have expanded the 'street level up' (SLUA) initiative. The SLUA approach is a national, multi-agency project designed to make a sustained impact on the illicit drugs trade and drug related criminality, and harm it causes to people and communities. This approach builds on intelligence on street level dealers to identify and take out higher level dealers, thereby disrupting the entire supply chain. A number of police forces are involved in

the second phase and the Serious Organised Crime Agency are working with forces to plan and support the local roll-out.

As highlighted in the 2008 drug strategy 'Drugs: protecting families and communities', the Home Office and partners have put in place neighbourhood policing teams in every area of England and Wales to allow the police to respond more directly to any issues of concern identified by the community and to work in a more joined-up approach with local partners. Our next priority is to embed action to tackle drugs, where this is a local priority, within the neighbourhood policing and policing pledge approach to help the police and partners to be more responsive to community intelligence and concerns about drugs.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of the illicit drugs market in the UK. [287918]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The most recent estimate by the Home Office of the value of the UK illicit drugs market was published in 2006, it estimates the value of the UK illicit drug market at between £4 billion to £6.6 billion for the reference year 2003-04.

This estimate is based on six categories of illicit drugs: cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, powder cocaine, crack cocaine and heroin. The total market size is estimated at £4.6 billion in England and Wales and £5.3 billion in the UK as a whole. The margin of error for these estimates are wide; £3.5 billion to £5.8 billion for England and Wales, and £4.0 billion to £6.6 billion for the UK. In terms of total street value, crack and heroin account for the largest shares of expenditure (respectively 28 per cent. and 23 per cent.); cannabis and powder cocaine make up 20 and 18 per cent. of expenditure, while amphetamines and ecstasy have a market shares of six and five per cent.

Reference:

Pudney et al. (2006) 'Estimating the Size of the UK Illicit Drug Market' In Singleton, N. et al. (eds.) 'Measuring Different Aspects of Problem Drug Use: Methodological Developments'. Home Office Online Report 16/06).

Drugs: Research

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will evaluate for comparative purposes research carried out into the effects of the policies on drugs adopted by the Portuguese government in 2001 on levels of *(a)* drug-taking, *(b)* drug-smuggling and *(c)* other drug-related crime in that country. [288689]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Both British and Portuguese drugs strategies recognise the importance of a balanced approach to tackling the demand for and the supply of drugs, placing an emphasis on the needs of the individual drug user and using the criminal justice system to identify and direct drug users into treatment programmes.

There are no plans to undertake a specific comparative evaluation of the Portuguese drugs policies, although we will note with interest any emerging evidence from the Portuguese approach.

Emergency Services: Common Talk Groups

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to Baroness Neville-Jones of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, columns WA185-86, on emergency services: common talk groups, what the intended *(a)* purposes and *(b)* users are of (i) the Sharer Hailing Group, (ii) the Dedicated Government Agency Group, (iii) the Silver Level Inter-Agency Group, (iv) the three Bronze Level Inter-Agency Groups, (v) the All-User Interoperability Group and (vi) the Multi Agency Mutual Aid Group. [288367]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The Sharer Hailing Group enables visiting sharer agencies within a police force area to make contact with the police control room.

(b) The Dedicated Government Agency Group enables non-police enforcement agencies to carry out operations with the police.

(c) The Silver level Inter-Agency Group is intended for Silver command use at incidents where all or some blue light agencies are present.

(d) The Three Bronze level Inter-Agency Talk Groups are intended for Bronze operational use where all or some other blue light agencies are present.

(e)The All-User Interoperability Group is owned and managed by Airwave Solutions Limited, the service provider, for use by their customers where appropriate.

(f) The Multi Agency Mutual Aid Talk Group is a set of 10 talk groups owned and managed by Airwave Solutions for use as a supplement to other talk group arrangements.

Users of each Talk Group are listed in the following table.

Talk group	*Users*
(a) The Sharer Hailing Group	Fire—Brigades
	Ambulance—Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts, Air Ambulance
	Broadmoor Hospital
	Defence—Army, RAF (including RAF Search and Rescue), Navy, Guards Agency
	HM Revenue and Customs
	Department for Work and Pensions
	Gangmasters Licencing Authority
	Prisons Services
	Highways Agency

Talk group	*Users*
	Transport Scotland
	Traffic Wales
	Local Authority Warden Schemes
	CCTV Schemes
	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
	Coastguards
	Royal National Lifeboat Institution
	UK Border Agency
	Other minor single users.
(b) The Dedicated Government Agency Group	HM Revenue and Customs Department for Work and Pensions
	Gangmasters Licencing Authority
	Immigration Service
	Prisons Services
(c) The Silver Level Inter-Agency Group	Fire Ambulance Defence—Army, Royal Air Force (RAF) (including RAF Search and Rescue), Navy, Guards Agency HM Revenue and Customs Prisons Services Highways Agency Transport Scotland Traffic Wales UK Border Agency
(d) The three Bronze Level Inter-Agency Groups,	Fire - Brigades Ambulance - Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts, Air Ambulance Broadmoor Hospital Defence—Army, RAF (incl RAF Search and Rescue), Navy, Guards Agency HM Revenue and Customs Department for Work and Pensions Gangmasters Licencing Authority Prisons Services Highways Agency Transport Scotland Traffic Wales Local Authority Warden Schemes CCTV Schemes
	Coastguards Royal National Lifeboat Institution UK Border Agency
(e) The All-User Interoperability Group	All organisations that have access to Airwave.
(f) The Multi Agency Mutual Aid Group All organisations that have access to Airwave (incl all above) have access to these talk groups.	All organisations that have access to Airwave.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to Baroness Neville-Jones of 13 July 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA185-86, on emergency services: common talk groups, how many officers of *(a)* the Metropolitan Police, *(b)* the City of London Police and *(c)* the British Transport Police in London have been trained to use (i) the Sharer Hailing Group, (ii) the Dedicated Government Agency Group, (iii) the Silver Level Inter-Agency Group, (iv) the three Bronze Level Inter-Agency Groups, (v) the All-User Interoperability Group and (vi) the Multi-Agency Mutual Aid Group. [288404]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* All officers in the three forces are trained on how to access and use the Airwave Talk Group facility, as part of their general radio training. Consequently they are all trained to use all of the talk groups listed.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the time it will take for the back-log of residence applications from EEA nationals to be cleared. [287793]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is committed to clearing the backlog of cases by the end of November 2009 and to returning to operational service standards from the beginning of December 2009.

Entry Clearances: Kosovo

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the processing in Pristina of applications for visas to enter the UK; and if he will make a statement. [289144]

Mr. Woolas: I have not received any representations on the processing of applications for visas to enter the UK in Pristina.

European Electronic Crime Task Force

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the European Electronic Crime Task force; and what recent discussions he has had with his Italian counterpart on cyber crime. [287009]

Mr. Hanson: The European Electronic Crime Task Force went live on 30 June 2009. It was created by the Polizia Postale e delle Comunicazioni (Italian Postal and Communication Police) and Poste Italiane (Italian Post).

The purpose of the taskforce is to facilitate the exchange of information and analysis on cyber-crime techniques and to establish new techniques and tools for the prevention, detection, mitigation and effective investigation of cyber-crimes.

It is too soon to judge the effectiveness of the taskforce as it was only established in the past four weeks; however this seems a useful initiative and builds on the strong existing links between Italy and the UK in fighting this area of crime.

Fixed Penalties

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued in respect of each offence by each police force in each year since 2002. [286043]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) in England and Wales, broken down by police force area and offence, are shown in tables which have been placed in the House Library.

PNDs were made available to all 43 police forces in England and Wales from April 2004.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Forced Marriage

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases dealt with by *(a)* the Forced Marriage Unit and *(b)* police forces have involved persons who have been obliged to sign applications for leave to remain under duress from their spouses. [288849]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) does not routinely collect the information requested. However, of the 420 cases where the FMU provided direct support to victims in 2008, 207 involved reluctant sponsors (where a victim has already been forced into marriage and is now being forced to sponsor their spouse's visa) and 10 cases where the sponsor wished to withdraw their sponsorship of their spouse prior to them being granted indefinite leave to remain.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent investigations his Department has carried out in respect of allegations that persons have been obliged to sign recent applications for leave to remain under duress by their spouses. [288881]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not held centrally at a sufficient level of detail to extract what is often one of several issues raised.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on any link between instances of forced marriage and cases where persons have been obliged to sign applications for leave to remain under duress by their spouses. [288882]

Mr. Alan Campbell: To date, there has been no specific research commissioned to evaluate the link between instances of forced marriage and cases where persons have been obliged to sign applications for leave to remain under duress by their spouses.

In 2008 the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) introduced a new system in order to capture more robust figures on forced marriage. During 2009 the FMU will continue to work with other Government Departments and the non-government organisations to build a co-ordinated approach to data collection. Within this we will consider how to better capture data on immigration matters.

Foreign Workers: Vetting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to improve access to international conviction data to improve checks on workers from overseas in the UK. [287915]

Mr. Woolas: Officials from my Department and the Criminal Records Bureau have reached an agreement in principle on sharing criminal record information with Australia and New Zealand for employment vetting purposes. We are also in ongoing discussions with France and Ireland.

Under the terms of EU Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA the United Kingdom can, when an individual is seeking a copy of their own criminal record, ask the member state of nationality or previous residence for such information and related data. If such a request is made, the requested member state shall reply in accordance with its national law. Member states, including the United Kingdom, are required to take the necessary measures to comply with this Framework Decision by 27 April 2012.

Foreigners: Drugs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alien persons and what quantity and type of narcotic intended for the UK were intercepted by *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency and *(b)* Royal Navy vessels in UK territorial waters in each of the last 10 years. [288547]

Alan Johnson: From April 2008, the UK Border Agency took on responsibility for maritime operations which had previously been undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs.

Prior to the creation of the UK Border Agency, people trafficking and illegal immigration did not feature as Maritime operational targets. Our crews are now actively briefed and alert to the risk of illegal immigration. Policy and legislative guidance on this matter is presently subject to review.

Seizure results and outcomes arising from Maritime operations are not distinguished from other border operations.

UK Border Agency assets work regularly in support of operations by other agencies. We do not record details of seizures resulting from operations carried out by other agencies involved in border patrols.

Identity Cards

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009 to Baroness Hanham, *Official Report*, House of

Lords, column WA36 on identity cards, which other organisations representing students have been involved in recent stakeholder activity. [287831]

Mr. Woolas: As part of stakeholder activity across the country to raise awareness of the National Identity Service we have met with a number of organisations. These have included the National Union of Students, Universities UK, Student Services from Manchester University and the Learning Skills Council in Manchester.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009 to Baroness Hanham, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA36 on identity cards, what the dates were of meetings held between the Identity and Passport Service and *(a)* the National Union of Students, *(b)* Universities UK and *(c)* other organisations representing students. [287832]

Mr. Woolas: As part of stakeholder activity across the country to raise awareness of the National Identity Service we have met with a number of organisations. These have included the National Union of Students, Universities UK on 26 February 2009, Student Services from Manchester University on 8 January 2009 and the Learning Skills Council in Manchester on 25 February 2009. Representatives from Manchester University attended the Home Secretary event in Manchester on 29 January 2009.

Illegal Immigrants: Drugs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* patrol boats and *(b)* aircraft are available to police to combat illegal immigration and drug smuggling operations. [288544]

Alan Johnson: In 2008 there were 108 patrol boats and 33 aircraft operated by police forces in England and Wales, used for a number of operational policing tasks at the discretion of individual chief officers.

Other assets (mainly military) are made available through the Military Aid to Civil Authorities (MACA) and Military Aid to Civil Power (MACP) process for specific operations. MACA/MACP covers standing arrangements for the Police Service and other civil agencies to draw on military capability in time of need. These operations would usually be led by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs or the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Illegal Immigrants: Housing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost of providing accommodation for illegal migrants to the UK. [287181]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* The UK Border Agency does not provide accommodation to migrants other than to:

asylum seekers who are destitute, or likely to become destitute, whilst their claim (including any appeal) remains under consideration; failed asylum seekers with dependent children under the age of 18 years and those who are unable to leave the UK immediately for reasons beyond their control who would otherwise be destitute.

Local authorities are responsible for providing assistance to migrants who are destitute and have care needs. This form of assistance may include the provision of accommodation under the National Assistance Act 1948. The Home Office does not collect data on the cost of this.

Illegal Immigrants: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers have been discovered working on construction of the main Olympic site. [288084]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Since April 2008, UK Border Agency (UKBA) staff have been working on site with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and contractors to support the process of checking that people employed on the Olympic park are legally entitled to work in the UK. This process was extended across the Athletes' Village in February 2009.

In addition to my previous answer of the 26 January 2009, between January 2009 and March 2009, a further two foreign nationals were arrested as a result of the UK Border Agency's activity.

IMPACT Programme

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the IMPACT Programme is expected to be fully operational; and what recent estimate he has made of the cost of the programme. [287914]

Mr. Hanson: The IMPACT Programme is on track to commence deployment of the Police National Database (PND) capabilities in 2010.

As part of the IMPACT Programme, the Impact Nominal Index (INI) was delivered on time in December 2005. A code of practice on the Management of Police Information (MoPI) was published in July 2005 and came into effect in November 2005. Detailed guidance was published in April 2006. The IMPACT Programme continues to assist forces in bringing about the required business change to effect successful compliance with the code of practice and the guidance by 2010.

The cost of the IMPACT Programme (INI, MoPI and PND) from 2005 through to 2011-12 is estimated to be £244.2 million, including historical costs and contingency funds.

Management of Police Information

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by police forces in their implementation of the statutory code of practice on the management of police information. [287917]

Mr. Hanson: IMPACT continues to support police forces in bringing about the required business change to effect successful compliance with the code of practice and guidance for the Management of Police Information (MoPI).

In September 2006 the MoPI Delivery Board required all forces in England and Wales to achieve implementation in line with the MoPI code of practice and guidance by December 2010.

The board also required the IMPACT Programme to conduct regular formal reviews of all police forces in order to monitor progress and assess national implementation risk. Throughout March to May 2009, the fourth series of such reviews was conducted by the IMPACT Programme.

The review established that there could be every expectation that a large majority of police forces would be fully MoPI compliant and the remaining forces substantially MoPI compliant by December 2010.

Missing People

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* minors reported missing in 2008 remain unaccounted for. [287026]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not held centrally.

The central collection of data and other information to support work tackling the issues around missing people has been initiated through the 'Code of Practice on the Collection of Missing Persons Data', which was published in April 2009.

National Wildlife Crime Unit: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much it cost to run the National Wildlife Crime Unit in each of the last 10 years. [288214]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The current National Wildlife Crime Unit was created in April 2006, after the National Crime Intelligence Service (NCIS) was disbanded. Previously there was a Wildlife Crime Unit within NCIS. The unit received funding of £308,417 in 2006-07, £476,296 in 2007-08, £403,412 in 2008-09 and has been budgeted at £437,919 for 2009-10.

Neighbourhood Policing Publicity Campaign: Finance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on marketing, public relations, communications and advertising in the 2008. [288848]

Mr. Hanson: The Spring 2008 Neighbourhood Policing Campaign was intended to inform the public that for the first time every neighbourhood in England and Wales had a neighbourhood policing team in their area and how to contact them. In the financial year 2007-08 the Home Office spent £1,179,754.00 on marketing, public relations, and advertising on this campaign.

Offences Against Children

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated (1) on potential links between those who (i) view evidence of child abuse online and (ii) abuse children; [288874]

(2) on any relationship between incidences viewing of child abuse online and the incidence of (i) abuse of children and (ii) other types of sexual offences; [288875]

(3) on the use of evidence of possession of different types of child abuse images to predict likely future risks to children. [288876]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In April this year law enforcement, government and academic experts from the G8 nations and others came together in a symposium hosted by the United States of America to discuss these issues raised; it included experts from the UK's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). Their deliberations led to the issue on 30 May 2009 of a G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Statement "The risk to children posed by Child Pornography offenders". Among the many conclusions and recommendations was: an acceptance of a relationship between viewing and contact offending, although more work was required to determine the exact nature of that relationship; a recognition that based on conviction evidence a significant proportion of "image" offenders had committed some form of contact offence; and the exchange of child abuse images and communication between child sexual offenders legitimises and normalises their beliefs and behaviours providing a social context which encourages the further exploitation of children.

The Home Office, CEOP and other relevant stakeholders from across Government will be exploring how the recommendations from the G8 ministerial statement can be taken forward in a UK context.

Offences Against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had on progress towards the Government's commitment to ensuring that 80 per cent. of internet service providers *(a)* use filtering software and *(b)* prevent access to images of child abuse. [288985]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In 2006 the Government stated that it wished to see 100 per cent. of consumer broadband connections covered by blocking, which includes child abuse images, by the end of 2007. Currently in the UK 95 per cent. of consumer broadband connections are covered by blocking. The Government are currently looking at ways to progress the final 5 per cent. and will set out actions and timescales in due course.

The Kitemark for filtering software developed by the Home Office and OFCOM and in partnership with BSI, was launched in launched April 2008. Currently none have been issued, but the promotion of the Kitemark is a priority for the UK Council for Child Internet Safety under the Industry Working Group. The Government fully support the Kitemark and encourages companies to apply for it.

Passports: Borders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of people who enter the UK without passing through passport or border controls each year. [288514]

Alan Johnson: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994 no Government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country including those who have failed to present themselves to an immigration officer on arrival or overstayed on their visa. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

Patrol Craft: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* operating cost of patrol vessels operated by HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency in each of the last 10 years. [288550]

Alan Johnson: The running costs (including fuel, repairs, defects, spares, refits, maintenance, berthing and ancillary costs) and capital costs (including vessel replacements) for the last 10 years are as follows:

Financial year	*Running*	£ *Capital*
1999-2000	2,256,000	0
2000-01	1,840,000	5,300,000
2001-02	1,893,000	3,020,000
2002-03	1,999,6[illegible]	3,100,000
2003-04	1,446,410	4,584,100
2004-05	1,626,830	1,421,600
2005-06	1,840,850	0
2006-07	1,625,380	0
2007-08	2,580,380	100,000
2008-09	2,508,700	0

Police

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what structures are in place to enable liaison between police forces in Wales and neighbouring police forces in England. [288800]

Mr. Hanson: There are well-established structures for liaison across all forces in England and Wales that Welsh forces and their neighbouring forces avail themselves of. The Association of Chief Police Officers and various staff associations facilitate both formal and informal contact. The National Policing Improvement Agency and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary both promote the sharing of effective practice between forces.

In terms of systems, the Police National Computer and the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System enable forces across England and Wales to exchange information critical to the successful investigation, detection and prevention of crime. All forces have adopted the National Intelligence Model as a way of working; the model itself fosters cross-border collaboration.

Liaison specifically between Welsh forces and neighbouring forces in England also takes place at both a formal and an informal level, facilitated by a number of groups. Issues covered by these groups include distraction burglary, professional standards, major crime review, and drugs.

Police National Computer

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicle records on the Police National Computer have an indicator relating to driver information marked against them. [287044]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Based on the latest figures available, from a data extract taken on 1 July 2009, a total of 78,713 vehicle records contained police reports with information about the driver or where action may still be required in connection with the driver/users of the vehicle.

The data presented here are drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Police National Computer: Patrick Brendon Smith

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the convictions of Patrick Brendon Smith for rape in Ireland were uploaded to the Police National Computer; and whether those entries included his alias Patrick Reilly. [288096]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Government Ministers are unable to direct officials to search the Police National Computer for an individual's name. The National Policing Improvement Agency is therefore not able to disclose the information requested.

Police: Emergency Calls

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average police response time in each constituency in Wales to 999 calls is. [289014]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* Data on the time taken to respond to incidents resulting from 999 calls are not collected centrally. This is a matter for each individual chief police officer.

Police: Pensions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of payments made to police pensioners aged *(a)* under 50, *(b)* between 51 and 55, *(c)* between 56 and 60, *(d)* between 61 and 65 and *(e)* 65 and over was in (i) the latest year for which figures are available, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2001, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2007. [287826]

Mr. Hanson: Information on expenditure on payments to police pensioners by age group is not held centrally.

Before 2006-07 the previous pay-as-you-go system of financing was in operation, under which police pensions were paid out of forces' operating accounts. Information about the total level of pensions expenditure net of officer contributions is included in the annual reports published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This information is gathered independently of the Home Office.

Total expenditure on police pensions in payment in 2007-08 to retired officers and police survivors was £2.096 billion.

Police: Powers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1467-68W, on police: powers, what definition of the term front-line policing he uses. [286933]

Mr. Hanson: The detailed definition of the front-line policing measure is given in the Guidance on Statutory Performance Indicators for Policing. Copies of the definition of the measure have been placed in the House Library.

Police: Retirement

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many chief constables took early retirement in each year since 2001; on what grounds each took early retirement; what pension arrangements each received; and if he will make a statement. [287825]

Mr. Hanson: Under the Police Pensions Regulations 1987 a police officer may retire with an ordinary pension after 25 years' service.

Information on chief constables' retirements is held dating back to September 2001 only. Since that date there have been 55 retirements of chief constables. In all of these cases the individual had served for over 25 years.

Details of the grounds for retirement of chief constables and of their pension arrangements are not held centrally.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation for which his Department was responsible and which made provision for the (i) retirement and (ii) early retirement of police officers has been enacted since 1997. [287827]

Mr. Hanson: There has been no primary legislation introduced since 1997 governing the retirement or early retirement of police officers.

The provisions of the Police Pension Scheme 1987, to which the majority of officers belong, are set out in the Police Pensions Regulations 1987. The following Statutory Instruments made since 1997 have amended the provisions relating to retirement and early retirement in those regulations:

The Police Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2003/535

The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2004/1491

The Police Pensions (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2004/2354

The Police Pensions (Part-time Service) Regulations 2005/1439

The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2008/1887

The following Statutory Instruments also have provisions relating to arrangements governing retirement and early retirement:

The Police Pensions Regulations 2006/3415 setting out the New Police Pension Scheme 2006 which applies to new entrants to the service with effect from 6 April 2006.

The Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006/932 setting out awards for injury or death in the line of duty which are separate from the contributory pension scheme arrangements.

The Police Pension Fund regulations 2007/1932 which set out the new pension scheme financing arrangements which have applied since April 2006.

Poppy Crop

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* size and *(b)* estimated monetary value of the domestic poppy crop was in the latest period for which figures are available. [288240]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Poppies are grown for many purposes in the UK; some are grown for the extraction of morphine (papaver somniferum) and it is only these poppies that the Home Office holds statistics on.

(a) There are currently 38 sites growing poppies for the extraction of morphine. The total area under cultivation in 2008 amounted to 2,568 hectares, slightly down from 2007 2,745 hectares. Additionally, a small number of organisations grow poppies for research purposes.

(b) The monetary value of the poppies is a commercial matter between the growers and their customers.

Rape

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of rape have been reported *(a)* in England and Wales, *(b)* in East Sussex and *(c)* in Eastbourne in each of the last five years; and how many of these resulted in (i) a prosecution and (ii) a conviction. [287386]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available in the form requested as it is not possible to track individual offences through to their outcome at court. The available information relates to the number of offences of rape recorded by the police in the last five financial years. Prosecutions and convictions data are based on the number of offenders and have been provided by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Table 1 gives the number of offences of rape recorded by the police in England and Wales, Sussex and Eastbourne. Data for East Sussex are not available.

Table 2 provides data on the number of defendants proceeded against and convicted for all rape offences for England and Wales and Sussex. Data for East Sussex and Eastbourne are not available.

Table 1: Offences of rape recorded in England and Wales, Sussex and the Eastbourne Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area

Financial year	England and Wales	Sussex	Eastbourne
2004-05	14,013	458	52
2005-06	14,443	424	37
2006-07	13,774	440	37
2007-08	12,639	309	38
2008-09	13,133	370	37

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for rape and attempted rape offences, Sussex police force area and England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Proceed against	Found guilty	Proceed against	Found guilty	Proceed against	Found guilty	Proceed against	Found guilty	Proceed against	Found guilty
Sussex police force area	41	18	54	13	65	12	58	13	43	26
England and Wales	2,790	673	2,689	751	2,826	796	2,567	863	2,363	873

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made to the Security Industry Authority about its licence application processing times in the last 12 months. [288121]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The SIA have recorded the subject of complaints received since August 2008. Since then 35 formal complaints related to licence application processing times have been made to the Security Industry Authority.

Security Industry Authority

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contractors have had their security credentials revoked by the Security Industry Authority in the last five years. [288515]

Alan Johnson: Since the approved contractor scheme was introduced in March 2006, in total 22 contractors have had approved contractor status withdrawn. Of these, five companies submitted fresh applications after a period of time and have been re-approved.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers the Security Industry Authority has to investigate reports of racist door policies at pubs and clubs operated by security staff licensed by the Authority. [288516]

Alan Johnson: The Security Industry Authority has the power to take evidence of criminal activity, including in relation to racially motivated offences, into account in considering the refusal or revocation of licences. The Authority will refuse applications or revoke licences of security staff who do not meet its 'fit and proper person' criteria.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: National Police Improvement Agency

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the additional £20 million in capital funding to improve the estates of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency and the National Police Improvement Agency brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 and 2008-09 on *(a)* installation and development of high technology systems, *(b)* enhanced intelligence gathering and *(c)* the redeployment of posts out of London as part of the Lyons relocation policy; and how much of the funding has been spent in each month since it was announced. [286652]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has £10 million of capital funding advanced from 2010-11 to 2009-10. This expenditure is not expected to impact directly on the development of high technology systems, or enhanced intelligence gathering. It is not linked to the redeployment of posts out of London.

This funding will enable an acceleration of planned improvements to office, classroom and other facilities at the NPIA site at Ryton-on-Dunsmore in the West Midlands. This is a multi-function site providing specialist training and operational support to the police service and security agencies.

Work is scheduled to take place in second half of the 2009-10. No spending has occurred to date.

Early availability of capital funds has enabled investment in the Serious Organised Crime Agency's (SOCA) physical infrastructure and technical capability. Preparatory work has started on the capital projects that had previously been scheduled for 2010-11. Long lead-in times for delivering these investments mean that the impact will not be felt until 2010-11 and beyond.

SOCA's capital budget for 2009-10 included expenditure and delivery of technology to support both SOCA's High Volume Operating Model and the collection and analysis of a wide range of information.

SOCA has contributed to the Lyons targets for relocating posts out of London by the integration of some sites. This will be enhanced by the relocation of 130 posts from London to the north-west in 2010-11.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Serious and Organised Crime Agency staff based in Northern Ireland have received performance-related bonuses; and what the total amount of such bonuses has been. [287671]

Mr. Alan Campbell: To date, no staff based in Northern Ireland have received performance-related bonuses.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in Northern Ireland was in 2008-09. [287672]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency's budget is not managed on a geographic basis and so it is not possible to determine what the cost of SOCA in Northern Ireland was in 2008-09.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the Asset Recovery Agency cases based in Northern Ireland were taken up by the Serious Organised Crime Agency; and how many have resulted in *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* seizure of assets. [287787]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency is a UK-wide agency and does not collate statistics on a regional basis, as many crimes, by their nature, do not respect regional boundaries.

All of the Assets Recovery Agency's cases were transferred to SOCA when the two agencies merged. Asset recovery investigations under the Proceeds of Crime Act's criminal confiscation, civil and tax recovery provisions cannot lead directly to prosecution. In 2008-09 (having gained civil recovery and tax powers in April 2008), SOCA enforced civil recovery orders and tax assessments and collected £16.7 million.

Social Workers: Visas

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many qualified social workers have been refused an initial visa or visa extension under Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the points-based system since it was introduced; and how many of these applicants applied to work with children and families. [288712]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not centrally recorded and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Territorial Waters

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency vessels operate a continuous patrol of the British coastline. [288543]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency's Maritime capabilities are deployed to provide operational coverage for 365 days a year, on a permanent patrol of the UK coast. Operations are conducted on a risk and intelligence-led basis.

Terrorism: Afghanistan

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of British military involvement in Afghanistan on levels of violent extremism in the UK. [287427]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* It is in our national interest that Afghanistan becomes a stable and secure state able to deal with violent extremism within its borders and to prevent the export of terrorism abroad. We are fully committed to supporting a legitimate and democratic Afghan Government as they seek to build a peaceful and resilient nation, shaped by the will of the Afghan people.

I recognise that individual reactions to UK foreign policies, such as military involvement overseas can be a factor in radicalisation, and that violent extremists exploit this when recruiting others to their cause. But we also know that radicalisation occurs for a wide range of complex and personal reasons. The aim of the Government will continue to be to prevent radicalisation at home and abroad.

Wildlife: Crime

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the policing of wildlife crime cost in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [288215]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Each force sets their own priorities having made an assessment on the issues of most importance locally. As such forces where wildlife crime is an issue will be likely to provide greater resources for tackling it. However, the Home Office does not collect data on the amount each force has spent policing wildlife crime.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 9 September 2009

PRIME MINISTER

Internet

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Prime Minister for what reasons the comment facility on his video on Parliamentary expenses reform posted to the Downing Street YouTube portal is not enabled. [290083]

The Prime Minister: It is not possible to post comments on any Downing street YouTube video. My Office does however receive and respond to many other comments each year through e-mails, letters, ePetitions, webchats and Twitter.

Libya

Mr. Hague: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of his correspondence with Colonel Gaddafi of Libya in which Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi is mentioned; [290634]

(2) whether he discussed *(a)* commercial contracts for oil and gas and *(b)* Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi during his meeting with Colonel Gaddafi of Libya at the G8 summit in July 2009; and if he will place in the Library the record of the meeting. [290639]

The Prime Minister: A copy of my letter to Colonel Gaddafi of 20 August has been placed in the Libraries of the House. During my meeting with Colonel Gaddafi in July I did not discuss oil and gas contracts. I did raise the need for a more effective global dialogue between energy producing and consuming countries.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Leader of the House whether she plans to publish claims made under the additional cost allowance for 2004-05 by those who are no longer hon. Members; and if she will make it her policy to publish claims made by former hon. Members who are also prospective parliamentary candidates under the additional cost allowance during their period of service in the House. [290806]

Ms Harman: The publication of information relating to hon. Members' claims for additional costs allowance is a matter for the House of Commons Commission.

TRANSPORT

A14

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment the Highways Agency made of the effect on entry to and exit from the A14 for industrial units in Burton Latimer of the imposition of a Grampian condition on the sustainable urban extension to the east of Kettering; and what recent estimate the Highways Agency has made of daily traffic volumes on the A14 between junctions *(a)* 7 and 9 and *(b)* 9 and 10. [290886]

Chris Mole: In response to the Kettering East Planning Application, the Highways Agency has reviewed all the information provided by the developer in order to determine the impact of the proposals on the performance of the A14. This has included a review of the developer's proposals for access and egress onto/off the A14. This consists of replacing existing junction 10 with an enlarged junction, approximately 1 kilometre to the east of its current location.

The Agency's review of these proposals did not include an assessment of the implications of the junction improvements on the wider community including the industrial units at Burton Latimer, as this was not necessary at this stage. However, it is envisaged that the developer will carry this out as part of the statutory processes required for implementation of the access arrangements. These processes will also provide an opportunity for all parties, including the Highways Agency, to comment on the details of the proposals.

While the conditions the Agency has directed specifically relate to the access arrangements proposed to date, it is prepared to consider any other options put forward including the possibility of improving the junction in its current location. It should be noted, however, that the Agency would not accept an additional access onto the A14 in accordance with policy (Department for Transport Circular 02/2007) in particular safety and efficiency.

The Highways Agency's recent estimates of daily traffic volumes between junctions on the A14 are as follows:

Direction	*Junctions*	*AADT*[1]
Eastbound	7-8	35,717
	8-9	32,421
	9-10	28,105
Westbound	7-8	35,619
	8-9	33,742
	9-10	28,263

[1] AADT—Annual Average Daily Traffic, based on rolling year between June 2008 and May 2009.

Air Travel Organiser's Licensing Protection Contribution

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what the level of the Air Travel Organiser's Licensing Protection contribution will be once the Air Travel Trust Fund deficit has been eliminated; [290770]

(2) by what date he expects the deficit in Air Travel Trust Fund to be eliminated; and if he will make a statement. [290771]

Chris Mole: In his written statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 82-83WS announcing an increase to the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC), the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) explained that

"The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) intend to review the rate of the APC before the Air Travel Trust fund (ATTF) moves into surplus, projected to be by the spring of 2012."

A summary of responses to the CAA's consultation on increasing the APC and a copy of the CAA's advice to the Secretary of State are available in the House Library.

Aviation: Passengers

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on air passenger numbers at *(a)* Heathrow Airport and *(b)* regional airports of the introduction of high-speed train services between London and the North. [290746]

Chris Mole: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd. has been formed to help develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland, and will report to Government by the end of the year. As part of its work HS2 will be assessing passenger demand for high speed rail services, including the likely number of passengers attracted from aviation. We are, however, satisfied that the case for new runway capacity at Heathrow remains strong, given projections of future demand for long-haul air traffic which cannot readily be served by rail.

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy to extend the Blue Badge scheme for disabled parking to people suffering from colitis, Crohn's disease and similar conditions. [290743]

Chris Mole: In October 2008 the Department for Transport published the Comprehensive Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) Reform Strategy which outlined a number of changes to the scheme, including our intention to extend eligibility to certain groups of people whose level of disability imposes severe limitations on their personal mobility and safety. Whilst colitis, Crohn's disease and similar conditions were considered for eligibility during the development of the Reform Strategy, it was decided that the Blue Badge scheme would not be extended to people affected by these conditions and there are no plans to alter this.

British Railways Board Residuary: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people have been employed by the British Railways Board Residuary in each year since 1997; and what the *(a)* income and *(b)* expenditure of that body has been in each such year. [290634]

Chris Mole: British Railways Board Residuary (BRBR) Ltd was formed in February 2001. The income, expenditure and headcount information for the period since BRBR's creation is shown in the following table:

£ million

	Income	*Operating expenditure*	*Employees (FTE)*[1]
2001-02	51.5	(35.0)	52
2002-03	154.2	(157.1)	44
2003-04	79.4	(56.3)	32
2004-05	82.5	(77.4)	25
2005-06	75.6	(53.7)	24
2006-07	91.8	(31.2)	27
2007-08	93.7	(41.7)	32
2008-09	96.0	(85.3)	32

[1] Full time equivalent

Crossrail: Expenditure

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on preparation for Crossrail; and what estimate he has made of *(a)* the likely expenditure by (a) June 2010 and *(b)* any required expenditure after June 2010 in the event that the project is cancelled. [290635]

Chris Mole: Expenditure on preparation for Crossrail prior to the signature of the core agreements for the scheme in December 2008 was £175 million. This figure includes the costs incurred by Crossrail Ltd in support of the Crossrail Act 2008 and related agreements, and the Department for Transport's financial, legal and technical consultancy fees in support of the parliamentary process and agreements.

By June 2010 it is estimated that expenditure by Crossrail Ltd in support of the delivery of the project will have reached £1,550 million. This includes the costs of land and property expenditure and the costs of consultancy services procured by the Department to support the programme.

There are no precise estimates as to how much expenditure would be required if the project were to be cancelled; this is contingent on a number of different factors, including contractual commitments and potential income from land no longer required.

Crossrail Ltd is jointly funded by the Department and Transport for London.

Driving Offences

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to provide for the police to issue on-the-spot fines to motorists for *(a)* careless driving and *(b)* other road traffic offences for which offenders are prosecuted. [290728]

Chris Mole: The Road Safety Compliance Consultation, published in November 2008 sought views on proposals for measures to improve compliance levels with key road safety laws. This included a proposal to allow for fixed penalties for certain categories of careless driving. The consultation ended on 27 February 2009 and all responses are being carefully considered.

The Department for Transport will announce its response to the consultation and the measures it intends to take forward, including on careless driving, alongside the new Road Safety Strategy later this year.

Both VOSA and the police already have the ability to issue on-the-spot fines for certain road traffic offences.

Driving Under Influence

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the merits of reducing the drink-drive limit from its current levels. [290727]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport's Road Safety Compliance consultation document explains that we are keeping the present limit under review and have work in hand to improve available evidence needed to assess the potential road safety effect of a lower limit. We have also said that we intend to review the new evidence in the course of finalising the Government's Road Safety Strategy beyond 2010, to be published later this year.

Heathrow Airport

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has revised its net present value estimate for a new runway and terminal at Heathrow airport to take account of the new methodology for carbon pricing in appraisals provided by the Department for Energy and Climate Change. [290897]

Chris Mole: The assessment of the economic case presented in Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport Impact Assessment followed the guidance on the shadow price of carbon, issued by DEFRA following the Stern Review. In developing the Impact Assessment, the Department for Transport considered the potential impact of significantly higher values and concluded that the economic case remained robust.

However, no revised net present value estimate for a new runway and terminal at Heathrow airport that takes account of the new carbon values published in July 2009 by the Department for Energy and Climate Change is available.

Preliminary work since the January Heathrow decision indicates that the economic case for Heathrow's third runway is robust to the new carbon values.

The Department for Transport currently expects to publish the next generation of air passenger demand forecasts in 2010.

Highways Agency: Ragwort

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps the Highways Agency is taking to remove ragwort from *(a)* the roadside and *(b)* other land for which the Highways Agency is responsible. [290684]

Chris Mole: Ragwort is a difficult plant to control and requires a long-term and systematic approach as the seeds can remain dormant in the ground for over 20 years.

The Highways Agency dedicates significant resources to its control each year. It is not possible to eradicate ragwort entirely because plants can spread from adjoining land. The Agency's service providers are required to follow the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs code of practice as well as Agency specific guidance, to control ragwort at the roadside and on other Agency owned land. Control measures, which include the use of herbicides, are particularly targeted at locations where livestock is most at risk.

Year round monitoring is undertaken to identify the location of ragwort plants, so that control measures can be used when most effective, and not just during the flowering season. Adjacent landowners are informed where ragwort is present, to encourage them to introduce their own measures of control.

Invalid Vehicles: Insurance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will bring forward legislation to require users of mobility scooters to hold mobility scooter insurance; what training users of mobility scooters are required to undergo; what recent estimate he has made of the number of persons injured by mobility scooters annually; and if he will make a statement. [290641]

Chris Mole: We currently have no plans to introduce legislation requiring users of mobility scooters to hold insurance. They are nevertheless subject to the law of civil liability. We do strongly recommend that mobility scooter users take out insurance and that they avail themselves of the advice and training that is available in a number of locations such as Shopmobility venues (a charity organisation which hires out mobility scooters). No recent estimate of the number of injuries caused by mobility scooters has been undertaken but anecdotal evidence suggests that the majority of accidents are minor in nature.

We are aware that the number of mobility scooters is on the increase. The Department for Transport is procuring a survey to help assess the number of mobility scooter users and the extent to which their use may have injured people. We anticipate that this will help to inform future policy.

Kegworth Bypass

David Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent progress has been made on the Kegworth bypass project; and if he will make a statement. [290831]

Chris Mole: The Kegworth bypass has been proposed alongside improvements to the M1 between junctions 23a and 25. The Department for Transport publication 'Britain's Transport Infrastructure—Motorways and Major Trunk Roads', published in January 2009, provides details of the major road improvements which we expect to take forward in the period up to 2015 and the longer term motorway improvements which we expect to be rolled out after 2015.

The scheme to improve the M1 between junctions 23a and 25 falls into the category of schemes expected to be delivered after 2015. The timetable for these schemes will be considered as part of the DuSTS (Delivering

a Sustainable Transport System) process, under which we will be defining our longer term investment priorities. This process is described in the Department's November 2008 document 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System'.

Lorries: Accidents

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in how many accidents resulting in serious injury foreign-registered left-hand drive heavy goods vehicles were involved in 2008. [290778]

Chris Mole: In 2008, there were 25 fatal and 69 reported road accidents resulting in a serious injury, where at least one foreign-registered left-hand drive heavy goods vehicle was involved.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: HM Coastguard

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 81 of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Annual Report 2007-08, HC 617, what the average response time of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency/HM Coastguard was to maritime incidents where assistance was given in each year from 2002 to 2008. [290662]

Chris Mole: Information is not collected in the form requested.

Between 2001-02 and 2006-07 the percentage of incidents where the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) decided on a search and rescue response within five minutes of being alerted is shown in the following table:

	Percentage
2001-02	99
2002-03	99
2003-04	99
2004-05	98
2005-06	97
2006-07	99

In each of these years the MCA met its published ministerial target on this area of work.

Figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 were not recorded due to industrial action short of a strike by members of the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union.

However, through a programme of local management checks and audits, the agency is confident that the quality of its emergency response co-ordination service was fully maintained despite the absence of statistical data.

Railways: Overcrowding

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy to collect passenger overcrowding data from train operators running services from stations in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Cardiff, *(d)* Sheffield, *(e)* Bristol, *(f)* Liverpool and *(g)* Leeds. [290633]

Chris Mole: As outlined within their respective franchise agreements, train operating companies are required to provide passenger count data on request to the Secretary of State for Transport. The Department for Transport currently collects passenger counts data for most rail services running into these regional stations.

The specific arrangements for each operator can be viewed on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/

Roads: Cycling

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to publish his Department's *(a)* interim and *(b)* final report on road safety and cycling. [290773]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is working with the contractors, Transport Research Laboratory, to ensure the road safety and cycling project remains on schedule. The Department intends to publish two research reports this autumn 2009, including one on cycle helmets, with the publication of the project's final reports in autumn 2010.

Sustainable Distribution Fund

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been *(a)* made available to and *(b)* subsequently allocated to rail freight interchange projects through the Sustainable Distribution Fund in each year since its inception. [290632]

Chris Mole: The multi-modal Sustainable Distribution Fund (SDF) took effect from 1 April 2007. Although there have been a number of rail capital projects funded through SDF, the Department for Transport has not funded any rail freight interchange projects.

Freight Facilities Grants (FFGs) can help to fund the difference in cost between rail/water and road freight, but only where the environmental benefits can justify the support, there is a genuine financial need for grant and the provision of grant would not distort competition.

Competition in the rail freight intermodal business has been increasing with a number of terminal and freight hauliers now active in the market. As a result, in January 2008 the Department announced that it would no longer provide FFG funding for investment in intermodal terminals in the North West of England (Manchester, Liverpool and Widnes conurbations).

Traffic Penalty Tribunal

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many parking cases the Traffic Penalty Tribunal adjudicated by *(a)* post, *(b)* email and *(c)* in person in the most recent year for which figures are available; [290703]

(2) how much on average it cost the Traffic Penalty Tribunal to adjudicate on a parking case *(a)* by post, *(b)* by email and *(c)* in person in 2008-09; [290705]

(3) what funding the Traffic Penalty Tribunal received from each of its funding streams in 2008-09. [290706]

Chris Mole: This information is not collected centrally by the Government. Details of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal's activities are recorded in its annual report which is available on its website,

www.trafficpenaltytribunal.gov.uk

Transport: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the £700 million in capital funding for transport, brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 and 2008-09 on *(a)* motorway capacity, *(b)* numbers of new carriages on the rail network, *(c)* congestion relief and *(d)* railway overcrowding; and how much of the funding has been spent in each month since it was announced. [286653]

Paul Clark: £300 million is budgeted for advancing work on the national road network; for enabling works in advance of the Managed Motorway (hard shoulder running) schemes announced in January, and on advancing planned capital maintenance, e.g. safety improvements to the central reserve on the M1 between J32-35a. The planned roads programme adds 520 additional lane miles including 340 lane miles of hard shoulder running.

As well as the work on the national network, £100 million is budgeted to relieve congestion on the regional A46 Newark to Widmerpool scheme, by advancing construction (dualling) by two years. This is an important freight route and will support the Newark growth point.

£300 million was budgeted to advance the purchase of additional diesel railway carriages, scheduled as part of the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) agreement for increasing capacity and relieving overcrowding on the rail network (HLOS agreement from 2009 to 2014) that was set out in the July 2007 Rail White Paper. However, the £1.1 billion electrification of the Great Western Main Line to Swansea and the line between Liverpool and Manchester announced on 23 July 2009, means that there will be far less need for diesel trains and so the previously planned procurement has been superseded. A revised rolling stock strategy, taking into account the reduced need for diesel trains will be published in due course.

Monthly expenditure (£ million)

	April	*May*	*June*	*Total Q1*	*Budget Q1*
A46	2.4	3.3	2.1	7.8	16.4
National schemes	9.4	14.8	19.2	43.4	44.1
Total HA	11.9	18.0	21.3	51.3	60.5

Note:
Table totals subject to roundings.

Spending on national highway schemes is very close to budgeted expenditure at this point (98 per cent.). Delays on concluding negotiations for access have led to slower spend on the A46.

Furthermore, as announced in Building Britain's Future in June, the Department for Transport is contributing £350 million from the 2009-10 capital budget to the Government's housing fiscal stimulus initiative to deliver 20,000 additional energy efficient, affordable homes.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent meetings officials of his Department have had with officials of *(a)* HM Embassy Kinshasa and *(b)* officials of the Democratic Republic of Congo government at Kin Maziere officials. [289004]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* The UK Border Agency commissioned the British embassy in Kinshasa to investigate allegations that appeared in *The Guardian* newspaper on 28 May and this included visiting officials from Kin Maziere. The investigation found no evidence to substantiate the allegations of mistreatment, and found that the documentation in possession of *The Guardian* was not credible.

Drugs: Convictions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of *(a)* possession of and *(b)* supplying Class (i) A, (ii) B and (iii) C drugs in each year since 1997; and how many such people received (A) a custodial sentence and (B) the maximum sentence for those offences. [286040]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for the possession and supply of class A, B and C drugs, those sentenced to a custodial sentence and those receiving the maximum sentence, in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

The statistics given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn 2009.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for possession and supply of class A, B and C drugs in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	1997			*1998*			*1999*		
		Sentenced to:			*Sentenced to:*			*Sentenced to:*	
	Found guilty	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence*
Having possession of a controlled drug: class A	6,485	548	1	8,167	816	0	9,720	966	1

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for possession and supply of class A, B and C drugs in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	1997			1998			1999		
		Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:	
	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class A	1,953	1,526	0	1,858	1,424	0	2,009	1,615	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): class A	1,679	1,337	0	1,776	1,383	0	2,089	1,705	1
Having possession of a controlled drug: class B[3]	0,911	395	1	27359	624	1	26,687	634	1
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class B[3]	3,344	1,562	0	3,616	1,761	0	2,967	1,441	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): class B[3]	1,857	860	1	1,955	908	0	1,517	754	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: class C[6]	145	13	0	187	12	0	159	9	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class C[6]	57	20	0	51	17	0	41	20	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : class C[6]	53	14	0	46	19	0	53	17	0

	2000			2001			2002		
		Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:	
	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence
Having possession of a controlled drug: class A	10,439	1,000	2	11,548	1,109	0	11,417	988	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class A	2,344	1,827	0	2,750	2,133	0	2,741	2,068	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): class A	2,184	1,804	0	2,408	1,898	0	2,512	1996	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: class B[3]	23,211	460	0	22,960	372	1	26,139	316	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class B[3]	2,210	1,003	0	1,579	736	0	1,617	647	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): class B[3]	1,113	559	0	736	324	0	729	332	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: class C[6]	117	6	0	371	11	0	533	16	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class C[6]	27	13	1	25	14	0	38	14	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : class C[6]	29	13	0	32	17	0	23	7	2

	2003			2004			2005		
		Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:	
	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence
Having possession of a controlled drug: class A	10,985	907	3	10,738	788	3	10,729	796	4
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class A	2,991	2,248	0	3,032	2,317	1	3,189	2,333	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): class A	2,688	2,157	0	2,789	2,234	0	2,786	1,870	1
Having possession of a controlled drug: class B	28,093	370	1	8,658	174	0	4,362	122	0
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class B	1,735	599	0	1,220	522	0	497	215	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): class B	659	299	0	418	201	0	225	116	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: class C*	515	7	0	8,304	82	0	12,170	140	6
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class C*	38	15	1	578	133	0	1,332	416	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : class C*	35	4	0	254	53	2	474	163	0

	2006			2007		
		Sentenced to:			Sentenced to:	
	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Maximum sentence
Having possession of a controlled drug: class A	11,469	796	8	13,389	903	3
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class A	3,105	2,250	0	3,500	2,469	2
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): class A	2,616	1,796	0	2,633	1,810	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: class B	3,836	112	0	3,234	127	2
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class B	402	154	0	308	139	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): class B	166	78	0	84	26	0
Having possession of a controlled drug: class C*	12,688	175	3	15,066	197	5
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: class C*	1,475	493	0	1,645	520	0
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : class C*	573	186	0	568	166	0

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Cannabis was reclassified in January 2004 to a class C drug. Guidelines advised that offenders over the age of 18 could be given, for possession only, a "cannabis warning" which does not constitute a criminal record.
[5] Cannabis was re-classified to a class C drug in January 2004. From 1997-2004 the class B category includes cannabis, from 2005-2007 cannabis is included in class C.
[6] From January 2004 the statutory maximum penalty for Possession with intent to intent to supply and supplying a class C drug was increased from five to 14 years. Those sentenced in 2004 were all assumed to be eligible for the five year maximum those sentenced from 2005 onwards are assumed to be eligible for the 14 year maximum although as the date of offence is not known this may not be true of all cases.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit (OCJR-E and A).

Entry Clearances

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residence applications from EEA nationals are awaiting assessment. [287791]

Mr. Woolas: As of 15 July there were 71,428 EEA residence applications of all categories awaiting assessment.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding residence applications from EEA nationals have exceeded the six month time limit set out in the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006. [287792]

Mr. Woolas: As of 15 July there were 27,120 EEA residence applications that have been outstanding for more than six months. This does not include applications made by EEA nationals for registration certificates, which are not subject to the same time scales.

Foreigners: Crime

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* murders, *(b)* attempted murders, *(c)* rapes, *(d)* other offences of violence against the person and *(e)* other offences were committed by foreign nationals who had served at least one custodial sentence in the UK in each of the last 12 years for which figures are available. [290755]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The requested information is not available. The recording by the police on the Police National Computer of the nationality of offenders in England and Wales is optional as there is no legislative obligation on individuals to provide this information. For this reason reliable statistics on the nationality of offenders cannot be compiled.

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average elapsed between the receipt by the Charging Unit of an application for a student visa extension and the receipt by the applicant of an IDFN form between January and June *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and in what proportion of cases the time elapsed was more than three months in each period. [287901]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The information is not available in the precise format requested. Available information is as follows:

	Average time (days) taken to deal with an in country application for leave to remain as a student (a)	*Percentage of cases where turnaround time was more than 90 days (b)*
1 January-30 June 2008	[1]29	[1]2
1 January- 30 June 2009	[2]63	[2]7

[1] 1,288 applications
[2] 4,056 applications
Note:
All figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Time taken to deal with in country applications for leave to remain as a student

All figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

The figures in column (a) are calculated from the date of receipt by the Charging Unit to the date of despatch of the decision.

A requirement that applicants applying in country for leave to remain as a student must have an identity card was introduced on 25 November 2008. The target time for issue of a card is three working days. This time begins on the date the request to issue the card is received.

Passports

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the unit cost of printing a *(a)* new and *(b)* replacement British passport was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287533]

Mr. Woolas: The unit cost of printing a new and replacement British passport is the same. Due to commercial sensitivities it is not possible to disclose the exact printing charges.

Prisoners: Deportation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners the Government sought to deport when they left prison but were unable to because they were nationals of other EU member states in the last five years. [287741]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to Home Affairs Select Committee in

order to provide them with all the robust and accurate information available relating to foreign national criminals. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers are awaiting single payments; and what estimate his Department has made of the total monetary value of outstanding single payments. [290866]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table gives the number and estimated value of outstanding payments under the Single Payment Scheme for those yet to receive any payment. It includes claims which may eventually prove to be invalid for payment, often because of probate issues or invalid bank details.

£

Single payment scheme year	*Number of claims outstanding as at 3 September 2009*	*Estimated value of outstanding claims*
2005	3	10,000
2006	9	18,000
2007	48	444,000
2008	211	2,424,000
Total	271	2,896,000

Air Pollution: Prosecutions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many organisations have been *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* fined and *(c)* convicted under environmental legislation for air pollution offences in each year since 2005; what the total cost was of fines imposed for such offences; and if he will make a statement. [290899]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table has been produced by the Environment Agency's National Enforcement Database and shows the number of organisations that have been *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* fined and *(c)* convicted for air pollution category 1-3 incidents[1] since 2005, and the total cost of fines imposed for such offences.

	Prosecuted	*Convicted*	*Fined*	*Total of fines (£)*
2005	42	42	41	418,650
2006	62	59	57	475,240
2007	37	34	32	561,796
2008	44	40	38	339,200
2009[2]	23	22	21	509,850
Total	208	197	189	2,304,736

[1] Category 1—major, persistent, extensive or serious impact or damage to the environment (air, land and/or water), people and/or property.
Category 2—significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.
Category 3—minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.
[2] To 12 August 2009

Circuses: Animal Welfare

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Chairman of the Circus Working Group to provide a further report on wild animals in travelling circuses. [290937]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Circus Working Group reported its findings in 2007. A feasibility study is currently under way looking at the possibility of regulating wild animal acts in circuses. The feasibility study is still in progress but we are expecting it to be finalised by the end of the year.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions the Circus Working Group has had about the welfare of elephants in circuses in the last 12 months. [290938]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Circus Working Group reported its findings in 2007. A feasibility study has been under way since last year and is expected to be finalised by the end of this year. The use of elephants in circuses will be considered as part of this study.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of farmers who have left in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009 to date. [290867]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not collect figures on the number of farmers who leave the dairy sector each year. Figures from the June Survey of Agriculture only indicate activity on registered holdings in England at June each year and therefore show net change only.

The number of farmers on holdings where dairy is the predominant activity (as indicated from Cattle Tracing System data) are shown in the table below for 2006-08. Figures for 2009 are not yet available.

		Number of farmers on dairy type holdings	*Number of dairy holdings[1]*
(a)	2006	22,483	11,079
(b)	2007	21,082	10,649
(c)	2008	20,122	10,112

[1] Based on predominant farming activity.
Note:
Farmers includes full- and part-time farmers, partners, directors and spouses if working on the holding.
Sources:
June Survey of Agriculture
Cattle Tracing System

Dairy Farming: Government Assistance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance his Department is providing to the dairy farm industry in response to the reduction in the wholesale price of milk in 2009. [290868]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We believe that the market must determine prices. The setting of milk prices is a commercial matter to be resolved by private negotiation which should take place within the parameters set by competition law.

Through the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, we are working with industry to highlight challenges currently facing the sector. To this end, DEFRA will be chairing a new Horizon Scanning working group where we will work in collaboration with industry to address these challenges.

Dogs: Tagging

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for *(a)* the compulsory microchipping of dogs and *(b)* the establishment of a central database of dog owners in the United Kingdom; what recent representations he has received on the issue; what discussions he has had with stakeholders on the issue since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [290629]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Dog Identification Group (DIG) recommended in its 2000 report that a voluntary scheme for the permanent identification of dogs be introduced. Since the DIG report, there has been an increase in voluntary dog registration. At the forefront of this is Petlog which is the largest pet reunification service in the UK. It manages a database of over 3,500,000 records. This is on hand 24 hours a day to authorised bodies such as animal wardens or animal welfare centres, who can scan the chips in found animals and trace their owners via the Petlog database. Today up to 40-50 per cent. of dogs are registered on the Petlog system.

We have no plans to make microchipping compulsory. We have received around 20 letters so far in 2009 on the subject of microchipping, and microchipping was discussed with representatives of the Dogs Trust in July this year.

Fishing Vessels: Decommissioning

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce a fishing vessel decommissioning scheme; and if he will make a statement. [290682]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are currently no plans to introduce a fishing vessel decommissioning scheme.

Gangmasters

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to protect the employment rights of vulnerable workers employed through gangmasters. [290948]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government set up the Gangmasters Licensing Authority in 2005 to safeguard the welfare and rights of vulnerable workers employed in the agriculture, food processing and shellfish sectors, where gangmasters traditionally operate. The Gangmasters Licensing Act introduced compulsory licensing for anyone who supplies workers to do work in these sectors, and makes it an offence to operate as an unlicensed gangmaster or knowingly to enter into an arrangement with an unlicensed gangmaster. In order to obtain a gangmasters licence, a gangmaster must be considered to act in a fit and proper manner and must meet strict conditions, such as meeting correct payments for minimum wage, tax, national insurance, and health and safety requirements.

Following the recommendations of the Vulnerable Worker Forum in 2008, the Government have also put together a package of key measures to protect all vulnerable workers, including those employed by gangmasters. These measures include:

A sustained, three year, Government-led campaign to raise vulnerable workers' awareness of basic employment rights and encourage the reporting of workplace abuses.

The establishment of the new Pay and Work Rights line, through which vulnerable workers (and employers) will be able to report abuses and access information and advice about the rights enforced by Government.

The establishment of a Fair Employment Enforcement Board bringing together enforcement bodies and external stakeholders to drive forward improvements in support for vulnerable workers.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to extend the remit of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority; and if the Minister will make a statement. [290949]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The extension of gangmaster licensing to other sectors of the economy was considered by the Vulnerable Worker Enforcement Forum in 2008. However, the Government concluded that the way forward was to prioritise effective enforcement of the existing law, not to introduce new regulation. We are doing this through a campaign to raise workers' awareness of employment rights, including the establishment of the new Pay and Work Rights Helpline, which provides workers with a single point of contact covering five different enforcement agencies, and by strengthening the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate which regulates agencies in sectors not covered by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to remove unlicensed gangmasters. [290950]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under the Gangmasters Licensing Act it is an offence to operate as an unlicensed gangmaster, which, upon conviction, can result in punishment of up to 10 years' imprisonment, a fine or both. The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) is responsible for enforcing the Act on behalf of Government, and now that it has moved on from its initial set up phase, the GLA is concentrating its resources on tackling those who operate outside the law. Operation Ajax was launched by the GLA in May 2008. This is a UK wide initiative to stamp out worker abuse by labour providers operating in the GLA sectors. Operation Ajax provides the brand under which the GLA undertakes individual enforcement and compliance operations against illegal and non-compliant labour providers. This type of approach is already used by other enforcement agencies to tackle criminality.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of the recession on the number of unlicensed gangmasters. [290951]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There has not been any specific assessment of the impact of the recession on the number of unlicensed gangmasters, but the Government recognise that difficult trading conditions might tempt employers to cut corners by operating without a licence, or otherwise maximise profits at the expense of their work force. With this in mind, the Government have recently reviewed the funding available to the GLA and have agreed additional amounts for this year and next, specifically to cover enforcement and operational activities. This will enable the GLA to recruit additional enforcement officers to target the areas where vulnerable workers are most at risk from unlicensed labour providers.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many gangmasters have been prosecuted by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority since its establishment. [290952]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) has carried out three successful prosecutions all for operating as a gangmaster without a licence. In May 2008, a labour provider from Perth in Scotland was sentenced to 18 months probation and 140 hours community service. In May 2009, an Edinburgh recruitment firm was given a fine of £200[1]. On 1 September 2009, a Gangmaster based in the Morecambe Bay area, operating in shellfish gathering, was ordered to pay a fine of £600 and costs of £4,000.

There are a further four cases pending that have entered the court system:

one in relation to operating as an unlicensed gangmaster;

two in relation to using the services of an unlicensed gangmaster; and

one in relation to obstruction of GLA officers.

[1] Figures provided by the GLA

Geomatics Group

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts the Environment Agency's Geomatics Group has with local authorities. [290832]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Geomatics Group undertakes commercial contracts for a range of external clients including local authorities. The names of contracting organisations are commercially confidential.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Environment Agency's Geomatics Group's public task is. [290833]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Geomatics Group is a specialist business unit within the Environment Agency that supplies high quality, geospatial data and customised services to the Environment Agency, Government agencies, non-governmental organisations and the commercial market.

Its range of products can be used in a wide variety of geospatial applications including:

Environmental management (flood risk modelling, coastal erosion, risk assessment, vegetation monitoring);

Local planning applications;

Risk and crisis management (emergency flood response);

Infrastructure site selection (wind farm, utilities);

Archaeology and national heritage;

Thermal heat loss surveying;

Urban visualisation;

Reservoir assessment;

Forestry and farming.

The group is reinforcing the work the Environment Agency is currently undertaking to identify and evaluate areas at risk from flooding across England and Wales. By identifying drainage patterns and water flow, it will help predict which areas and structures are most at risk from flooding in different weather conditions.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are employed in the Environment Agency's Geomatics Group. [290834]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Geomatics Group within the Environment Agency employs a total of 40 staff.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* turnover and *(b)* profit of the Environment Agency's Geomatics Group in 2009-2010. [290835]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The expected total turnover of the Geomatics Group for 2009-10 is £4,482,000. This includes work undertaken for the Environment Agency.

Geomatics Group makes no profit from work undertaken for the Environment Agency and the level of profit on work undertaken for external customers is commercially confidential.

River Thames: Pollution

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the level of risk to the health and safety of swimmers and boaters from the discharge of sewage into the Thames in the area of Mogden, Isleworth on 3 July 2009. [288785]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency manages the chemical environmental quality of the upper Thames estuary; there are no stipulated microbiological standards that are applied in the upper reaches.

Water quality assessment is based on the level of dissolved oxygen in the river which is important for protecting fish in the estuary.

Matters relating to public health are directed to the London Port Health Authority which provides advice and guidance on river usage involving public contact with water.

As part of the Environment Agency's protocol for managing pollution incidents on the Thames estuary, the London Port Health Authority is routinely informed of significant sewage-related incidents. This is to ensure that any necessary precautionary information can be made available to the public and this was the case in this incident.

There are no designated bathing waters that would have been affected by the discharges from the locations in west London.

Shellfish: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects a decision to be made on the application of protected geographic indicator status to the Colchester oyster; and if he will make a statement. [290738]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The application to register the Colchester Native Oyster, first received in 2005, had a number of objections received during the consultation process.

Officials subsequently met with representatives of the applicant group in May 2007 to discuss the objections and outstanding points relating to the product specification for the application. Further information relating to the geographical area and other aspects of the application was sought from the applicant group which, despite numerous and regular reminders from officials, has not been forthcoming.

As a result, it has not been possible to complete our assessment of the validity of the application for protected geographical indication status for the Colchester Native Oyster. Although the scheme is a voluntary one, we will continue to pursue this with the applicant group.

Water Charges

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to assist voluntary groups, churches and charities affected by introduction of charges for surface water drainage. [290715]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I attended the meeting of the All Party Scout Group on 15 July and promised the cubs and scouts that this issue will be resolved. We are currently waiting to see revised proposals from United Utilities on what it is proposing for 2010-11 and beyond. I expect companies and the regulator to settle this in a way that is fair and reasonable and reflects Government guidance to Ofwat.

Weedkillers

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* representatives of Dow AgroScience Ltd. and *(b)* the Chemical Regulations Directorate on the relicensing of the herbicide aminopyralid; and if he will make a statement. [290689]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There have been no discussions with Dow Agrosciences Ltd. on this matter that have involved DEFRA Ministers. We have frequent discussions with the HSE's Chemicals Regulation Directorate, which is the part of central Government responsible for the regulation of pesticides, detergents, chemicals, on behalf of DEFRA Ministers.

We are currently considering the advice from the Advisory Committee on Pesticides that approvals for aminopyralid could be reinstated subject to various conditions.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1566W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since November 2008. [289166]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows expenditure by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland and its agencies but excluding its NDPBs, on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since November 2008:

	Flat Screen Televisions	*DVD Players*	*Stereo Equipment*
NIO Core	3,848	1,947	0
Compensation Agency	0	20	0
Youth Justice Agency	2,413	2,008	375
Forensic Science NI	0	0	0

Northern Ireland Prison Service

For this agency, the details requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [287481]

Mr. Woodward: The costs requested for the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, in each of the last five years, are shown in the following table.

	Internal (£)	*External (£)*
2004-05	Nil	841
2005-06	318	26,149
2006-07	Nil	22,046
2007-08	665	23,868
2008-09	275	26,613

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288737]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, but excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, spent using Royal Mail in each of the last two years.

	Expenditure (£)
2007-08	£66,473
2008-09	£161,125

These figures exclude companies who operate franking machines and may make payments to Royal Mail. The £95,000 increase from 2007-08 to 2008-09 relates to an increase from £32,000 in 2007-08 to £81,000 in 2008-09 by the Chief Electoral Office due to the European elections and an increase from £371,000 in 2007-08 to £49,000 in 2008-09 by Access NI resulting from their first full operating year.

Departmental Training

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on health and safety training for its staff in each of the last five years. [287478]

Mr. Woodward: Expenditure by the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, its agencies and NDPBs on health and safety training for its staff in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	£
2008-09	17,870
2007-08	6,000
2006-07	6,000
2005-06	8,170
2004-05	0

The increase in expenditure in 2008-09 relates to the provision of health and safety e-learning to all members of staff.

Mass Media

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on press monitoring in each of the last five years. [287474]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has an in-house media monitoring service to meet the needs of Ministers and senior officials within the Department. It also provides its media monitoring services to Ministers and officials in the devolved Administration and a number of external public sector stakeholders.

Costs for this service in each of the last five years are detailed in the following tables and broken down into both equipment and staff costs. Equipment costs are all the costs associated with press monitoring for example televisions, DVD recorders, DVD discs, tapes, radios and transcribers.

The Department recoups a percentage of its running costs by passing on a small charge to its clients.

Equipment costs

	£
2004-05	14,052.15
2005-06	2,397.76
2006-07	1,682.94
2007-08	6,080.04
2008-09	2,957.14

Staff costs

Currently there are four members of staff employed in the Media Monitoring Unit and a further five typists to transcribe media monitoring requests. Staffing numbers have fluctuated over this period. I have provided the average salary costs for each team in each of the last five years:

		£
	Media Monitoring Unit	Typing Pool
2004-05	70,000	69,000
2005-06	70,200	72,000
2006-07	79,000	79,000
2007-08	69,000	79,000
2008-09	62,000	82,000

Police Community Support Officers

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what steps he plans to take to enable the Police Service of Northern Ireland to recruit police community support officers; [290680]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effectiveness of the deployment of police community support officers in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [290681]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI is committed to working with the community to deliver an effective, efficient and impartial policing service. The Chief Constable, Northern Ireland Policing Board and I are all agreed that police community support officers have an important role to play alongside police and other support staff in making communities safer and providing public reassurance on areas of local concern.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has received a resource allocation in excess of £1.1 billion for each of the three years of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07). The timing of the introduction of PCSOs is a matter for the Chief Constable to consider, in consultation with the Policing Board.

Young Offenders

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many juveniles detained in custody in the *(a)* Juvenile Justice Centre and *(b)* Young Offenders Centre in each of the last 10 years had been resident in care homes prior to their detention. [288382]

Paul Goggins: The information requested in *(a)* is set out in the table. Figures for 2009 are not yet available.

(a) Initial admissions to custody by care comparison for the Juvenile Justice Centre

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Admission on Sentence					
From Care	6	12	11	7	3
Not from Care	21	14	17	14	13
Not known	—	—	—	—	—
Admission on Remand					
From Care	36	55	44	47	17
Not from Care	62	93	84	128	100

(a) Initial admissions to custody by care comparison for the Juvenile Justice Centre

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Not known	—	2	5	—	2
Admission on PACE					
From Care	65	40	62	49	28
Not from Care	112	84	104	110	90
Not known	4	6	9	—	1
Total initial admissions					
From Care	107	107	117	103	48
Not from Care	195	191	205	252	203
Not known	4	8	14	—	3
Percentage from Care	35.0	35.0	34.8	29.0	18.9

Notes:
1. The Youth Justice Agency was established in April 2003 and data prior to this are not readily available. The above figures represent full calendar years.
2. Initial admissions are for new admissions into the centre. It does not include any internal change of status, e.g. remand to sentence. A young person may be admitted to the centre on more than one occasion during the timeframe.
3. Figures are based on young people who are in a care home at time of admission.
4. Information is drawn from operational data sources which are inherently difficult to validate.

The information requested in *(b)* is not held. Hydebank Wood juvenile committals over the last 10 years total in excess of 900. The centre does not routinely capture details of pre-detention care home accommodation. To source the information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

TREASURY

Banks: Directors

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to Sir David Walker's report on bank corporate governance, what his policy is on the appointment of a proportion of non-executive directors of financial institutions by organisations other than those on whose board they serve. [290838]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Appointments to boards of companies are a matter for the companies and their shareholders in line with the statutory framework. The Combined Code on Corporate Governance sets out information on the role of the board and directors and stipulates that board appointments should be made on merit and against objective criteria.

The function of non-executive directors in banks and other financial institutions is being considered by Sir David Walker as part of his review of corporate governance. Sir David published his consultation paper on 16 July and is inviting comments by 1 October with a view to reporting to the Government in November. The Government welcomed Sir David's consultation paper and looks forward to receiving his final conclusions.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent from the public purse in each cost category on support for UK banks in each month since August 2007. [290621]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not publish breakdown of financial support provided to banks other than on a financial year basis. Details of the financial support provided to UK banks for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are set out in the Treasury's Resource Accounts for 2007-08 (HC 539) and 2008-09 (HC 611), respectively.

Capital Gains Tax: Second Homes

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to change tax arrangements for second homes from 2010; whether he plans to undertake a consultation on such arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [290775]

Mr. Timms: Tax policy changes are considered through the Budget process in the usual way. The Government consider a range of factors when formulating tax policy and keep all aspects of the tax system under review.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 756, on Equitable Life, what further consideration has been given to introducing interim emergency payments on compassionate grounds to Equitable Life policyholders; and what recent discussions his Department has had with Sir John Chadwick on this matter. [290744]

Mr. Byrne: Sir John is making good progress with his work. The Government regularly discuss this with him and provides updates to the House and the public accordingly.

Both Sir John and Government recognise the need to reach a conclusion on this matter with expedition, while balancing speed against the need to come to the right conclusions that deliver justice to policyholders based upon the findings of the Ombudsman's report that the Government have accepted.

At this stage, no decisions can be taken upon the nature of ex gratia payments. In the meantime, the Government await the presentation of Sir John's advice, to which it will of course give due consideration and respond accordingly as to the nature of the ex gratia payments scheme.

I can confirm that we have drawn to Sir John Chadwick's attention your interest in making interim payments and, as I have already said, the need to reach a conclusion on the matter of Equitable Life as soon as possible is recognised.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties are recorded with each *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code in each local authority area in Brentwood according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [290808]

Mr. Timms: The number of properties with the codes requested as at 2 January 2009 is:

(a) Dwelling house Codes in Brentwood

Dwelling codes	*Number of properties*
01	251
02	291
03	1,019
04	773
05	11
06	30
07	26
08	416
09	207
10	213
13	0
14	16
19	16
20	178
21	2,886
24	465
25	108
30	226
31	13,214
32	3,624
35	368
36	310
37	167
39	8
40	108
41	185
42	107
43	10
44	25
45	15
46	82
48	25
50	6
51	1,543
52	6
55	15
56	3,233
60	272
61	236
62	360
70	9
71	77
72	0
80	91
81	16
82	0
90	0
91	0
92	0
94	0
95	0
96	0
97	0
98	0
99	25

(b) Value significant codes in Brentwood

Value significant codes	*Number of properties*
A	9
AM	42
AO	0
AV	0
AW	<5

(b) Value significant codes in Brentwood

Value significant codes	*Number of properties*
B	187
BA	161
BB	128
BC	28
BD	15
C	0
CB	0
CH	0
CI	6
CN	56
CO	<5
CP	60
CS	56
D	0
DS	491
EF	0
F	0
FC	0
FG	<5
FO	0
FP	<5
GG	<5
GN	0
HO	8
I	0
L	27
LE	<5
LF	17
LR	98
LS	27
LT	15
M	0
NA	469
OS	6
P	0
PL	17
PS	<5
Q	6
QA	10
QB	26
QC	<5
QD	<5
R	0
RC	7
S	0
SC	<5
T	0
TM	94
TQ	172
TU	7
U	33
UC	291
UL	76
UN	<5
UO	11
UP	124
UR	6
US	117
V	0
VC	0
VE	0
VH	<5
VI	0
VL	<5

(b) Value significant codes in Brentwood

Value significant codes	*Number of properties*
VM	<5
VO	82
VP	44
VR	0
VS	0
WK	250
X	86
YG	9
ZH	39
ZI	20
ZJ	369
ZL	4,808
ZN	6

For both *(a)* and *(b)* above and where a value of '<5' is displayed, this is to prevent individual properties being identified.

Income Tax

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total income tax take from residents of *(a)* each local authority area and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in England was in each of the last 10 years. [290864]

Mr. Timms: Information on income tax revenues by unitary authority from 1999-2000 and parliamentary constituency from 2002-03 can be found in tables 3.14 "Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority" and 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" in the National Statistics section of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) website respectively, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314.

Estimates for earlier periods are not available. Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2006-07 is currently the latest available.

Any inference from the information in tables 3.14 and 3.15 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.14a "income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority, Confidence Intervals" and table 3.15a "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals", also available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314.

Interest Rates: Credit Cards

Mr. Morley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that financial services providers reflect the Bank of England base interest rate in the interest rates offered on credit cards. [289215]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The Government fully understand concerns over interest rates charged by some credit card lenders. In December last year the Government took decisive action to secure agreement from the credit card industry to Fair Principles for any interest rate increase they introduce on reviewing an individual's account. These came into force in January 2009, and provide extra protections when a customer or group of customers' interest rate is changed as a result of a perceived change in their ability to repay their debts.

On the 2 July Government published the Consumer White Paper detailing plans to bring forth a review of credit and store card regulation. The review will examine whether restrictions should be placed on the raising of interest rates on existing debts.

The review will also explore if minimum monthly repayments should be raised to combat debt levels, it will also look at the benefits and risks of banning the practice of increasing borrowers credit limits without their consent, and what order debts built up on a credit card should be paid off. We intend to publish a consultation in the autumn and report our findings in the new year.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 21 July 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Florence Gadjui. [290645]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Pay

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to establish a commission to examine high levels of remuneration; and if he will make a statement. [290628]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have a role to play in preventing undesirable practices which encourage excessive risk-taking such as remuneration policies in the banking sector. However, in general, private sector remuneration arrangements are a matter for employers, employees and shareholders to agree.

Payments Council

Mr. Breed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Payments Council on the phasing out of cheques as a method of payment; and if he will make a statement. [290829]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The National Payments Council are not considering phasing out cheques as a method of payment, but only whether it would be sensible to set a long-term date for closing the use of a cheque clearing system.

In the National Payments Plan, the Payments Council committed to conducting initial research and analysis into the future of cheques as a method of payment, with the aims of:

understanding the barriers to cheque substitution;

identifying the areas where work is needed on acceptable alternatives to cheques; and,

clarifying where more education is needed on existing alternatives.

The Payments Council is committed to being open and transparent in its review of the future of the cheque clearing and even if a timescale were to be set, various milestones would need to be agreed and delivered before any final decision would be taken to irrevocably close cheque operations.

Protection of Trading Interests Act 1980

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Protection of Trading Interests Act 1980. [288275]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have not recently made any such assessment.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1309W, on state retirement pensions, how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women who reached state pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2009 have taken up the option of buying back one or more years of class 3 national insurance contributions under the measures contained in the Pensions Act 2008 to date; and how much has been paid back in contributions by such individuals to date. [290880]

Mr. Timms: The number of people who reached state pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2009 and have taken up the option of buying back one or more years of class 3 national insurance contributions under the measure introduced by the Pensions Act 2008 is *(a)* 21 men and *(b)* 204 women. National insurance contributions of £37,682.20 were paid by the men and £343,571.90 by the women.

Tax Credit

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in tax credits to residents of *(a)* each local authority area and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in England in each of the last 10 years. [290865]

Mr. Timms: Child and working tax credit were introduced in April 2003 when they replaced working families' tax credit, disabled person's tax credit and children's tax credit.

Estimates of expenditure on tax credits at local authority and parliamentary constituency level are available only at disproportionate cost because the necessary expenditure data are not readily available on a geographical basis.

Estimates of the average number of recipient families and their entitlements (as opposed to payments) to tax credits, by local authority and parliamentary constituency, for each year between 2003-04 and 2007-08, are available in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2008-09 is not yet available as awards have not yet been finalised. However, estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, based on provisional awards, as at 1 April 2009, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical analyses. April 2009", available at the same internet address.

Estimates of the number of working families' tax credit and disabled person's tax credit recipients, and the average weekly value of awards, from May 2001 to November 2002 are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/wftc/wfdptc_geog.htm

Estimates prior to May 2001 are not available. Similarly estimates are not available for children's tax credit.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the Exchequer of the decisions by William Hill and Ladbrokes to relocate their betting operations from the UK to Gibraltar. [290758]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: General betting duty is charged at 15 per cent. of the gross profit of UK bookmakers. Bookmakers' profits include profits from "over the counter" placed bets and remotely taken Internet and telephone placed bets.

HMRC do not break down general betting duty receipts into these component parts, and cannot release taxpayer specific data while maintaining taxpayer confidentiality.

UK Financial Investments

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reason was given by John Kingman for his resignation as Chief Executive of UK Financial Investments Ltd. [290925]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Forthcoming leadership changes at UK Financial Investment Ltd were set out in a press release on 28 July which can be accessed via the UKFI website:

http://www.ukfi.gov.uk/releases/20090728%20UKFI%20Chair%20PN.pdf

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies Enterprise Trust

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what funding his Department has provided for the Academies Enterprise Trust in each year since the Trust was established; [290739]

(2) which schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* elsewhere have been transferred to the Academies Enterprise Trust to date; on what date each such transfer took place; how much funding was provided to each school upon transfer; and from what sources such funding was drawn. [290740]

Mr. Coaker: The following schools in Essex have been transferred to the Academies Enterprise Trust. No schools elsewhere have been transferred.

In September 2008: The Rickstones School became Rickstones Academy, Greensward College became Greensward Academy and the John Bramston School became the Maltings Academy. In September 2009, Bishops Park College and Colbuyns High School became Clacton Coastal Academy.

The funding in the table was provided in respect of academies which constitute the Academies Enterprise Trust. The source of all funding is the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Total in respect of all academies within the Academies Enterprise Trust

Development funding provided prior to the academies opening	£
2008/09	2,838,314
2009/10	409,542

Funding provided once the academies were open	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
	£	£
Greensward Academy	9,021,118	7,874,024
Maltings Academy	6,258,017	5,679,145
New Rickstones Academy	5,459,257	4,830,734
Clacton Coastal Academy	0	11,191,473

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* accounts and *(b)* annual reports provided to his Department by the Academies Enterprise Trust for each year of the Trust's existence. [290741]

Mr. Coaker: We have not yet received any accounts or annual reports from the Academies Enterprises Trust.

The Academies Enterprises Trust comprises Greensward Academy, Maltings Academy and New Rickstones Academy, which opened in September 2008 and Clacton Coast which opened in September 2009. For the Academies that opened in 2008, their first annual report and accounts will cover the period 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009. The Trust would then have until 31 December 2009 to get their audited accounts to us. For the Clacton Coastal Academy, audited accounts are due to be with us by 31 December 2010.

Once finalised, the accounts will be in the public domain and will be published on the Charities Commission's website.

Faith Schools

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether teachers can be dismissed for conduct incompatible with the tenets of the religious denomination specified in relation to voluntary-aided schools with a religious character. [290664]

Mr. Coaker: Voluntary-aided schools with a religious character do have the ability to have regard to the conduct of a teacher which is incompatible with the tenets of the religion of the school when considering the termination of employment of any teacher.

I firmly believe and trust in the professionalism of our head teachers and in the skill and abilities of governing bodies across the country to ensure that they conduct the employment process fairly and in line with relevant legislation.

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of whether religious education in voluntary-aided schools with a religious character can be given in accordance with the tenets of the religion or the religious denomination specified in relation to the school by teachers who are not of that religion; [290667]

(2) what assessment he has made of whether religious education in voluntary-aided schools with a religious character can be given by teachers who do not share the same faith as the religion or the religious denomination specified in relation to the school. [290668]

Mr. Coaker: The choice of who delivers religious education (and any other subject) in voluntary aided schools is a matter for local determination. Head teachers and governing bodies in voluntary aided schools will judge the appropriateness or otherwise of individuals who teach, or are seeking an appointment to teach, religious education in their schools. The law maintains that preference may be given to those of the faith but it is not implicit that only those of the faith may teach RE.

Free School Meals

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(d)* England have received free school meals in each year since 1979. [290654]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information is collected on both free school meal eligibility and the number of pupils actually taking a free school meal on the day of the School Census. Most data analysis is based on eligibility which has only been collected since 1997. The number of pupils taking free school meals has been collected since 1989. The readily available information for these years is shown in the following table.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1] and secondary schools[1,2]: pupils[3] eligible for free school meals as at January each year in England, Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region, York local authority and North Yorkshire local authority.

		Nursery and Primary Schools[1]					*Secondary Schools[1,2]*				
		Number of pupils on roll[3]	*Number of pupils taking free school meals*	*% of pupils taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils eligible for free school meals*	*% of pupils eligible for free school meals*	*Number of pupils on roll[3]*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals*	*% of pupils taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils eligible for free school meals*	*% of pupils eligible for free school meals*
England											
	2009	4,114,630	558,590	13.6	656,570	16.0	3,278,130	338,320	10.3	438,860	13.4
	2008	4,127,840	538,460	13.0	641,490	15.5	3,294,580	326,480	9.9	433,140	13.1
	2007	4,148,390	544,370	13.1	658,910	15.9	3,272,480	314,630	9.6	429,700	13.1

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1] and secondary schools[1,2]: pupils[3] eligible for free school meals as at January each year in England, Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region, York local authority and North Yorkshire local authority.

		Nursery and Primary Schools[1]					Secondary Schools[1,2]				
		Number of pupils on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	% of pupils taking free school meals	Number of pupils eligible for free school meals	% of pupils eligible for free school meals	Number of pupils on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	% of pupils taking free school meals	Number of pupils eligible for free school meals	% of pupils eligible for free school meals
	2006	4,187,630	556,180	13.3	670,340	16.0	3,309,720	328,750	9.9	448,680	13.6
	2005	4,243,110	568,350	13.4	717,230	16.9	3,317,590	335,140	10.1	465,520	14.0
	2004	4,293,180	608,760	14.2	741,150	17.3	3,326,800	351,380	10.6	477,290	14.3
	2003	4,350,260	604,910	13.9	731,610	16.8	3,308,490	349,780	10.6	478,920	14.5
	2002	4,405,640	616,630	14.0	754,510	17.1	3,260,930	354,260	10.9	486,350	14.9
	2001	4,451,220	631,640	14.2	783,510	17.6	3,226,970	353,470	11.0	509,680	15.8
	2000	4,481,680	671,490	15.0	821,520	18.3	3,178,000	368,300	11.6	523,630	16.5
	1999	4,507,660	690,320	15.3	853,020	18.9	3,118,280	367,800	11.8	527,340	16.9
	1998	4,508,920	731,580	16.2	891,050	19.8	3,069,030	367,800	12.0	537,070	17.5
	1997	4,479,450	775,740	17.3	994,590	21.1	3,036,990	381,240	12.6	552,900	18.2
	1996	4,441,600	828,410	18.7	n/a	n/a	3,006,940	399,620	13.3	n/a	n/a
	1995	4,364,710	815,260	18.7	n/a	n/a	2,988,950	387,550	13.0	n/a	n/a
	1994	4,294,150	815,440	19	n/a	n/a	2,929,350	370,160	13	n/a	n/a
	1993	4,218,480	773,870	18	n/a	n/a	2,960,830	338,190	11	n/a	n/a
	1992	4,141,300	680,940	16	n/a	n/a	2,858,280	292,710	10	n/a	n/a
	1991	4,099,610	562,990	14	n/a	n/a	2,848,220	235,110	8	n/a	n/a
	1990	4,036,540	519,230	13	n/a	n/a	2,920,490	223,970	8	n/a	n/a
	1989	3,955,800	515,400	13	n/a	n/a	2,944,720	235,220	8	n/a	n/a
Yorkshire and the Humber											
	2009	437,020	58,670	13.4	69,510	15.9	335,510	34,670	10.3	47,440	14.1
	2008	437,840	55,820	12.7	67,590	15.4	339,710	33,590	9.9	47,690	14.0
	2007	441,080	55,030	12.5	68,580	15.5	339,070	31,840	9.4	47,150	13.9
	2006	446,780	57,310	12.8	69,670	15.6	345,870	33,960	9.8	50,370	14.6
	2005	454,150	59,480	13.1	76,650	16.9	348,680	35,220	10.1	53,160	15.2
	2004	461,170	65,870	14.3	80,800	17.3	350,020	37,760	10.8	54,170	15.5
	2003	470,470	67,240	14.3	81,890	17.4	347,630	37,760	10.9	55,580	16.0
	2002	478,850	68,770	14.4	85,850	17.9	343,020	36,490	10.6	56,290	16.4
	2001	485,180	72,160	14.9	88,880	18.3	339,290	37,590	11.1	58,260	17.2
	2000	484,630	76,240	15.7	93,160	19.2	340,300	40,770	12.0	62,420	18.3
	1999	484,440	77,300	16.0	95,250	19.7	340,130	41,520	12.2	64,160	18.9
	1998	486,700	80,530	16.5	99,550	20.5	336,320	41,450	12.3	65,310	19.4
	1997	486,730	86,070	17.7	105,430	21.7	333,870	43,020	12.9	66,150	19.8
North Yorkshire (post-1997) local authority											
	2009	43,210	2,930	6.8	3,480	8.1	40,590	1,850	4.6	2,440	6.0
	2008	43,500	2,810	6.4	3,390	7.8	40,950	1,830	4.5	2,440	6.0
	2007	44,030	2,900	6.6	3,480	7.9	41,530	1,790	4.3	2,470	5.9
	2006	44,790	2,860	6.4	3,450	7.7	41,910	1,740	4.2	2,450	5.9
	2005	45,630	3,010	6.6	3,630	7.9	42,080	1,870	4.4	2,490	5.9
	2004	46,420	3,390	7.3	3,900	8.4	42,060	1,910	4.5	2,570	6.1
	2003	47,340	3,280	6.9	3,910	8.3	41,640	1,820	4.4	2,390	5.7
	2002	48,030	3,410	7.1	4,030	8.4	40,890	1,860	4.5	2,420	5.9
	2001	48,480	3,560	7.3	4,310	8.9	40,220	1,810	4.5	2,580	6.4
	2000	49,020	3,970	8.1	4,730	9.7	39,300	2,050	5.2	2,700	6.9
	1999	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1] and secondary schools[1,2]: pupils[3] eligible for free school meals as at January each year in England, Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region, York local authority and North Yorkshire local authority.

		Nursery and Primary Schools[1]					Secondary Schools[1,2]				
		Number of pupils on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	% of pupils taking free school meals	Number of pupils eligible for free school meals	% of pupils eligible for free school meals	Number of pupils on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	% of pupils taking free school meals	Number of pupils eligible for free school meals	% of pupils eligible for free school meals
	1998	48,720	4,190	8.6	4,880	10.0	37,580	2,030	5.4	2,700	7.2
	1997	48,160	4,440	9.2	5,110	10.6	36,980	2,040	5.5	2,670	7.2
York (post-1997) local authority											
	2009	12,990	970	7.5	1,240	9.6	9,870	570	5.8	800	8.1
	2008	13,120	940	7.1	1,210	9.2	9,960	610	6.1	780	7.8
	2007	13,250	1,010	7.6	1,290	9.7	10,180	550	5.4	810	8.0
	2006	13,550	1,100	8.1	1,340	9.9	10,230	570	5.6	830	8.1
	2005	13,760	1,140	8.3	1,340	9.7	10,330	570	5.5	790	7.6
	2004	13,820	1,160	8.4	1,390	10.0	10,490	570	5.4	820	7.9
	2003	13,970	1,110	7.9	1,340	9.6	10,370	570	5.5	780	7.6
	2002	14,420	1,210	8.4	1,470	10.2	10,100	590	5.8	860	8.5
	2001	14,780	1,290	8.7	1,640	11.1	9,970	650	6.5	890	8.9
	2000	15,020	1,450	9.6	1,750	11.6	9,820	690	7.0	920	9.3
	1999	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	1998	15,060	1,670	11.1	2,030	13.5	9,290	770	8.2	1,030	11.1
	1997	15,010	1,860	12.4	2,250	15.0	9,320	790	8.5	1,060	11.4
North Yorkshire (pre-1997) local authority											
	1996	62,210	6,450	10.4	n/a	n/a	45,570	2,940	6.5	n/a	n/a
	1995	60,980	6,340	10.4	n/a	n/a	45,000	2,800	6.2	n/a	n/a
	1994	59,640	6,080	10	n/a	n/a	43,960	2,590	6	n/a	n/a
	1993	58,560	5,520	9	n/a	n/a	44,600	2,310	5	n/a	n/a
	1992	57,350	4,940	9	n/a	n/a	42,890	2,010	5	n/a	n/a
	1991	56,500	4,050	7	n/a	n/a	42,670	1,620	4	n/a	n/a
	1990	56,160	3,580	6	n/a	n/a	42,420	1,670	4	n/a	n/a
	1989	54,740	3,420	6	n/a	n/a	43,710	1,900	4	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies in 2008 and 2009.
[3] From 2003, free school meals was based on sole and dual main registrations, and includes boarders. Previous years excluded boarders.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

GCE A-Level

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of A-Levels in *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* physics, *(c)* mathematics and *(d)* modern languages were awarded to pupils at (i) grammar schools, (ii) comprehensive schools, (iii) sixth form colleges and (iv) independent schools in the 2008-09 academic year. [290747]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not yet available. The data will only be available for release after the publication of a Statistical First Release planned for 15 October 2009.

Pupils: Sunscreens

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will undertake a review of the guidance provided to schools on the application of sunscreen products to pupils for the purpose of revising that guidance to permit children to apply such products; [290674]

(2) if he will issue guidance to schools on the use of sunscreen products by schoolchildren involved in outdoor activity during the summer months. [290675]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We have no current guidance specifically on applying sunscreen and none is envisaged. But we would not advise against pupils bringing and

applying their own sunscreen in-school or during offsite visits. It is for local authorities and governing bodies to formulate their own policies. These should state the school position on the use of sunscreens in the school grounds and farther afield when learning outside the classroom. Teachers and other support staff are not legally obliged to administer sunscreens. That said, schools discharge their duty of care by ensuring that children are not exposed overmuch to the sun in any event.

It is good practice for teachers and support staff to check that pupils, while playing or learning in the sunshine, are protected against the risk of sunburn—by appropriate clothing and hats as well as sunscreen applied at home or in school—and that they spend time in the shade as necessary.

Schools: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to Table 8.4 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, pages 175-6, which individual programmes and corresponding allocations are aggregated as *(a)* specialist schools/city and national challenge/ interventions, *(b)* national strategies/curriculum/ behaviour/gifted and talented, *(c)* other miscellaneous programmes, *(d)* area based grants and *(e)* modernising the teaching profession for 2010-11. [290710]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's programmes shown aggregated in DCSF's Departmental Annual Report 2009 for the year 2010-11 are provided in the following table:

Departmental report allocation	*£ million 2010-11*
(a) Specialist Schools/City and National Challenge/ Interventions	
City Challenge/ National Challenge	84
Specialist and High Performing Schools	31
Partnership and Federations	1
School Interventions Budget/ New Relationships with Schools	16
Specialist Schools/City and National Challenge/Interventions Total	132
(b) National strategies /Curriculum / Behaviour/ Gifted and Talented	
Pupil Well Being	1
Schools Collaboration Organisation and Fair Access/ Independent Schools and Schools Organisation/ School Governance	46
Literacy and Numeracy, Central Driving	655
Strategy and performance	1
Assessment Team/Achievement and attainment/raise online	13
Performance Schools Division Budgets Gifted and Talented/ Study support/ Playing success	237
Curriculum	232
PE Sport Strategy for Young People	168
Behaviour/Alternative Provision	26
Teachers' Pension Contractual	9
National Strategies/Curriculum/Behaviour/Gifted and Talented total	1,388
(c) Other Miscellaneous Programmes	
Music, Ballet and Dance	32
Premature Retirement Compensation and Voluntary Colleges	12
Families Division—Respect	19
Family Learning Impact Fund	44
Section 48 Inspection/Work for Development Grants	31
Other miscellaneous programmes total	138
(d) Area Based Grants	
Connexions	467
Children's Fund	132
Positive Activities for Young People Programmes	94
Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation	28
Flexible 14-19 Partnerships Funding	15
Respect—Youth Taskforce Areas	4
Substance Misuse	7
School Development Grant (LA element)	168
Secondary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	30
Primary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	30
School Improvement Partners	24
Extended Rights for Free Travel	29
School Intervention	15
Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Strategy: Co-ordination	13
Education Health Partnerships	13
School Travel Advisers	7
Choice Advisers	6
General Duty on Sustainable Travel to School	4
Extended Schools—Start-up funding	71
Care Matters Grant	55
Children's Social Care Workforce	18
Child Death Review Processes	8
Child Trust Fund	1
Designated Teacher Funding	3
Area Based Grants total	[1]1,242
(e) Modernising the Teaching Profession	
Medical Fees and Services	1
Threshold and Performance Pay Management (PPM) (SWU)	4
School Workforce Unit (SWU) Remodelling	137
Modernising the Teaching Profession total	142

Note:
The total in this table contains figures that have been updated since the publication of the 2009 Departmental Report

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to Table 8.4 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, pages 175-6, which individual programmes and corresponding allocations are aggregated as *(a)* parenting and families, *(b)* special educational needs/ disabilities, *(c)* building capacity and *(d)* child wellbeing for 2010-11. [290711]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's programmes shown aggregated in DCSF's departmental annual report 2009 for the year 2010-11 are provided in the table:

Departmental report allocation 2010-11	*£ million*
(a) Parenting and families	
Youth Capital Fund	26
Secure Accommodation Capital	13
Family Unit Current Grants	15
Parenting and Families total	54

Departmental report allocation

2010-11	*£ million*
(b) Special Education Needs/Disabilities	
Children in Care/Special Educational Needs Non-Maintained Special Schools—capital	6
Special Educational Needs and Non-Maintained Special Schools/Allegation Management Advisors (Safeguarding Advisors)/Medical and Legal costs	247
Family Support (Contact)	5
Special Educational Needs/Disabilities total	258
(c) Building Capacity	
Schools Channels	5
LA Capacity and Intervention/Young London Matters	15
Children and Families Directorate Communications	2
Building Capacity total	22
(d) Child Wellbeing	
Priority Funds—Extension of three to four-year-old offer	340
Children in Care Proposals	48
Joint Birth Registration	10
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers' Children/Choice Protects (receipts)	-18
Teenage Pregnancy Grant	2
Treatment Foster Care	1
Child Well Being total	383

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to Table 8.4 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, pages 175-6, which individual programmes and corresponding allocations are aggregated as *(a)* investment in school buildings devolved programmes, *(b)* investment in school buildings targeted funding and *(c)* investment in school buildings credit approvals for 2010-11. [290712]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's programmes shown aggregated in DCSF's Departmental Annual Report 2009 for the year 2010-11 are provided in the following table:

Departmental report allocation

	£ million
(a) Devolved programmes (2010-11)	
Knowledge Architecture	2
ICT Capital in Schools	30
Devolved Formula Capital—Academies	4
Targeted Capital Fund—Voluntary Aided	181
Local Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme	118
Devolved Formula Capital and Transport	1,220
Specialist Schools—Standard Funds	15
LA Modernisation—Standard Funds	79
ICT—Standard Funds	142
Extended Schools—Standard Funds	46
Total	1,837

Departmental report allocation

	£ million
(b) Targeted programmes (2010-11)	
Targeted Capital Fund—Standards Music	4
Devolved Formula Capital—Voluntary Aided	22
TCF—Standard Funds	718
Total	744
(c) Credit approvals (schools credit approvals to LA)	545

Schools: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received from Nottinghamshire County Council on the future of three to 18 schools in Nottinghamshire. [290861]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: None. The planning of education provision in an area is the responsibility of the local authority (LA). Where LAs propose to make changes to local school provision, including closures, opening new schools and other alterations, they must follow a statutory process, which includes consultation with all those likely to be affected by the proposals. These are then decided under established local decision making arrangements. Ministers have no direct role in the process.

Schools: Transport

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(d)* England have received assistance with the cost of travel to school in each year since 1979. [290653]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect information on the number of children who receive assistance with the cost of travel to school.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the average distance travelled to school by secondary school pupils using school buses to reach their catchment area school. [290862]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect information on the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils using school buses to reach their school.

Secondary Education: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the most recent value added score of each maintained secondary school in England is. [290854]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's standard measure for progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 is Contextual Value Added.

The CVA measure is a statistical means of assessing the relative effectiveness of a school and of measuring pupil progress. It shows how a school's results compare with the results achieved by similar pupils in other schools.

A school level CVA measure must always be interpreted alongside the confidence intervals (CI). Schools where the lower CI is above 1,000 represent schools where pupils on average made significantly more progress than pupils nationally, while schools where the upper CI is below 1,000 represent schools where pupils made significantly less progress.

Further information on CVA can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools 08/s3.shtml

Figures for individual schools in 2008 are available on the departmental website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools 08.shtml

Figures for all schools in 2008 are available in a publication file that has been added to the House Libraries. Note that this file contains independent schools as well as maintained schools.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 467W, on 10 Downing Street: repairs and maintenance, how much has been spent in the last 24 months on the refurbishment of lavatories in 10 Downing Street. [290809]

Angela E. Smith: Information on capital expenditure in 2007-08 and 2008-09 on improving Cabinet Office buildings, including the Downing street estate are included in the annual Cabinet Office resource accounts. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Capacitybuilders

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the names are of the members of the selection panel for the Capacitybuilders Campaigning Research Programme fund. [290701]

Angela E. Smith: The members of the selection panel are: Angela Sarkis (chair on panel, member of Capacitybuilders Board), Titus Alexander (Novas Scarman), Rachael Stokes (NCVO) and Jessica Ellis (Capacitybuilders)

The panel have short listed 49 organisations at this stage in the process.

As this is an action research programme, short listing decisions were based largely on ensuring that the projects proceeding to the next stage of selection include a spread of; geographic location, the marginalised group which is the focus of the campaign, and the age, size and turnover of the nominated organisation. Not being short listed should in no way be seen as a judgment on the campaign's significance or potential.

The final programme will support up to 30 organisations through a package of grant funding, mentoring, peer support and training. The panel will meet again in October 2009 to make the final selection, which will again be based upon maintaining a diverse range of projects. Initial research findings will be available in spring 2010.

Census

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* questions and *(b)* answer categories (i) used in the 2001 Census and (ii) to be used in the 2011 Census were not included in the 1991 Census. [290699]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, 8 September 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what *(a)* questions and *(b)* answer categories used in the (i) 2001 and (ii) 2011 Census were not included in the 1991 Census. (290699).

2001

The following were the questions and answer categories included in the 2001 Census that were not included in the 1991 Census:

(a) Questions

religion

general health

provision of unpaid care

time since last worked

type of landlord

whether schoolchild/student

lowest floor level of accommodation

size of workforce at place of work

(b) Answer categories

The format of the 2001 Census questionnaire was different in many ways from that used in the 1991 Census. For example, the Relationship question in 2001 had specific tick-boxes for each of the several types of relationship which in 1991 would have been recorded by the write-in facility under the category 'other relative'.

The ethnic group question was much expanded and included: specific response categories for 'British' and 'Irish' under the 'White' heading; three specific response tick-boxes under a new 'Mixed' heading; and write-in categories under each of the main headings.

The questions on educational and professional qualification were also expanded to include several specific tick-box categories rather than write-in responses.

Some slight changes were also made to the response categories in the questions on Marital status, Students term-time address, Usual address one year ago, Economic activity in the week before the census. Type of accommodation.

2011

The proposals for the 2011 Census have not yet been approved by Parliament. The draft Census Order which contains details of the questions to be asked in the 2011 Census is scheduled be laid before Parliament in October. The proposals for questions for the 2011 Census were set out in the White Paper Helping to shape tomorrow (Cm 7513) published and laid before Parliament on 11 December 2008, and which is available on the ONS website at:-

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/legislation/index.html

The White Paper proposes new questions on Type of central heating, Number of bedrooms, National identity, Type of passport held, Date of entry into the UK and Intended length of stay (for non-UK born). Language and Second residence.

You may also be interested to see the questionnaire to be used for the 2009 Census Rehearsal on 11 October which is available on the ONS website at:-

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/2009-rehearsal-questionnaire/index.html

If you would like a paper copy of the 1991 Census and 2001 Census questionnaires we would be happy to send them to you.

Death: Drugs

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths attributed to the use of each illegal drug there have been in each region in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [290826]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jill Matheson, dated 8 September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributed to the use of each illegal drug there have been in each region in each year since 2000. (290826)

Drugs classified under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) are termed 'controlled substances', and unlawful possession of a controlled substance is illegal, as is possession with intent to supply. Lawful possession of a controlled substance would include when the drug was in the possession of a person it had been prescribed to. It is not possible to ascertain from information collected at death certification whether a drug was obtained lawfully or not.

The table attached provides the total number of drug misuse deaths, and the number of drug misuse deaths where selected controlled substances were mentioned on the death certificate, in each government office region in England from 2000 to 2008 (the latest year available).

There are over 400 controlled substances listed under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971). Figures have been provided for those substances, or categories of substances, most commonly associated with drug misuse deaths.

Table 1. Numbers of deaths related to drug misuse,[1] and numbers of deaths related to drug misuse where selected controlled substances were mentioned on the death certificate,[2,3,4,5] government, office regions in England,[6] 2000-08[7]

Deaths (persons)

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
North East	Deaths related to drug misuse	64	108	108	76	83	90	95	91	104
	Heroin and Morphine	40	73	67	42	36	44	42	29	47
	Methadone	6	5	7	10	17	28	17	29	32
	Cocaine	3	3	5	5	6	10	14	10	11
	All amphetamines	2	6	10	7	3	7	8	9	6
	MDMA/Ecstasy	0	6	9	7	1	5	5	4	4
	Cannabis	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
	All benzodiazepines	20	27	39	30	36	22	21	29	33
North West	Deaths related to drug misuse	253	288	235	214	218	226	269	225	307
	Heroin and Morphine	135	160	126	92	101	106	105	120	148
	Methadone	70	57	45	53	47	43	54	57	83
	Cocaine	11	14	19	21	26	26	34	30	43
	All amphetamines	11	11	17	10	14	18	18	21	20
	MDMA/Ecstasy	4	6	6	5	6	10	7	9	7
	Cannabis	0	2	0	3	4	5	6	4	5
	All benzodiazepines	20	40	52	46	42	34	40	21	33
Yorkshire and the Humber	Deaths related to drug misuse	192	198	195	181	198	189	182	168	166
	Heroin and Morphine	137	130	125	117	118	120	101	96	102
	Methadone	20	14	19	19	27	21	22	37	43
	Cocaine	6	5	14	16	23	29	24	17	19
	All amphetamines	14	10	14	12	18	17	17	13	13
	MDMA/Ecstasy	4	6	8	3	10	11	6	8	3
	Cannabis	2	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	1
	All benzodiazepines	21	22	21	23	37	14	15	21	25
East Midlands	Deaths related to drug misuse	98	106	123	96	109	93	95	110	111
	Heroin and Morphine	58	71	77	57	62	54	53	65	60
	Methadone	11	11	10	16	14	19	13	25	20
	Cocaine	2	7	6	9	11	6	5	4	9
	All amphetamines	3	7	10	6	8	7	6	7	9
	MDMA/Ecstasy	1	6	3	1	4	1	5	2	4
	Cannabis	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
	All benzodiazepines	12	20	11	11	18	8	8	17	12

Table 1. Numbers of deaths related to drug misuse,[1] and numbers of deaths related to drug misuse where selected controlled substances were mentioned on the death certificate,[2,3,4,5] government, office regions in England,[6] 2000-08[7]

Deaths (persons)

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
West Midlands	Deaths related to drug misuse	138	137	128	124	133	148	134	157	155
	Heroin and Morphine	81	86	76	71	65	82	72	78	85
	Methadone	26	16	15	15	21	15	19	32	35
	Cocaine	9	4	12	5	4	9	15	12	20
	All amphetamines	3	5	3	5	2	10	1	11	3
	MDMA/Ecstasy	2	2	2	4	1	8	0	6	1
	Cannabis	0	0	2	0	1	3	2	1	0
	All benzodiazepines	23	24	28	17	13	23	13	27	19
East of England	Deaths related to drug misuse	133	146	147	116	126	139	99	129	161
	Heroin and Morphine	70	80	82	48	50	65	46	67	76
	Methadone	27	25	16	17	21	19	17	30	39
	Cocaine	5	7	14	11	17	14	10	14	19
	All amphetamines	2	9	5	3	6	8	2	5	7
	MDMA/Ecstasy	1	7	4	2	2	2	1	3	2
	Cannabis	0	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	5
	All benzodiazepines	12	12	20	17	15	17	8	17	21
London	Deaths related to drug misuse	257	279	193	182	177	235	230	202	203
	Heroin and Morphine	69	84	57	54	51	68	52	69	52
	Methadone	46	44	34	17	26	20	39	30	26
	Cocaine	30	35	29	29	30	43	38	60	54
	All amphetamines	8	8	10	8	9	9	8	11	12
	MDMA/Ecstasy	7	8	6	7	8	8	5	6	8
	Cannabis	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	All benzodiazepines	22	18	10	7	5	12	8	7	8
South East	Deaths related to drug misuse	233	253	223	180	227	229	211	222	209
	Heroin and Morphine	123	140	121	86	136	136	98	127	134
	Methadone	43	40	26	30	27	30	29	40	37
	Cocaine	10	8	17	14	23	21	31	25	39
	All amphetamines	7	10	12	9	10	13	16	10	11
	MDMA/Ecstasy	5	6	8	8	4	6	9	6	5
	Cannabis	5	4	5	2	6	10	5	5	5
	All benzodiazepines	42	42	31	30	33	39	28	33	32
South West	Deaths related to drug misuse	142	182	153	143	144	157	154	175	201
	Heroin and Morphine	91	106	81	79	89	108	84	116	126
	Methadone	8	17	19	12	16	14	19	25	40
	Cocaine	3	7	3	9	6	6	9	8	11
	All amphetamines	3	6	7	6	2	7	8	5	13
	MDMA/Ecstasy	1	5	5	3	2	3	5	0	7
	Cannabis	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1
	All benzodiazepines	17	17	16	17	19	7	18	16	16

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the year 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) from 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in Box 1 following) and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Some deaths may be counted in more than one category. For example if heroin and cocaine are recorded on the death certificate, the death would be counted once under each substance. Where more than one drug is mentioned on the death certificate, it is not possible to tell which was primarily responsible for the death.

[3] Heroin breaks down in the body to morphine, and the latter may be detected at post mortem and recorded on the death certificate. Therefore, a combined figure for deaths where heroin or morphine was mentioned on the death certificate is given.

[4] The figures for deaths associated with cocaine include those associated with crack cocaine.

[5] The figure for all amphetamines includes deaths mentioning MDMA/Ecstasy.

[6] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[7] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Box 1

Description	*ICD-9*	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	292, 304, 305.2—305.9	F11—F16, F18—F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E850—E858	X40—X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E950.0—E950.5	X60—X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E962.0	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	E980.0—E980.5	Y10—Y14

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to page 204 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, HC 442, which information technology project was terminated; what the purpose was of that project; for what reasons that projects was terminated; and what her latest estimate is of the cost to the public purse of that project. [290919]

Tessa Jowell: The section of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09 referred to relates to the SCOPE Programme.

With regards to the purpose of the SCOPE Programme and the reasons for the termination of the SCOPE Phase 2 supply contract, I have nothing further to add to my written ministerial statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 41WS.

In respect of information requested concerning the costs associated with the programme, I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison) on 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1358W.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals, *(e)* EU A8 nationals and *(f)* non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available; and what the percentage change in each category was in each of the last four quarters. [290846]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 8 September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) UK-born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals, (e) EU A8 nationals and (f) non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available; and what the percentage change in each category was in each of the last four quarters. 290846

The available information requested is shown in the attached tables. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin, which is weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Employment levels and rates of people of working age[1] in employment by nationality and country of birth, three month periods ending, March, June, September and December, 2006 to 2009, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands

		UK nationals			*UK born*			*Foreign nationals*		
		Number	*Rate*	*% change from previous quarter*	*Number*	*Rate*	*% change from previous quarter*	*Number*	*Rate*	*% change from previous quarter*
2006	Q3	26,085	75	—	24,849	76	—	1,913	69	—
	Q4	25,991	75	—	24,744	75	—	1,962	69	—
2007	Q1	25,794	75	—	24,067	74	—	1,978	67	—
	Q2	25,784	74	—	24,508	74	—	2,103	68	—
	Q3	26,023	74	—	24,694	74	—	2,113	69	—
	Q4	26,050	74	—	24,718	74	—	2,173	68	—
2008	Q1	25,870	74	—	24,547	74	—	2,254	69	—
	Q2	25,882	74	—	24,532	74	—	2,266	69	—
	Q3	25,928	74	0	24,580	74	0	2,279	69	1
	Q4	25,749	74	-1	24,372	74	-1	2,342	69	3
2009	Q1	25,454	74	-1	24,067	74	-1	2,313	69	-1
	Q2[2]	*25,227	73	-1	*23,881	73	-1	*2,268	67	-2

		Non-UK EU nationals			EU A8 nationals[2]			Non-EU nationals		
		Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter	Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter	Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter
2006	Q3	753	77	—	297	82	—	1,160	—	
	Q4	828	77	—	344	82	—	1,134	64	—
2007	Q1	897	77	—	368	81	—	1,080	60	—
	Q2	969	77	—	431	82	—	1,134	62	—
	Q3	969	78	—	430	84	—	1,144	62	—
	Q4	1,010	79	—	469	84	—	1,163	61	—
2008	Q1	1,068	79	—	500	83	—	1,186	62	—
	Q2	1,085	79	—	498	84	—	1,201	62	—
	Q3	1,045	79	-2	504	84	1	1,234	63	3
	Q4	1,052	77	1	470	81	-7	1,290	63	5
2009	Q1	1,097	78	4	500	83	7	1,215	62	-6
	Q2[3]	*1,078	77	-2	**500	82	0	*1,190	60	-3

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Employment levels and rates of people aged 16 and over in employment by nationality and country of birth, three month periods ending, March, June, September and December, 2006 to 2009, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands

		UK nationals			UK born			Foreign nationals		
		Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter	Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter	Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter
2006	Q3	27,217	60	—	25,919	60	—	1,958	63	—
	Q4	27,142	60	—	25,830	60	—	2,008	62	—
2007	Q1	26,933	60	—	25,622	60	—	2,021	61	—
	Q2	26,949	60	—	25,616	60	—	2,143	62	—
	Q3	27,219	60	—	25,825	60	—	2,152	63	—
	Q4	27,271	60	—	25,878	60	—	2,208	63	—
2008	Q1	27,141	60	—	25,75560	—		2,290	64	—
	Q2	27,167	60	—	25,759	60	—	2,304	83	—
	Q3	27,203	60	0	25,799	60	0	2,323	64	1
	Q4	27,050	59	-1	25,612	60	-1	2,385	64	3
2009	Q1	26,763	59	-1	25,308	59	-1	2,357	63	-1
	Q2[3]	*26,552	58	-1	*25,130	58	-1	*2,315	83	-2

		Non-UK EU nationals			EU A8 nationals[2]			Non-EU nationals[3]		
		Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter	Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter	Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter
2006	Q3	776	65	—	297	79	—	1,182	62	—
	Q4	856	66	—	345	80	—	1,132	60	—
2007	Q1	992	67	—	370	80	—	1,098	57	—
	Q2	989	68	—	431	81	—	1,154	58	—
	Q3	991	69	—	430	82	—	1,161	59	—
	Q4	1,029	79	—	469	83	—	1,180	58	—
2008	Q1	1,087	70	—	500	82	—	1,203	59	—
	Q2	1,085	70	—	499	83	—	1,219	58	—

		Non-UK EU nationals			EU A8 nationals[2]			Non-EU nationals		
		Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter	Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter	Number	Rate	% change from previous quarter
	Q3	1,070	70	-1	504	83	1	1,253	59	3
	Q4	1,077	69	1	470	80	-7	1,308	60	4
2009	Q1	1,122	69	4	500	81	7	1,236	59	-6
	Q2[3]	*1,107	68-1		**501	81	0	*1,308	57	-2

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] EU A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness:
* 0 = CV≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to page 191 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, HC 442, which Whitehall properties have been refurbished in the last 24 months. [290608]

Angela E. Smith: In the last 24 months the Cabinet Office has carried out refurbishment works on 70 Whitehall and the Downing street estate.

Lobbying

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Pendle of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 694W, on lobbying, which interested parties the Government has consulted; and when the Government plan to respond to the report; [287287]

(2) what progress has been made in the Government's review of lobbying; when she plans to respond to the First Report of the Public Administration Committee of Session 2008-09 on Lobbying: access and influence in Whitehall; and if she will make a statement. [290700]

Angela E. Smith: The Government have consulted a range of interested parties, including practitioners and policy makers in the lobbying industry, the voluntary and charitable sector and the OECD. The Government plan to respond to the report from the Public Administration Select Committee on lobbying shortly.

New Businesses: Kent

Mr. Howard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of business start-ups in Folkestone and Hythe constituency has been in each quarter since January 2005. [290874]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 8 September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the business start-up rate in Folkestone and Hythe constituency was in each quarter from January 2005 to the most recent period for which figures are available. (290874).

Quarterly statistics on business start-ups are not available. Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available on business births for the constituency of Folkestone and Hythe.

Count of births and active enterprises for 2005-07

Folkestone and Hythe	Active	Births	Rate (percentage)
2005	3,440	455	13.2
2006	3,425	430	12.6
2007	3,595	483	13.5

Third Sector: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what funding her Department has provided to third sector organisations in Stoke-on-Trent in 2009-10; what estimate she has made of the level of take-up of grants by voluntary organisations in Stoke-on-Trent; and if she will make a statement. [290815]

Angela E. Smith: So far in the financial year 2009-10 the Office of the Third Sector has allocated £3.51 million of funding to third sector organisations in Stoke-on-Trent. The following table gives a breakdown of funding by programme. Full details of the programmes listed can be found on the OTS website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector.aspx

As an indication of take up of grants by voluntary organisations in Stoke, in 2008-9, £128,888 was allocated to Stoke-on-Trent through the Grassroots Grants Programme, to be offered as grants of £250-£5,000 to small local organisations. This amount was fully dispersed to these small organisations.

Programme	Amount of funding for 2009-10 in Stoke-on-Trent (£)
Targeted Support Fund	333,722
Community Assets	1.98 million
Grassroots Grants	[a]up to 238,226.44
Modernisation Fund	[b]2,000
Futurebuilders	575,000
V	[c]393,500
Total	3.51 million

[a] This comprises £133,799.66 allocated to grants and up to £94,426.75 in endowment for the year 2009-10.
Note:
The Grassroots Grants programme is the only OTS programme that has funding ring fenced by top-tier local authority area.
[b] Grants have been provisionally awarded.
[c] £153,500 of this amount was awarded to an organisation covering Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire more widely.

Unemployment: Kent

Mr. Howard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* percentage of youth unemployment in Folkestone and Hythe constituency has been in each quarter since January 2005; [290872]

(2) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* percentage of economic inactivity in Folkestone and Hythe constituency has been in each quarter since January 2005. [290873]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 8 September, 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* percentage of youth unemployment in Folkestone and Hythe constituency was in each quarter from January 2005 to date; and what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* percentage of economic inactivity in Folkestone and Hythe constituency was in each quarter from January 2005 to date. (290872 and 290873)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment and inactivity statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, estimates of unemployment of 18-24 year olds resident in the Folkestone and Hythe constituency are not available. As an alternative in Table 1 we have provided the number and percentage of 18-24 year olds claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in each month since January 2005.

Table 2 shows the number and percentage of persons of working age who were economically inactive resident in the Folkestone and Hythe parliamentary constituency. The latest period for which data are available is January 2008 to December 2008.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number and percentage of persons aged 18-24 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in the Folkestone and Hythe constituency

	Number[1]	Percentage[2]
January 2005	420	5.6
February 2005	450	6.0
March 2005	475	6.4
April 2005	470	6.3
May 2005	420	5.6
June 2005	400	5.4
July 2005	390	5.3

Table 1: Number and percentage of persons aged 18-24 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in the Folkestone and Hythe constituency

	Number[1]	Percentage[2]
August 2005	395	5.3
September 2005	430	5.8
October 2005	405	5.5
November 2005	400	5.4
December 2005	425	5.7
January 2006	440	6.0
February 2006	495	6.7
March 2006	480	6.5
April 2006	465	6.3
May 2006	470	6.3
June 2006	480	6.5
July 2006	485	6.6
August 2006	470	6.3
September 2006	490	6.6
October 2006	500	6.7
November 2006	480	6.5
December 2006	495	6.7
January 2007	500	6.7
February 2007	515	6.9
March 2007	525	7.1
April 2007	510	6.9
May 2007	490	6.6
June 2007	445	6.0
July 2007	465	6.3
August 2007	470	6.4
September 2007	425	5.8
October 2007	400	5.4
November 2007	360	4.9
December 2007	355	4.8
January 2008	365	4.9
February 2008	390	5.3
March 2008	385	5.2
April 2008	390	5.3
May 2008	400	5.4
June 2008	375	5.1
July 2008	365	4.9
August 2008	400	5.4
September 2008	415	5.6
October 2008	445	6.0
November 2008	495	6.7
December 2008	545	7.3
January 2009	615	8.3
February 2009	695	9.4
March 2009	720	9.7
April 2009	695	9.4
May 2009	655	8.9
June 2009	620	8.4
July 2009	595	8.0

[1] Figures rounded to nearest five
[2] Percentages are calculated using mid-2005 18-24 year old population estimates
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative sources

Table 2: Number and percentage of economically inactive persons of working age[1] resident in the Folkestone and Hythe constituency

	Number (thousand)	Percentage
12 months ending		
December 2005	13	22.5
March 2006	13	22.1
June 2006	12	21.2
September 2006	12	21.1
December 2006	11	20.0
March 2007	10	17.8
June 2007	12	21.0
September 2007	11	19.2

Table 2: Number and percentage of economically inactive persons of working age[1] resident in the Folkestone and Hythe constituency

	Number (thousand)	Percentage
December 2007	9	16.2
March 2008	10	17.0
June 2008	8	14.8
September 2008	10	17.9
December 2008[2]	***12	20.8

[1] Working age is defined as Males aged 16-64, Females aged 16-59

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Forests

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect funding his Department has allocated for the purpose of reducing levels of deforestation in developing countries in the last five years; and whether projects funded by his Department for such purposes have involved the planting of trees. [285766]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not record expenditure on reducing deforestation or on the planting of trees. It uses the two categories of expenditure required by the Development Aid Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): Forestry Policy and Administrative Management; and Forestry Development. Total bilateral expenditure incurred on forests in the last five financial years was:

£20.0 million in 2003-04;

£15.8 million in 2004-05;

£15.5 million in 2005-06;

£15.6 million in 2006-07; and

£7.4 million in 2007-08.

Since 2007-08 the following sums have been committed:

£10 million to the Congo Basin Forest Fund for start-up activities.

£50 million to the Congo Basin Forest Fund and £15 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, from the International Window of the Environmental Transformation Fund. In December 2008 it was announced that up to another £100 million would be made available for forests from the Environmental Transformation Fund.

£5 million for work by the Rights and Resources Initiative over a five-year period to help accelerate forest tenure, policy and market reforms.

£1.5 million to the National Forest Programme Facility over a three-year period.

£1.5 million to PROFOR (Programme on Forests of the World Bank) over a three-year period.

£1 million for work on an Economics of Climate Change Study and work on low carbon development in Brazil, some of which relates to forests.

Iraq: Overseas Aid

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding for aid for Iraq has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent by his Department since 2003. [290839]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) publishes future programme allocations and out-turn expenditure figures each year in its Annul Report which is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Sri Lanka: Humanitarian Aid

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [290679]

Mr. Michael Foster: Following the end of the conventional conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE in May 2009, approximately 270,000 internally displaced people (IDP) are now in camps in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Our humanitarian advisor, based at the British High Commission in Colombo, last visited the camps on 26 August 2009. Conditions in the camps are basic but improving as needs for shelter, food, water and medicine are gradually being met. Access for humanitarian agencies is also improving. However, I remain concerned about: high malnutrition levels among sections of the IDP population, particularly children; the lack of freedom of movement and restrictions put on protection activities, including ensuring the safety of the IDP population; reuniting unaccompanied children with their families; and registration of the population as a whole.

The recent flooding in some of the camps following heavy rain highlights the importance of safely returning as many people as possible to their homes before the forthcoming monsoon season. I am encouraged that the Government of Sri Lanka has started the process and has so far returned 4,500 people to their communities of origin. However, much more needs to be done if the Government of Sri Lanka is to meet its own target of resettling the bulk of the IDPs before the end of the year.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Religion: Conditions of Employment

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what her policy is on *(a)* whether, in an organisation with a religious ethos, the need of the organisation to maintain such an ethos should constitute a genuine, legitimate and justified occupational requirement to be of a particular religion and *(b)* the regard to be had to (i) the nature of the employment, (ii) the qualifications of the employee and (iii) the performance of the employee in the job. [290666]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 contain a specific exception to discrimination on grounds of religion which allows an

employer with an ethos based on religion or belief to require that an employee be of a particular religion or belief if it is a genuine occupational requirement for that particular job, and it is proportionate to apply the requirement in each case.

The ethos of the organisation is one factor which employers with a religious ethos take into account. They must also consider the nature of the job or the context in which it is carried out. The qualifications or performance of the employee are not relevant factors when considering whether the requirement to be of a particular religion or belief to do a particular job is genuine or not.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Political Prisoners

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the imprisonment of Kyaw Khaing in Burma; what discussions he has had with the Burmese government on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [289216]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are very concerned by reports that National League for Democracy leader Kyaw Khaing was sentenced to a further two year prison term on 14 July 2009. Our ambassador in Rangoon repeatedly raises the need for the release of all political prisoners in Burma with Ministers in the military government. Our embassy in Rangoon continues to enquire about specific cases with political prisoner support networks and those non-governmental organisations concerned with prisoner welfare.

We take every opportunity, including via the UN human rights bodies, to press the regime to uphold international human rights norms and release political prisoners. Most recently, G8 leaders called for the Burmese regime to release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, stating that their continued detention would undermine the credibility of elections planned for 2010.

Cuba: Politics and Government

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the persecution of Christians in Cuba, with particular reference to the case of Pastor Omar Gride Pérez; and if he will make a statement. [288010]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government remain concerned about the human rights situation in Cuba. The Cuban government maintains tight control over its citizens and is generally wary of unofficial, unregistered group meetings. Economic freedoms are limited, political opposition is not tolerated and restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and assembly are common. Unregistered religious groups, such as house churches, are sometimes affected by these restrictions. But as many churches manage to operate within the constraints of the system without harassment, we do not judge that there is systematic repression of Christians or religious freedoms within the country.

We have been following closely the case of Pastor Omar Gride Pérez—the leader of a self-governing non-denominational church called the 'Apostolic Reformation' who has been detained since May 2008 and was recently sentenced to six years' imprisonment for charges of falsification of documents, and was also evicted from his property. We are concerned by the lack of an independent judiciary in Cuba, and the harsh penalties given for some crimes. We are aware of concerns that his lengthy sentence may be connected to his religious activities and status as an independent church leader.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288919]

Chris Bryant: 86.5 per cent. of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's payments to suppliers were made within 10 days of receipt in June 2009.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 947W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Under-Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [289000]

Chris Bryant: The desktop machines used by the holders of the four named posts use Internet Explorer 7. Secure laptops to enable remote access to their office accounts also use the same version of web browser.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of lost and stolen *(a)* electronic data and *(b)* paper documents have been recorded by his Department's overseas posts in each of the last three years. [288498]

Chris Bryant: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of instances of loss—unauthorised or otherwise—of data overseas. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288735]

Chris Bryant: During 2008 £174,200 was spent on Royal Mail services. During 2009 £69,600 has been spent on Royal Mail services to date.

Departmental Security

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of deliberate attempts to breach security at his Department's overseas posts have been detected since January 2007; and which posts were affected. [288497]

Chris Bryant: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of attempts to breach security overseas. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

Diplomatic Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees of UK embassies have *(a)* been suspended, *(b)* received formal warnings and *(c)* been dismissed in the last 12 months; and for what reasons in each case. [288470]

Chris Bryant: There are two categories of employees at our Missions abroad, locally engaged staff recruited by the Post and UK based staff who are posted out to Post from the UK. We do not retain figures centrally for locally engaged staff and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost. The figures for UK based staff are as follows:

(a) suspended in the last 12 months—fewer than five cases

(b) received formal warnings in the last 12 months—15 cases

(c) been dismissed in the last 12 months—fewer than five cases

As there are fewer than five cases for each category of misconduct, details are not provided to avoid revealing the identity of individuals and on the grounds of personal confidentiality.

Fourth Geneva Convention

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on individual legal action to achieve compliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention; and if he will make a statement. [288855]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has fully implemented the Geneva Conventions through the Geneva Conventions Act of 1957, which includes all the necessary legal provisions to ensure the UK's compliance with the Conventions, including the fourth. It is for individuals to decide what legal action they wish to take in accordance with UK law, and it is not for the Government to comment on such action.

Hamas

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the alleged broadcasting by Hamas of children's television programmes glorifying *(a)* terrorism and *(b)* attacks on the State of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [287518]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: While we do not monitor Hamas broadcasting, we are aware of reports of the use of inflammatory language against Israel in their programming. The UK continues to condemn any actions which incite hatred and violence.

India

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of India on the resettlement of members of its Christian community in Orissa. [290914]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the resettlement of Christian communities with the Indian Government. However the Government welcome the Indian central government's efforts to protect communities, including their efforts to restore law and order and their offer of compensation and assistance to victims of communal violence including in Orissa.

The EU sent a fact finding mission to Orissa in December 2008, in which a member of our High Commission participated, and reported their concerns to the Indian Government. The question of minority rights in Orissa and other affected states following the violence in 2008 was raised at the last EU-India Human Rights Dialogue meeting in early 2009.

We will continue to monitor the situation and raise any concerns relating to the human rights of all minorities in India as appropriate.

Iran: China

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met representatives of the government of the People's Republic of China to discuss policy towards Iran. [288496]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met Foreign Minister Yang on 1 February 2009 to discuss Iran. They have spoken on the telephone on the subject a number of times, most recently on 15 July 2009. Senior officials are also in contact.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the killing of two UK citizens working as private security contractors in Iraq by another private security contractor; what restrictions there are upon the recruitment by private security companies of those with diagnosed mental illnesses; what plans the Government have to renew the effectiveness of such restrictions; what guidance his Department has issued to such contractors on their recruitment procedures; and if he will make a statement. [290849]

Chris Bryant: British consular staff continue to provide assistance to the British nationals involved following a recent incident in Iraq where one British national was killed. The Iraqi authorities are investigating and we remain in close contact with all parties concerned.

The British nationals involved in the incident mentioned above were not working for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). When private security companies are employed by the FCO in Iraq, our contracts make it very clear what our requirements are for security personnel, both in terms of their individual skills, qualifications and experience, and their health and fitness. The companies are required to ensure that their personnel are fit for the roles required of them. Our contractors are also required to ensure they comply with all appropriate UK health and safety and discrimination legislation. The FCO considers companies' resourcing and recruitment plans and procedures as part of its evaluation of their bids, at the point at which the contracts are competitively tendered. But we ultimately rely on the companies to ensure that these procedures are robustly and consistently applied under the contract, so as to ensure that the calibre of the contracted personnel is maintained. We naturally monitor the implementation of FCO contracts and raise any concerns with the companies concerned.

There is currently no legislation dealing specifically with the overseas operations of Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) registered in or operating from the UK. Recruitment and vetting of personnel by private security companies is currently a matter for the companies concerned. However the Government launched a public consultation in April this year seeking to promote high standards of conduct by PMSCs internationally. Responses to this consultation are currently being analysed.

Iraq: Human Rights

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Iraqi Government on the deaths and injuries to protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention following the recent attack on Camp Ashraf by Iraqi forces; and if he will make a statement. [290777]

Chris Bryant: Our ambassador in Iraq has written to the Iraqi authorities to ask for a review into the recent events at the camp. Officials from our embassy in Baghdad are continuing to follow developments, and will shortly undertake a further visit to the camp.

Our view remains that the residents of Camp Ashraf are not entitled to 'protected persons' status as the Fourth Geneva Convention ceased to apply in Iraq after 28 June 2004, following the end of active hostilities and occupation.

Israel: Borders

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he *(a)* changed his Department's policy and *(b)* took other steps in response to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice in relation to the wall in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. [288856]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK agrees with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) broad conclusions that building a barrier along the current route, on occupied land, is a clear violation of international law. The Government therefore supported UN General Assembly resolution (ES-10/15) that acknowledged the ICJ's advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the barrier in occupied Palestinian territory.

While we recognise fully Israel's right to self-defence and agree that if it decides to build a barrier it should be able to do that, we will continue to make clear to Israel, both in private in and in public, that the barrier must be built either on or behind the Green Line.

Kenya

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will issue an apology for the treatment by the British colonial authorities of Kenyan nationals during the 1950s Kenyan emergency; and if he will make a statement. [286847]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are aware that the events surrounding the period of the Kenyan emergency give rise to strong feelings in Kenya. The emergency period remains a deeply divisive issue in Kenya and one which historians continue to debate. The road to independence in Kenya was marked with considerable suffering on all sides which is deeply regrettable.

It is important to have open debate about the past. The UK is prepared to contribute to this. Any debate should help address Kenya's current challenges, particularly the importance of reconciliation towards building a stable and prosperous nation.

Libya: Offical Visits

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what ministerial visits to Libya have taken place in the last two years; and what commercial matters were discussed during each such visit. [290819]

Chris Bryant: Two Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers visited Libya in 2008-09. My hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), the then Minister of State, visited Libya from 25-26 February 2009. He met with the Libyan Prime Minister, Dr al-Baghdadi al-Mahmudi, Energy Minister, Shurkri Ghanem, Europe Minister, Abdulatti Obidi and the then Head of the Libyan External Intelligence Service, Musa Kusa. During my hon. Friend's visit discussions focused on a range of issues including the stalled investigation into WPC Fletcher's murder, regional security matters, counter terrorism co-operation, the African Union (AU), consular matters, visa arrangements and commercial contracts currently under negotiation.

My noble Friend, the then Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, also visited Libya for the AU Summit in July 2009. He did not have any formally arranged meetings with members of the Libyan Government. However, Lord Malloch-Brown met briefly with Ali Treiki, the then Libyan Minister for Africa and the UN, and Musa Kusa, the Libyan Minister for Foreign Affairs while attending the opening ceremony of the summit. No commercial matters were discussed.

There have also been visits to Libya by Ministers from other Government departments: my noble Friend the Minister of State at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Lord Digby-Jones, in May 2008, and my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo), the Minister of State at the Department of Health, in November 2008, and

my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham), the Secretary of State at the Department of Health, in July 2009.

Lockerbie: Bombings

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government discussed the terms of the United Kingdom's Prisoner Transfer Agreement with Libya with the United States administration; and if he will make a statement. [290921]

Chris Bryant: The UK and US Governments remained in close contact throughout the negotiation of the UK-Libya Prisoner Transfer Agreement (PTA) and its entry into force. All key ministerial correspondence relating to the negotiation of the PTA was published on 1 September 2009.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the military build-up in southern Lebanon on the Middle East peace process; and if he will make a statement. [290888]

Chris Bryant: UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701 establishes an area in southern Lebanon free from armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The UK believes that UNSCR 1701 is the best way of achieving lasting stability in Lebanon. We are deeply concerned that Hizballah maintains a substantial military capacity. This is a destabilising factor for the whole region. We strongly condemn all violations of UNSCR 1701 and urge its full implementation. We fully support the work of UNIFIL and its continued role in Lebanon.

Morocco: Students

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further steps he plans to take in response to the decision by the government of Morocco to prevent Saharan students from attending a peace-building conference in Oxford in August 2009. [290916]

Chris Bryant: Following news of the events in Agadir, our Chargé d'Affairs in Rabat raised our concerns with the Secretaire Generale, head of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He stressed that it was particularly disappointing considering Morocco's otherwise good record of allowing attendance at these types of events. We made it clear the Government were extremely concerned by reports of the use of disproportionate force against the participants on their return home to Layounne. The Sécretaire Générale undertook to look into the matter.

We have continued to press for an answer and make our concerns known. This has included close co-ordination with the Swedish EU presidency in Morocco and local human rights non-governmental organisations over this matter. I can assure you that our officials in Rabat and London will continue to press the Moroccan authorities for further clarification of the allegations of mistreatment.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what means he has considered to achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons. [289142]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are committed to a world free of nuclear weapons and are actively working towards achieving this goal. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out his vision in 'The Road to 2010 - Addressing the Nuclear Question in the Twenty First Century' earlier this month. In this he outlined a three stage process to enable progress towards this goal. This involves:

Transparency and control: reducing expansion of nuclear weapon capabilities and enhancing transparency of existing and future capabilities.

Arms reduction: addressing the challenges and mechanisms through which further multilateral disarmament can occur.

Steps to zero: creating the security conditions and overcoming technical difficulties related to disarmament.

We remain fully committed to the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty as the best vehicle for achieving this goal.

Pakistan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Pakistani authorities on behalf of *(a)* those attacked at Bahmari Wala, Kasur and *(b)* other Christians subject to attacks. [288223]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are concerned about reports that members of the Christian community in Bahmari Wala, Pakistan have been attacked. The UK supports freedom of religion and condemns persecution because of faith or beliefs. Incidents such as the attack in Bahmari Wala are an example of the discrimination and violent extremism faced by religious minorities in Pakistan.

We regularly raise our concerns with the government of Pakistan about the situation of religious minorities, both with our EU partners and bilaterally in London and through our High Commission in Islamabad, and will continue to do so. The most recent EU demarche called upon the government of Pakistan to promote tolerance, to effectively protect freedom of belief and freedom of expression and to reform discriminatory legislation in particular blasphemy laws.

With regard to the latest incident officials from the High Commission in Islamabad are monitoring developments closely. We note that a compensation package has been announced for those affected by the attack.

Pakistan: Free Trade

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent consideration he has given to the introduction of a free trade agreement between Pakistan and the EU; and if he will make a statement. [284648]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

We are keen to see the EU improve economic links with Pakistan. One option would be for the EU and Pakistan to negotiate a free trade agreement. At the

recent EU-Pakistan summit, a package of trade measures was agreed which included enhancement of the EU-Pakistan trade dialogue; a commitment for the EU to remove trade obstacles and provide technical assistance; an agreement to review EU-Pakistan co-operation on capacity building; and a commitment to re-examine the GSP+ preferential scheme with a view to possible inclusion of Pakistan.

These trade measures should help improve economic ties between the EU and Pakistan, and help build the necessary capacity and infrastructure to help Pakistan towards an EU-Pakistan free trade agreement in the longer term.

Palestinians: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent consideration he has given to his Department's performance on meeting its obligations in respect of the non-recognition of illegal acts under international law, with particular reference to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory. [287164]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government take their international and domestic law obligations very seriously. We will continue to make clear to the Israeli Government that all settlement activity is illegal and is a violation of international law. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did so during his meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak on 6 July 2009 and also in a conversation with his counterpart Avigdor Lieberman on 1 July 2009.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Palestinian Authority on recognition of the State of Israel as a Jewish state; what response was received; and if he will make a statement. [287520]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We welcome the fact that the Palestinian Authority recognises the state of Israel and is prepared to negotiate a peace deal with it.

The nature of the state of Israel, and the role that religion plays, is a matter for Israelis, although we would expect Israel to respect the rights of minorities as undertaken in Israel's declaration of independence and basic laws. We welcome the fact that the Israeli Government have not said that Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state should be a precondition for entering negotiations with the Palestinians.

The UK's position is clear that a comprehensive peace should be based on two states, living side by side within secure and agreed borders based on those of 1967, with Jerusalem as the capital for both states. Such a solution is the only way to do justice to the national aspirations of the Jewish people and of the Palestinians.

Papua: Political Prisoners

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the imprisonment of Papuan democracy activist Buchtar Tabuni; what steps his Department has taken in response to such reports; and if he will make a statement. [289219]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Buchtar Tabuni was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for "provocation" on 3 July 2009. Prosecutors had pressed for a sentence of ten years for treason but this was rejected by the judges.

Our embassy in Jakarta have been following the trial of Buchtar Tabuni and previously met his lawyers to investigate allegations of physical abuse. They were unable to verify these claims.

My predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), raised continuing UK parliamentary and public concern at the human rights situation in Papua with Indonesian Foreign Minister Wirajuda when he met him in Jakarta on 10 February 2009 and again at the Asia Europe meeting in Hanoi in May. There is frustration in Papua over poor implementation of the Special Autonomy Law of 2001. However, while problems do remain, it is important to recognise that real improvements have been made in Indonesia's human rights situation in recent years. Our embassy staff make regular visits to Papua to discuss human rights issues with a wide range of interlocutors. The last visit was on 17-18 June 2009.

Peacekeeping Operations: Private Sector

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the Lord Toms of Cheltenham of 5 May 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA106, on private military companies, how many personnel of private military companies are operating under contracts with his Department. [276800]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds a number of contracts with private military and security companies (PMSCs) to provide services such as close protection, static guarding and police mentoring. We do not hold contracts with individual personnel of those companies nor is there a centrally held record of how many personnel are employed by them providing services to the Government. Additionally a number of overseas posts hold contracts with PMSCs locally. To establish the number of personnel working for the companies operating under contracts with us would therefore be a wide ranging exercise, the cost of which would be disproportionate.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288955]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka since the end of the conflict in the country; and if he will make a statement. [288580]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are increasingly concerned about the treatment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka, especially the lack of freedom of movement in the camps and the restrictions put on protection activities, including ensuring the safety of the IDPs, reuniting unaccompanied children with their families and registration of the IDP population as a whole. We also remain concerned at continuing reports of abductions, disappearances, violence and intimidation against the media, all of which appear to affect Tamil communities disproportionately. We continue to raise these issues regularly with the government of Sri Lanka and call upon them to take decisive action to tackle human rights abuses.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Sri Lankan government on the treatment of Tamils in camps; and if he will make a statement. [288581]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We take every available opportunity to urge the Sri Lankan government to ensure the internally displaced persons (IDPs) held in camps in northern Sri Lanka are treated in accordance with international standards. These include providing basic facilities such as food, water, shelter and medicine as well as issues such as freedom of movement, reuniting family members and ensuring the early return of IDPs to their homes.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed the humanitarian situation in IDP camps with President Rajapakse on 18 May 2009, as did my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary with Foreign Minister Bogollogama on 5 June 2009. My noble Friend, the then Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised the issue with the Sri Lankan Minister for Trade and External Development when they met on 19 June 2009. Our High Commissioner to Sri Lanka continues to raise our concerns with the Sri Lankan government at every opportunity.

I also refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Minister of State, Department for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas), on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 12-13WS, which contains further information on the latest humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan on the abduction of opposition politicians and activists in that country. [290915]

Chris Bryant: The UK regularly raises human rights issues with the Government of Sudan through the European Union, the Assessment and Evaluation Committee, the National Elections Commission and in bilaterals. In particular, we have raised the importance of protecting freedom of expression and the political space for campaigning by all parties in the run up to the elections in 2010.

Sudan: Prisoners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Irish government and *(b)* the Sudanese government on the kidnapping from Northern Darfur of two aid workers from the charity GOAL. [288694]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke with the Irish Foreign Secretary regarding the kidnapping on 14 July 2009. Our Ambassador to Sudan has discussed the issue with the Sudanese Foreign Minister and Minister for Humanitarian Affairs. Our Embassy in Khartoum continues to work closely with Irish officials in Sudan.

We strongly condemn all acts of violence against aid workers, and call on all parties, including the government of Sudan, to ensure the safety of aid workers in the region.

Thailand: Aviation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of progress made by the Thai authorities in their inquiry into the September 2007 air crash involving British citizens; and what recent discussions he has had with the Thai authorities on the date of publication of the report on the inquiry. [290894]

Chris Bryant: An interim investigation report was published by the Thai authorities in June and we circulated an English translation of this report to the families of those involved in this tragic accident. The final report is in the process of being translated into all the relevant languages, including English. It will then be submitted to the International Civil Aviation Organisation who have 60-days upon receipt to verify the documents. The finalising of the report was delayed following the accident in Koh Samui in August this year in which four British nationals were injured, as the same body is responsible for investigating both incidents. We expect it to be several months before the final report is published.

Our embassy in Bangkok is monitoring the progress of the investigation and we will alert the hon. Member and the families concerned as soon as the report is made public.

USA: Terrorism

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the US administration on its designation of Interpal as a global terrorist organisation; and if he will make a statement. [289236]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials are in ongoing discussions with their US counterparts about how to facilitate legitimate charitable work while protecting against any risk of abuse by terrorist financiers.

This has included the case of Interpal and its status as a US designated organisation.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the matter of human rights abuses in the Non-Self Governing Territory of Western Sahara related to calls for a referendum is raised with Morocco by EU officials in the next meeting of the sub-committee on Human Rights, Democratisation and Governance. [289057]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK considers the EU-Morocco Association Agreement Sub Committee on Human Rights, Democratisation and Governance to be an essential element of the EU-Morocco relationship. We have been engaged in the planning for the meeting on 24 July 2009 through our Missions in Rabat and Brussels. The agenda was agreed by member states on 13 July 2009, and will include, among other issues, women's rights, freedom of expression and the rights of detainees. Discussions will not exclude the territory of Western Sahara.

The EU engages regularly with the Moroccan Government on human rights issues at a local level with our EU colleagues by raising individual cases of concern as appropriate.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy that there be a field presence from the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Western Sahara. [289058]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government believe that greater openness and transparency on human rights by all the parties would create a significantly better environment for political dialogue between the parties. We support the call by the UN Secretary General, in his latest report, for the parties to remain engaged in a continuous and constructive dialogue with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and to make progress on the human dimension of the conflict. If, as the result of such dialogue, a mechanism were to be established to allow OHCHR to further add value, for example by assisting and reporting on the situation in Western Sahara, the Government would support it.

WPC Yvonne Fletcher

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received a recent request from members of the family of WPC Yvonne Fletcher for a meeting with Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [290920]

Chris Bryant: Although my right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary has not received a request, he has offered to meet the family of WPC Fletcher to discuss the Government's efforts to move the investigation forward.

Libya has accepted responsibility for WPC Fletcher's murder and paid compensation to her family. Despite their promises to do so, and the UK's repeated requests, Libya has not allowed the Metropolitan Police Service to return to Libya to continue the investigation.

We attach the highest importance to securing Libyan cooperation with the investigation and push this with the Libyan authorities at every available opportunity.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his latest estimate is of the UK's carbon footprint. [288713]

Joan Ruddock: The latest estimate for the total carbon dioxide (CO_2) emitted from the UK is 542.6 Mt in 2007. A provisional estimate for the total CO_2 emitted from the UK in 2008 is 531.8 Mt.

The latest estimate for the total greenhouse gas emissions emitted from the UK is 636.6 Mt in 2007. A provisional estimate for the total greenhouse gas emissions emitted from the UK in 2008 is 623.8 Mt.

Climate Change

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many copies of the departmental pamphlet, The Road to Copenhagen: Taking International Action on Climate Change, have been printed; to whom they have been distributed; what the cost of printing and distribution has been; and what steps he plans to take to promote the proposals in the pamphlet before the Copenhagen summit. [288564]

Joan Ruddock: I can confirm that the overall cost of the Road to Copenhagen leaflet was approximately £34,000 exclusive of VAT. This includes design, typesetting, printing and distribution of 46,000 copies. The leaflet is being distributed in hard copy or electronic format to a range of outlets, including educational establishments, public libraries, Citizens Advice bureaux, trade unions, business-related outlets, MPs and other key stakeholders.

Climate Change: South East

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the financial effects of climate change at the present rate on *(a)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire and *(b)* the South East. [288895]

Joan Ruddock: In 2005, the regional climate change partnerships working with the UK Climate Impacts Programme published 'Measuring Progress'. The report assessed the impacts of climate change by region including the South East and included some indicative assessments of the impacts on activities from climate change. The Government have now begun the Adaptation Economic Assessment, which will analyse the high level economic costs and benefits of adapting to climate change in the UK. The project will include information by English region, including the South East, but not by individual county boundary. It is due to report in 2012.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to assist people in the *(a)* ceremonial county of Hampshire and *(b)* the South East to adapt their domestic circumstances to take account of the effects of climate change. [288897]

Joan Ruddock: The aim of the Government's Adapting to Climate Change Programme is to help people adapt to the effects of climate change by providing robust evidence on the effects of climate change and embedding

adaptation into policies, plans and programmes. The programme seeks to achieve this by building capacity in organisations who are the most able to take long term adaptation decisions. This includes local government via mechanisms such as National Indicator 188—Planning to Adapt to Climate Change within the local government performance framework to enable them to support individuals to adapt to future climate changes through local programmes.

On 18 June, the Government published the latest UK Climate Projections. These projections show the potential changes in climate for the UK for a range of probabilities, climate variables and emissions scenarios. These data are freely available to all to make their own assessments of the likely effects of climate change. To support organisations in using the projections, the Government are providing a training package, Projections in Practice from July to March 2010. The programme will include a series of national events for specific sectors and will also include from September a programme of events in each region including the South East. To support adaptation locally and regionally, we have established a local and regional programme managed by a board of key local and regional organisations. The regional climate change partnership, Climate South East, is represented on the board. The board manages a small programme of projects to develop guidance and tools to help local authorities, regional climate change partnerships and others to support communities to take account of the effects of climate change. Further information on the board is located on the Government's Adapting to Climate Change Programme website:

www.defra.gov.uk/adaptation

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date he last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of his official duties. [287404]

Joan Ruddock: There have been no such meetings.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2142W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since November 2008. [289164]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has spent £7,289 on flat screen televisions, some of which had built-in DVD players and £68 on stand-alone DVD players. The Department has procured no stereo equipment.

The Department has no agencies.

Departmental Marketing

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on branding since its establishment. [288763]

Joan Ruddock: The information is listed in the following table.

	£
Branding design	38,751.00
Trademarking the brand	14,102.00
Signage	1,910.00

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last five years. [288791]

Joan Ruddock: The information is as follows.

1. The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) came into existence on 3 October 2008. The Department has spent £404.90 directly with the Royal Mail since then. General postal services have largely been provided through shared services arrangements with DEFRA and BERR (now BIS). We cannot separately identify the proportion of payments for those shared services that were ultimately payable to Royal Mail.

2. DECC ceased using BIS to provide these services in June 2009. However, these arrangements are still continuing with DEFRA and we are in a process of setting up a separate DECC account with Royal Mail.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework since it was created. [288671]

Joan Ruddock: Between September 2008 and March 2009 DECC spent approximately £101,000 through public relations and events management agencies on COI's rosters. The figures include all PR expenditure incurred by the department on the ACT ON CO_2 campaign, including media relations activity and the running of a series of regional roadshows.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 297W, on departmental public relations, which companies were contracted; for what purpose each contract was let to each company; and how much was paid to each company in respect of each contract. [288986]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has spent the following amounts in 2008-09.

£101,000 to Munro and Forster and TRO (through COI agency rosters). The figure includes all PR expenditure incurred by the department on the ACT ON CO_2 campaign, including media relations activity and the running of a series of regional roadshows. We are considering our campaign plans for the rest of 2009-10.

£100,229.99 to Kreab Gavin Anderson who are contracted, through a consultancy tender, to provide expert advice and support on the renewable energy finance community including on the impact of proposed measures on renewable finance and investment prospects. As part of this contract they also support the department's

work by arranging seminars, meetings with investors, and wider awareness raising with investors and media on developments in renewable energy policy.

All figures are rounded up and exclusive of VAT.

Departmental Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* ministerial cars and drivers, *(b)* taxis, *(c)* train travel, *(d)* the use of helicopters, *(e)* airline tickets and *(f)* chartered aeroplanes since its establishment. [289067]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has spent the following since its inception: *(a)* ministerial cars and drivers £166,305; *(b)* taxis for the whole Department £202,249; *(c)* train travel for the whole Department £557,637; and *(e)* air fares for the whole Department £1,179,390. The Department is not able to separately identify the use of helicopters or chartered aircraft except at disproportionate cost.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Association for the Conservation of Energy as part of the preparation of the White Paper on low carbon energy strategies. [287542]

Joan Ruddock: DECC Ministers and officials have regular discussions with the Association for the Conservation of Energy on a broad range of issues relating to energy efficiency and fuel poverty.

Energy: Prices

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with energy suppliers on the effects of increases in energy prices on small and medium-sized businesses. [290749]

Joan Ruddock: The Government are keenly aware of the impacts on businesses of changing energy costs. DECC Ministers and officials have frequent discussions with energy suppliers and their representatives about energy prices and other factors affecting business and household consumers.

Ofgem has recently published proposals for measures to improve the functioning of the supply markets for small businesses.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with business representatives on the effects of increases in energy prices on small and medium-sized businesses. [290750]

Joan Ruddock: Regular discussions are held with business representatives on energy price issues relevant to all sizes of businesses. These include the Business Energy Forum, jointly chaired by the Secretary of State and the Director General of the CBI. In addition there are ad hoc meetings with individual business organisations.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average price of energy supply for small and medium-sized businesses in each year since 2004-05. [290751]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not hold any data on electricity prices paid by small or medium-sized businesses. Data on prices are collected based on energy consumption levels, which do not always correspond to business size. Energy expenditure as a share of turnover varies widely, from around 1 per cent. to over 20 per cent. depending upon the nature of the business.

Annual energy prices for industrial consumers by consumption band are published quarterly in table 3.1.1 of "Quarterly Energy Prices", with annual data shown in Table 3.1.3. The latest edition of "Quarterly Energy Prices" was published in June 2009 and is available online at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx

Forestry

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the definition of *(a)* forestry investment and *(b)* sustainable forestry management was as contained in the declaration on international climate negotiations at the UK-French summit in Evian on 6 July 2009. [289011]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* There are no internationally agreed definitions of the terms forestry investment and sustainable forest management. The UK's understanding of the meaning of forestry investment in the UK-French declaration on international climate negotiations is the use of resources to support forest activities which help to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation or conserve, maintain or enhance forest carbon stocks, and which generate a return. The returns could provide important stimuli for low carbon development in developing countries, such as local employment opportunities. In this context, sustainable forest management means forest activities which support the long-term maintenance of forest carbon stocks.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288929]

Joan Ruddock: There are currently no such plans.

Heating: Fuels

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to assist domestic users of heating fuels to replace existing heating systems with renewable alternatives; and if he will make a statement. [290881]

Joan Ruddock: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) is the Government's £131 million capital grant programme, offering capital funds for small scale onsite energy technologies to householders, public, community and the not-for-profit sector. The Programme was initiated in 2006 and for householders, £46 million (of the

£131 million) has been made available. To date over 10,000 householder projects have been supported across the UK of which 8,900 are for heat generation.

This programme will be phased out to coincide with the introduction of Clean Energy Cashbacks (FITs) for energy generation in April 2010 and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), for heat generation, in April 2011

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), which the Government have committed to introducing from April 2011, will provide financial support in order to encourage the uptake of renewable heat at all scales, from domestic use to large scale industrial generation. We intend to publish a consultation document setting out the details of the RHI towards the end of this year.

Insulation: Housing

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the level of uptake of home insulation programmes delivered through commercial energy suppliers; and if he will make a statement. [290885]

Joan Ruddock: Energy supply companies are obligated to provide energy efficiency measures, including insulation, to households via the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) which runs from March 2008 to March 2011.

Ofgem administer the scheme and report to DECC annually on progress. Ofgem's review of the first year of CERT states that between April 2008 and March 2009 suppliers funded a total of 1,243,573 insulation measures. Of this total 545,594 were cavity wall jobs, 689,353 were loft insulation, and 8,626 were solid wall (Additional insulation has been delivered through CERT funded DIY, however as this information is commercial in confidence it will only be published at the end of the scheme).

CERT is the continuation of a series of successful energy efficiency programmes which delivered over 900,000 insulation measures 2002-2005 and over 2.6m measures 2005-08.

International Parliamentary Conference on Climate Change

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contribution his Department made to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Second International Parliamentary Conference on Climate Change. [286614]

Joan Ruddock: I participated in a session on international climate change on 8 July. An official from the Department took part in the discussion on "Technology Development and Transfer: Current Proposals and Persistent Challenges" on Tuesday 7 July.

Office for Renewable Energy Development

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what expenditure under each budget heading the budget of the Office for Renewable Energy Development for 2009-10 provides; and how many staff that office employs. [290898]

Joan Ruddock: The Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) was launched on 15 July 2009. ORED's mission is to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy in order to reduce carbon emissions, increase security of supply and create business opportunities in the UK.

As of August 2009 ORED employed 85 staff. The budgets available to ORED, including funding allocated to low carbon investment in Budget 2009, are as set out in the following table. In addition, ORED will also be delivering projects funded from the Strategic Investment Fund managed by BIS; this additional funding amounts to up to £135.5 million over the next two years.

ORED Budgets

£ million

	2009-10	*2010-11*
Administration	7.1	5.8
Programme	13.6	8.9
Capital	38.3	61.2
Total	59.0	75.9

Plutonium: Exports

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what quantities of safeguarded plutonium have been exported since July 2008; and for what purpose. [287543]

Mr. Kidney: There have been two exports of material containing small amounts of safeguarded plutonium since July 2008. Both were delivered to consignees in Sweden. The first shipment, in April 2009, was Intermediate Level Waste containing approximately 5g of plutonium. The waste was returned to Sweden as part of contracted work to reprocess spent nuclear fuel at Sellafield from Sweden's R1 research reactor. The second shipment, in June 2009, was a container of 46 irradiated Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactor (AGR) fuel pins containing less than 400 g of plutonium. This material will be returned to the UK following analytical examination.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the size is of the fund established for the clean energy cash-back scheme announced in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan; and from which heading of his Department's budget the payments will be drawn. [288568]

Joan Ruddock: The clean energy cash back scheme comprises two policies, the Feed-In Tariffs (FITs) for small scale low-carbon electricity, which will take effect from April 2010, and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), which will be implemented in 2011.

We are currently consulting on the detail of the FITs scheme. We do not propose to set limits on the total amount of funding available from the scheme. Payments to generators under the scheme will not be made from the Department's budget, but from electricity suppliers.

Powers were taken in the Energy Act 2008 which allow the RHI to be funded through a levy on fossil fuel suppliers. We will be consulting on the detail of the RHI later in 2009.

Renewable Energy: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to assist research into green technology in Coventry. [281149]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Technology Strategy Board currently supports 35 collaborative R&D projects that have a focus on green technologies and where each includes at least one participant from the Coventry postcode area. The total project costs are £85.6 million (£22.2 million for Coventry participants) with the Technology Strategy Board providing grant[1] support of £41.8 million (£11.1 million for Coventry participants).

The Research Councils currently support 16 energy research projects in the Coventry postcode area that have a focus on green technologies. These have a total grant value of £4.7 million. The Research Councils also support one programme in plasma physics to the value of £5 million, one SUPERGEN consortium looking at excitonic solar cells to the value of £3.4 million, and two other general research projects that have a focus on green technologies to the value of £700,000.

The Department has also helped fund green technology initiatives through Advantage West Midlands (AWM).

A Hydrogen Energy Project—a collaboration between the University of Birmingham and the University of Warwick—is being delivered by the Birmingham Science City initiative and has received £ 10.5 million funding from AWM.

AWM is also about to launch the Renewable Energies Supply Chain Opportunities (RESCO) programme. Delivered by Staffordshire University, RESCO is designed to support companies in the supply chains of renewable energies. The £1.4 million project is targeted at the whole of the West Midlands but a significant strand of activity will take place in Coventry.

AWM also fund several projects that are led by Coventry centres to support the development of low carbon vehicles. These have total project costs of £37.2 million and AWM funding of £19.7 million.

HEALTH

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has plans to keep under review its policy on the age at which cervical screening should begin; [290953]

(2) what plans his Department has to *(a)* commission and *(b)* evaluate new research to compare the incidence of cervical (i) abnormalities and (ii) cancer in the 20 to 24 year and 25 to 29 years age groups. [290954]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The cervical screening age range will be a standing item on the agenda of meetings of the independent Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening, which reviews all new research to assess its significance to the cervical screening programme. NHS Cancer Screening programmes maintain an on-line database of literature relating to cervical screening, and publish "Cervical Screening: Literature Update" twice a year. If further evidence is published that warrants another formal review of the screening age range, this will be done.

With regard to new research, cervical screening rates will continue to be monitored by the National Cancer Intelligence Network and the Cancer Research UK Centre for Epidemiology, Mathematics and Statistics. This includes monitoring cervical abnormalities and cancer in the 20 to 24 year and 25 to 29 year age groups.

Continuing Care

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 50,000 of population received continuing care in each primary care trust area in England in each quarter of 2008. [290893]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Number receiving national health service continuing care in total and per 50,000 population, England, 2008-09

		Number receiving NHS continuing care				*Number per 50,000 population*			
Org code	*Org name*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
	England	37,920	40,649	43,455	46,599	37.5	40.0	42.7	45.8
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (PCT)	518	630	596	537	85.9	105.8	98.8	89.0
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	285	271	286	309	86.8	82.5	86.5	93.5
5A9	Barnet PCT	363	404	424	539	54.9	61.1	64.0	81.3
5JE	Barnsley PCT	70	78	99	143	15.2	16.9	21.4	30.9
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	38	38	24	41	17.9	17.9	11.3	19.2
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	234	298	212	240	63.8	81.3	57.0	64.5
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	151	152	175	246	18.5	18.7	21.3	29.9
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	535	557	277	238	70.4	73.3	36.0	31.0
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	186	157	239	223	20.7	17.5	26.3	24.5
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	155	158	165	430	36.9	37.6	39.1	102.0
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	220	263	220	267	27.8	33.2	27.6	33.5
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	46	75	74	68	15.2	24.8	24.5	22.5
5HP	Blackpool PCT	230	85	92	95	81.9	30.3	32.8	33.9
5HQ	Bolton PCT	175	218	245	265	33.3	41.5	46.7	50.5

Number receiving national health service continuing care in total and per 50,000 population, England, 2008-09

Org code	Org name	Number receiving NHS continuing care				Number per 50,000 population			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	418	352	349	811	65.9	55.4	54.3	126.2
5NY	Bradford and Airedale PCT	328	464	532	625	33.2	47.0	53.5	62.6
5K5	Brent PCT	344	330	343	385	61.2	58.7	61.3	68.8
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	156	146	183	188	30.0	28.4	35.3	36.3
5QU	Bristol PCT	295	266	278	323	34.9	31.5	32.5	37.7
5A7	Bromley PCT	173	210	231	238	28.7	34.8	38.1	39.2
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	375	387	380	423	38.9	39.2	38.3	42.76
5JX	Bury PCT	42	51	56	70	11.6	14.1	15.4	19.2
5J6	Calderdale PCT	179	234	222	254	45.0	58.8	55.4	63.4
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	387	489	590	673	34.9	42.9	51.1	58.2
5K7	Camden PCT	115	131	132	163	25.0	28.5	28.4	35.1
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	293	302	431	475	33.0	39.7	48.3	53.3
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	298	267	280	280	32.9	30.5	31.9	31.9
5C3	City and Hackney PCT	218	230	193	189	49.1	51.8	43.5	42.9
5QP	Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	684	664	692	670	65.7	63.8	65.8	63.7
5ND	County Durham PCT	575	643	643	567	56.9	63.6	63.1	63.5
5MD	Coventry PCT	449	362	379	307	89.6	56.1	58.7	55.3
5K9	Croydon PCT	311	353	326	315	46.8	53.1	48.6	47.0
5NE	Cumbria PCT	142	142	169	166	14.2	14.2	16.8	16.5
5J9	Darlington PCT	120	133	125	145	61.5	68.2	63.6	84.0
5N7	Derby City PCT	248	288	328	329	46.1	49.8	60.5	60.7
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	816	882	947	796	59.2	63.9	68.6	57.5
5QQ	Devon PCT	989	924	787	771	68.4	63.9	53.7	52.6
5N5	Doncaster PCT	410	326	342	356	70.1	55.7	58.3	60.7
5QM	Dorset PCT	539	640	480	547	71.1	84.4	62.8	71.5
5PE	Dudley PCT	214	214	386	271	35.5	35.5	64.1	45.0
5HX	Ealing PCT	85	184	180	168	13.3	28.8	28.1	26.2
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	211	203	196	219	19.3	18.6	17.8	19.9
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	190	211	217	251	25.4	28.2	29.0	33.5
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	86	106	103	136	14.2	17.5	16.9	22.3
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	181	205	374	261	27.8	31.7	57.2	39.9
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	406	406	453	423	28.6	28.6	31.6	29.5
5C1	Enfield PCT	239	256	254	185	44.7	44.1	51.1	34.5
5KF	Gateshead PCT	93	101	100	127	23.9	26.0	25.8	32.7
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	280	359	399	416	34.3	31.2	34.5	35.9
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	86	88	86	103	19.6	20.0	19.5	23.3
5A8	Greenwich PCT	147	144	136	133	31.9	31.3	29.5	28.9
5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	326	392	535	610	53.6	64.4	87.9	100.3
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	290	167	57	220	59.0	40.3	14.8	64.7
5QC	Hampshire PCT	1,940	1,433	1,328	2,205	70.2	58.6	53.7	89.2
5C9	Haringey PCT	258	268	250	250	50.1	43.9	52.0	52.0
5K6	Harrow PCT	320	344	344	200	86.7	86.7	86.6	50.4
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	123	113	113	102	68.8	63.3	62.0	56.0
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	155	81	115	87	45.6	23.7	33.5	25.4
5A4	Havering PCT	318	241	238	262	67.6	51.1	50.2	55.2
5MX	Heart of Birmingham PCT	57	72	94	83	10.1	12.8	16.7	14.7
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	218	253	332	256	62.5	66.8	95.0	73.2
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	139	98	109	110	34.0	24.0	26.7	27.0
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	376	351	294	281	78.3	73.1	61.2	58.5
5HY	Homerton PCT	292	142	177	160	66.3	32.2	40.1	36.2
5NX	Hull PCT	65	93	103	140	11.6	16.7	18.4	25.0
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	253	262	275	281	92.3	95.6	99.6	101.8
5K8	Islington PCT	95	121	132	250	23.7	32.7	35.2	50.7
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	205	134	177	190	54.2	40.8	46.5	49.9
5A5	Kingston PCT	83	84	93	113	24.3	24.8	24.7	32.8
5N2	Kirklees PCT	299	348	314	324	38.4	44.7	40.1	41.3
5J4	Knowsley PCT	148	101	29	178	48.9	33.4	9.6	58.2
5LD	Lambeth PCT	176	188	193	268	30.6	32.7	33.6	63.5
5N1	Leeds PCT	784	784	932	966	51.8	51.8	62.1	59.1
5PC	Leicester City PCT	162	186	202	213	26.5	30.4	32.7	34.5
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	312	440	402	404	24.4	34.4	31.1	31.3

Number receiving national health service continuing care in total and per 50,000 population, England, 2008-09

		Number receiving NHS continuing care				*Number per 50,000 population*			
Org code	*Org name*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
5LF	Lewisham PCT	140	140	150	283	28.4	27.4	30.3	55.0
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	239	564	528	526	17.3	40.7	37.6	37.6
5NL	Liverpool PCT	285	428	421	707	32.0	48.1	47.4	79.6
5GC	Luton PCT	125	123	143	215	34.1	33.5	38.6	58.1
5NT	Manchester PCT	219	262	311	307	22.8	27.3	32.0	31.6
5LJ	Medway PCT	99	106	127	156	18.7	20.0	23.9	29.0
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	201	147	208	174	28.5	20.8	29.2	24.4
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	140	133	114	139	51.4	46.2	39.6	48.2
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	65	69	73	79	14.1	15.0	15.7	17.0
5D7	Newcastle PCT	106	86	108	130	20.4	16.5	20,7	24.9
5C5	Newham PCT	223	224	221	232	44.0	44.2	43.4	45.6
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	339	287	334	410	23.7	20.1	25.8	28.3
5PW	North East Essex PCT	93	106	111	102	14.9	26.6	17.5	16.0
TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	132	112	174	157	40.2	34.1	53.2	48.0
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	330	423	417	435	50.8	65.1	63.9	66.6
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	143	165	207	225	45.3	52.3	65.4	71.1
5N8	North Somerset PCT	129	166	188	184	32.5	41.8	46.6	45.6
5PN	North Staffordshire PCT	146	161	175	179	35.8	39.5	42.9	43.9
5EJ	North Tees PCT	221	228	290	299	59.0	60.8	76.9	79.3
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	170	180	190	150	41.9	44.3	46.5	36.7
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	386	386	680	680	25.3	25.3	44.3	44.3
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	476	390	421	704	36.5	29.9	31.9	53.3
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	216	265	282	307	34.8	42.7	45.3	49.3
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	172	191	190	171	28.5	31.6	31.1	28.0
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	433	538	607	645	34.0	42.2	47.5	50.5
5J5	Oldham PCT	244	280	301	345	54.9	63.0	88.4	77.6
5QR	Oxfordshire PCT	441	565	548	495	36.2	46.4	39.9	40.4
5PN	Peterborough PCT	66	66	66	92	22.1	22.1	27.7	30.7
5F1	Plymouth PCT	388	486	471	620	80.4	98.1	94.1	123.9
5FE	Portsmouth City PCT	222	280	278	310	56.0	70.6	69.7	77.7
5NA	Redbridge PCT	179	98	89	114	37.7	20.7	18.5	23.8
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	65	59	72	80	24.5	22.2	27.1	30.1
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	160	107	155	171	30.5	31.0	44.8	49.4
5N8	Rotherham PCT	164	146	157	151	33.6	29.9	32.2	31.0
5P5	Salford PCT	242	239	231	254	54.5	47.3	47.3	57.1
5PV	Sandwell PCT	92	152	163	186	15.3	25.3	51.9	30.1
5NJ	Sefton PCT	174	178	167	154	32.1	32.8	30.9	28.5
5N4	Sheffield PCT	454	593	572	640	39.1	56.0	53.5	59.9
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	280	280	557	733	49.4	49.4	97.7	128.5
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	149	151	147	175	36.3	36.8	35.6	42.4
5QL	Somerset PCT	254	329	380	402	25.0	31.4	37.0	39.2
5M5	South Birmingham PCT	115	166	228	193	16.6	24.0	32.9	27.8
5P1	South East Essex PCT	38	59	68	78	5.8	8.9	10.2	11.7
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	139	166	171	184	28.1	34.6	35.3	38.0
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	310	335	338	338	26.7	28.8	29.0	29.0
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	89	98	102	110	29.5	32.5	47.0	36.4
5PY	South West Essex PCT	40	95	74	226	6.2	12.0	9.3	28.4
5LJ	Southampton City PCT	232	280	270	268	47.7	57.6	56.8	54.6
5LE	Southwark PCT	151	169	136	131	29.9	33.4	26.3	25.4
5P7	Stockport PCT	152	251	300	315	34.1	44.6	55.1	56.0
5P3	Stoke On Trent PCT	141	156	151	151	27.3	30.2	29.3	29.3
5PT	Suffolk PCT	190	214	290	392	16.3	18.4	24.7	33.3
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	257	262	278	299	46.9	47.8	50.7	54.6
5P5	Surrey PCT	641	634	770	682	30.2	29.9	35.9	31.8
5N7	Sutton and Merton PCT	216	258	270	254	28.8	34.4	36.9	33.6
5K3	Swindon PCT	73	87	87	135	19.3	23.0	22.6	35.1
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	195	191	178	199	43.3	42.4	39.1	44.2
5M8	Telford and Wrekin PCT	221	234	252	249	68.6	72.6	78.3	77.4
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	154	161	163	146	55.7	58.3	58.6	52.5
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	71	98	93	128	16.7	23.1	22.1	29.8
5N8	Trafford PCT	60	60	60	109	14.3	14.3	14.2	25.9
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	190	240	236	233	28.6	36.1	35.4	35.0

Number receiving national health service continuing care in total and per 50,000 population, England, 2008-09

Org code	Org name	Number receiving NHS continuing care				Number per 50,000 population			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
5M3	Walsall PCT	272	308	362	377	54.5	61.7	72.5	75.5
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	131	86	221	257	28.8	18.9	48.4	56.3
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	94	125	135	205	16.9	22.5	24.1	36.6
5J2	Warrington PCT	113	127	197	210	29.5	33.1	51.1	54.5
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	659	889	1,113	818	64.3	86.8	107.8	79.2
5PV	West Essex PCT	93	89	103	102	17.9	17.1	19.7	19.5
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	283	226	206	233	26.5	21.2	19.2	21.7
5P9	West Kent PCT	225	334	485	388	17.1	25.4	36.6	29.3
5P6	West Sussex PCT	592	952	1,215	431	38.5	61.9	78.5	27.8
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	135	152	152	176	27.6	31.1	30.9	35.8
5LC	Westminster PCT	186	129	130	138	40.1	27.8	27.7	29.4
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	315	339	257	364	36.6	39.4	29.5	41.8
5NK	Wirral PCT	143	170	182	255	23.0	27.3	29.4	41.2
5MV	Wolverhampton dry PCT	265	267	299	287	55.7	56.1	62.9	60.4
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	362	356	287	312	33.3	32.8	26.3	28.6

Source:
Department of Health forms: Vital Signs Monitoring Return (VSMR). GP membership populations—AD 2007 reconciled to Office for National Statistics mid-2006 estimates for local authorities (minus special populations), The Information Centre for health and social care

Dermatology: Manpower

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to increase the number of General Practitioners with a special interest in dermatology; [290673]

(2) what steps he is taking to increase the number of specialist nurses in dermatology. [290677]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Local health care commissioners and providers are responsible for the provision of services appropriate to the needs of their local health communities, taking into account relevant national guidance. The Government have made clear, in a series of publications beginning with the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say" in January 2006, their commitment to providing a greater proportion of services close to where people live, where it is appropriate and safe to do so. General guidance on the provision of services using general practitioners with special interests was given in "Implementing care closer to home: convenient quality care for patients" and guidance on the role of specialist nurses is described in "Long term neurological conditions: a good practice guide to the development of the multidisciplinary team and the value of the specialist nurse". Specific guidance on dermatology services was given in July 2008 in "Delivering care closer to home: meeting the challenge", and in the associated resource pack "Providing care for patients with skin conditions".

Diabetes: Health Services

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research his Department *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of diabetes networks, as defined in the National Service Framework for Diabetes, on patient outcomes for people with diabetes; [290763]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the quality of diabetes services provided by primary care trusts which (i) have an effective diabetes network as defined in the National Service Framework for Diabetes and (ii) do not have such a network. [290766]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We recognise the important role that diabetes networks can play in developing integrated services, as well as providing a structure for service planning and delivery. We are working with NHS Diabetes and Diabetes UK to expand networks across England.

We have not commissioned any specific research or evaluations on either the effects of diabetes networks on patient outcomes for people with diabetes or the quality of diabetes services provided by primary care trusts which have an effective diabetes network, and those that do not have such a network, as defined in the National Service Framework for Diabetes.

Doctors: Sports

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many persons are working as consultant physicians in sport and exercise medicine with the NHS; and how many such persons received *(a)* a certificate of eligibility for specialist registration and *(b)* a certificate of completion of training in sports and exercise medicine from a UK university in the last 12 months. [290626]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The national NHS workforce census shows that there are three consultants working in sport and exercise medicine.

There have been 11 certificate of eligibility for specialist registration (CESR) applications to date, with a further four currently with the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board.

Five people have completed CESR and achieved a certificate of completion of training.

Fertility

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued on the eligibility of a person classified as prematurely infertile for the full 10-year extension of storage of gametes and embryos referred to in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009 in circumstances in which that person's infertility would no longer be regarded as premature in the later stages of the 10-year extension; [290931]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued on the age at which infertility in *(a)* men and *(b)* women may be regarded as premature referred to in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009. [290932]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not issued guidance on the definition of premature infertility. The individual factors of each case would be taken into account by a registered medical practitioner when deciding if the criteria for extending storage periods for embryos or gametes are met. Therefore, it would not be appropriate for the Department, or the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), to give a definition of premature infertility or to specify an age when infertility would no longer be deemed premature.

Health Services: Overseas Residence

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-British residents received NHS treatment in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years; what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating each such group in each year; what proportion of such expenditure was recovered through charges to such patients and their insurers in each year; and if he will make a statement. [290671]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total audited national income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal arrangements and total losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors for years 2002-03 to 2008-09 for which figures are available for England and North East Cambridgeshire are shown in the tables.

The provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989 place a legal obligation on providers of National Health Service hospital services to establish whether patients are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and, if not, whether they are exempt from charges under the provisions of the regulations or liable to pay for any treatment provided. Under the regulations a number of categories of non-British citizens who are currently either resident or visiting the UK are exempted from charges for some or all of their NHS treatment. These include, but are not limited to, nationals of the European economic area states and other countries with which the UK has a bilateral health agreement, students and some workers.

The figures provided therefore reflect chargeable patients under these regulations. Successive governments have not required the NHS to provide separate statistics on the number of non-British residents seen, treated or charged under these provisions. Therefore, it is not possible to provide that level of information.

The total audited national income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal arrangements, and total losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors for years 2002-03 to 2008-09 for which figures are available for England.

£

	Non-reciprocal income received	*Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients*
2002-03	—	2,109,000
2003-04	9,178,000	3,334,173
2004-05	10,883,000	2,369,650
2005-06	13,070,000	3,883,017
2006-07	15,182,925	5,046,763
2007-08	18,167,000	6,468,751
2008-09	17,541,000	5,204,856

Notes:
1. 2003-04 was the first year we separately identified income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal agreements. Therefore there are no data before this time.
2. We do not collect data from NHS Foundation Trusts so figures from 2004-05 onwards exclude these sites.

Source:
NHS Trust Audited Summarisation Schedules.

The total audited income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal arrangements, and total losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors for years 2002-03 to 2008-09 for which figures are available for those organisations within North East Cambridgeshire.

Income

£

Financial year	*Addenbrookes NHS Trust*	*Kings Lynn and Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust*	*Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust*	*Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust*	*Total North East Cambridgeshire*
2003-04	217,000	19,000	—	74,000	310,000
2004-05	—	—	320,000	—	320,000
2005-06	—	—	0	—	0
2006-07	—	—	20,000	—	20,000
2007-08	—	—	65,000	—	65,000
2008-09	—	—	-3,000	—	-3,000

Losses and debts

£

Financial year	*Addenbrookes NHS Trust*	*Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*	*Kings Lynn and Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust*	*Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust*	*Total North East Cambridgeshire*
2002-03	19,000	—	1,000	—	20,000
2003-04	20,684	0	328	—	21,012
2004-05	—	961	—	13,084	14,045
2005-06	—	—	—	8,147	8,147
2006-07	—	—	—	0	0
2007-08	—	—	—	2,442	2,442

Losses and debits

£

Financial year	Addenbrookes NHS Trust	Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Kings Lynn and Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust	Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	Total North East Cambridgeshire
2008-09	—	—	—	3,286	3,286

Notes:
1. 2003-04 was the first year we separately identified income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal agreements. Therefore there are no income data before this time.
2. The Department keeps data from the individual Summarisation schedules of NHS bodies for seven years; therefore losses data are only available for the years 2002-03 to 2008-09.
3. In 2004-05 Addenbrookes NHS Trust obtained foundation status and became Cambridgeshire University Hospital Foundation Trust. The 2004-05 figure represents *onl*y the part of the year the organisation operated as a NHS Trust after which no national data have been collected.
4. In 2004-05 Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust obtained foundation status and became Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Foundation Trust. There are no losses data for Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust.
5. In 2004-05 Kings Lynn and Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust became Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust.
Source:
NHS Trust Audited Summarisation Schedule

Health Services: West Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many serious untoward incidents arising from the provision of patient care in out-of-hours and urgent care services were registered by each primary care trust in West Yorkshire in each quarter since April 2008. [290623]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected centrally.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what performance standards against the internal operating requirement benchmarks for measuring the quality of out-of-hours service providers were reported to each primary care trust in West Yorkshire in each quarter since April 2008. [290624]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected centrally.

From 1 January 2005 all providers of out-of-hours (OOH) services have been required to comply with the national OOH Quality Requirements, first published in October 2004 (a copy of which has been placed in the Library). Following the National Audit Office 2006 report The Provision of Out of Hours Care in England, the Department worked with the Royal College of General Practitioners to review the Quality Requirements, which were updated in July 2006.

All out-of-hours services must be delivered to the National Quality Requirements, ensuring that patients have access to consistently high quality and responsive care, regardless of where they live.

Providers must report regularly to primary care trusts on their compliance with the Quality Requirements, and their services will be regularly audited to ensure that patients are receiving quality care.

Hepatitis

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the rate of contraction of Hepatitis C via the sharing of notes and straws by cocaine users; what measures are in place to discourage this practice; and if he will make a statement. [290947]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not made such an estimate. Current advice from the Advisory Group on Hepatitis is that the sharing of bank notes or straws for intranasal cocaine use is a theoretically plausible route of hepatitis C transmission, but that robust evidence of an actual risk is lacking. The NHS hepatitis C website (www.nhs.uk/hepc) recommends that intranasal cocaine users do not share straws or banknotes because of this potential risk.

Hospitals: Food

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average daily allocation of funding is for food for a hospital inpatient. [290765]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There is no national health service daily allocation as such so this information is not collected in the precise format requested. However, information provided to the Department shows that in 2007-08 the average cost of feeding one patient per day was £6.97.

This cost relates to the average daily cost for the provision of all meals and beverages fed to one patient per day, across all NHS trusts in England. The cost should include all pay and non-pay costs, including provisions, ward issues, disposables, equipment and its maintenance.

The information has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Knee Replacements

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have provided Rheo knees to patients requiring an advanced technology leg prosthesis in the last two years. [290909]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I regret that the information requested is not collected centrally.

Medical Treatments: Compensation

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department last made provision for an ex-gratia payment to a patient group affected by a product dispensed by the NHS. [290683]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department provides funding to the following organisations who make ex-gratia payments related to contaminated blood or blood products.

The Macfarlane Trust, which was set up in 1988 to establish a hardship fund to assist haemophiliacs who contracted HIV following treatment with blood products on the national health service.

The Eileen Trust, which was set up in 1993 as a charitable trust to assist people other than those with bleeding disorders, who had contracted HIV through NHS treatment with contaminated blood products.

The Skipton Fund Ltd., which was set up in 2004 as an ex-gratia payment scheme for patients infected with hepatitis C through NHS contaminated blood and blood products, provided the patient was alive on 29 August 2003.

Funding is provided to the Macfarlane Trust and Eileen Trust twice a year. The Skipton Fund receives funding as required during the year.

Details of individual payments to patients are not held centrally by the Department.

Mental Health Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of adults receiving secondary mental health services were living in settled accommodation in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [290827]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The data requested for previous years are not currently collected, however information for 2008-09 is due to be published later this year.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the Exchequer of the NHS has been in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1990; and what proportion of (i) gross domestic product and (ii) public expenditure such expenditure represented in each such year. [290726]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Table 1 shows total net national health service expenditure in England in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1990.

Table 2 shows United Kingdom health expenditure as a proportion of (i) gross domestic product (GDP) and (ii) total managed expenditure.

Table 1: NHS Total Expenditure: England—1990-91 to 2010-11

			£ Billion
		Net NHS expenditure nominal[4]	*Net NHS expenditure real (2008-09 prices)*[4]
Cash[1]			
1990-91	Outturn	22.3	36.1
1991-92	Outturn	25.4	38.7
1992-93	Outturn	28.0	41.4
1993-94	Outturn	28.9	41.7
1994-95	Outturn	30.6	43.4
1995-96	Outturn	32.0	44.1
1996-97	Outturn	33.0	43.9
1997-98	Outturn	34.7	44.9
1998-99	Outturn	36.6	46.5
1999-2000	Outturn	39.9	49.6
Resource budgeting Stage 1[2]			
1999-2000	Outturn	40.2	50.0
2000-01	Outturn	43.9	54.0
2001-02	Outturn	49.0	58.9
2002-03	Outturn	54.0	62.9
Resource budgeting Stage 2[3,5]			
2003-04	Outturn	64.2	72.7
2004-05	Outturn	69.1	76.1
2005-06	Outturn	75.8	82.0
2006-07	Outturn	80.6	84.6
2007-08	Outturn estimated	89.3	91.2
2008-09	Outturn	94.5	94.5
2009-10	Plan	102.7	101.6
2010-11	Plan	105.8	103.2

Notes:
[1] Expenditure pre 1999-2000 is on a cash basis.
[2] Expenditure figures from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are on a stage 1 resource budgeting basis.
[3] Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2010-11 are on a stage 2 resource budgeting basis.
[4] Figures are not consistent over the period (1990-91 to 2010-11), therefore it is difficult to make comparisons across different periods.
[5] Figures from 2003-04 include a technical adjustment for trust depreciation.
[6] Expenditure excludes NHS (AME).
[7] GDP deflator 30 June 2009.
[8] Total Expenditure is calculated as the sum of revenue and capital expenditure net of non-trust depreciation and impairments. This is in line with HMT guidance.

Table 2: UK health expenditure as a proportion of (i) gross domestic product, and (ii) total managed expenditure

			Percentage
		UK public spending on health as a percentage of GDP	*UK public spending on health as a percentage of total managed expenditure*
Cash			
1993-94	Outturn	5.5	12.8
1994-95	Outturn	5.6	13.2
1995-96	Outturn	5.6	13.3
1996-97	Outturn	5.4	13.6
1997-98	Outturn	5.3	13.8
Accruals			
1998-99	Outturn	5.3	14.2
1999-2000	Outturn	5.2	14.4
2000-01	Outturn	5.5	14.9
2001-02	Outturn	5.8	15.4
2002-03	Outturn	6.1	15.7
2003-04	Outturn	6.5	16.5
2004-05	Outturn	6.8	16.8
2005-06	Outturn	7.1	17.1
2006-07	Outturn	7.0	17.2
2007-08	Outturn	7.2	17.5
2008-09	Estimated outturn	7.7	17.8

Source:
Calculated percentages use information on:
- Health Public Spending—Table 4.2/Table 4.4 HM Treasury PESA 2009
- ONS data for money GDP (not seasonally adjusted, BKTL)
- Total Managed Expenditure: Budget 2009 Table C17

GDP and public expenditure are reported on a UK basis by HM Treasury. In order to avoid a misleading calculation, UK based figures for health expenditure have been used in the calculation. The same method is applied in response to similar questions posed as part of the Health Select Committee's Public Expenditure Inquiry. Please note easily accessible health figures available on this basis only back to 1993-94.

NHS: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology his Department will use to assess the outcome of its individual budget pilots. [288889]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the response given on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 537W.

The Department has specified what the evaluation of the pilots should look at, rather than prescribing a particular methodology. Researchers have been invited to submit proposals explaining how they would meet that specification. This is the Department's normal approach. We are currently working to select an evaluation team and we hope to have one in place shortly.

The evaluation will cover five main areas: the effect on people's health and wellbeing, behavioural change by both individuals and national health service staff, financial outcomes, effects on the wider NHS, and how personal health budgets are delivered.

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of the NHS in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms per (i) family, (ii) household and (iii) person in England in each year since 1990. [290772]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows national health service expenditure per head in England since 1990. The Department does not routinely collect or collate data on a family or household basis so this further information has not been supplied. However, indicative estimates could be derived from expenditure per head figures.

Total net NHS expenditure per head for England 1990-91 to 2008-09

		Net NHS spend per head nominal (£)	*Net NHS spend per head real (2008-09 prices) (£)*
1990-91	outturn	468	756
1991-92	outturn	530	808
1992-93	outturn	583	863
1993-94	outturn	602	867
1994-95	outturn	634	900
1995-96	outturn	661	912
1996-97	outturn	680	904
1997-98	outturn	712	923
1998-99	outturn	740	939
1999-2000	outturn	810	1,008
2000-01	outturn	890	1,093
2001-02	outturn	980	1,178
2002-03	outturn	1,082	1,259
2003-04	outturn	1,218	1,379
2004-05	outturn	1,353	1,490
2005-06	outturn	1,451	1,569
2006-07	outturn	1,513	1,589
2007-08	outturn	1,626	1,662
2008-09	plan	1,774	1,774

Notes:
1. Gross Domestic Product deflator 30 June 2009.
Expenditure figures 1990-91 to 1997-98
2. Expenditure figures are on a cash basis.
3. Calculation derived from ONS Population mid-estimates. Expenditure figures 1998-99 to 2002-03.
4. Expenditure in 1998-99 is on a cash basis.
5. Expenditure figures from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are on a Stage 1 Resource Budgeting basis.
6. Per head figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
Source:
Expenditure figures for England - Department of Health, England.
Expenditure figures 2002-03 to 2008-09
7. Health Expenditure is defined under the HM Treasury's Total Expenditure on Services (TES aggregate). This definition allows comparison on the same basis between England and the Devolved Administrations. The TES definition of Health Expenditure for England includes most Department of Health resource near cash (excludes certain items e.g. grants to local authorities) plus local authority spending, Medical Research Council spending plus National Lottery spending on health.
8. Near cash can be defined as transactions that have an impact on cash flow in the short term, e.g. pay and pension costs on goods and services, or cash payments for the release of provisions.
Source:
HM Treasury Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2009 Tables 9.11 and 9.15
9. Figures are not consistent over the period therefore it is difficult to make comparisons across different periods
10. Figures may not be consistent with those published elsewhere due to updated sources.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the exemption from prescription charges for sufferers of coeliac disease. [290855]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the period 1 January 2009 to 1 September 2009, the Department received six written representations concerning the exemption of individuals with coeliac disease from prescription charges.

SunSmart

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will require the SunSmart campaign to use the funds allocated to it from the public purse to increase its level of activity in schools. [290676]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention and sun protection campaign, is run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the UK Health Departments. Schools have always been an important target audience for the campaign. All schools have been encouraged to develop their own sun protection policies with guidelines available from the SunSmart website at:

www.sunsmart.org.uk

which provides schools and parents with the opportunity to ask for further information around skin cancer and sun protection issues. The campaign also provides resources for schools which align with the national curriculum.

In spring 2009, a SunSmart competition aimed at raising awareness of SunSmart's sun protection messages ran across primary schools in England.

Swine Flu

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many of those with a virologically-confirmed case of H1N1 infection reported between 17 and 30 June 2009 inclusive were hospitalised as a result of the infection; and how many of those were aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* between 10 and 19, *(c)* between 20 and 29, *(d)* between 30 and 39, *(e)* between 40 and 49, *(f)* between 50 and 59 and *(g)* over 59 years of age; and for how many of those hospitalised no age was recorded; [290812]

(2) how many *(a)* male, imported, *(b)* female, imported, *(c)* male, indigenous, *(d)* female, indigenous and *(e)* other new cases of H1N1 were virologically confirmed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland between 17 June and 30 June 2009 inclusive; how many in each category related to patients (i) aged under 10, (ii) between (A) 10 and 19, (B) 20 and 29, (C) 30 and 39, (D) 40 and 49, (E) 50 and 59 and (F) 60 years or more and (iii) for whom no age is recorded; in respect of how many cases in each category the Health Protection Agency (HPA) has recorded (1) the date of onset of symptoms, (2) the date of swab sample for diagnosis and (3) the date of the H1N1 case report; and in how many such cases in each category the start date of antiviral prophylaxis or other treatment is also known to the HPA; [290813]

(3) how many of the confirmed cases of H1N1 infection in England and Wales reported by 16 June 2009 were hospitalised; and how many such patients were *(a)* aged (i) under 10, (ii) between 10 and 19, (iii) between 20 and 29, (iv) between 30 and 39, (v) between 40 and 49, (vi) between 50 and 59 and (vii) over 59 years old and *(b)* of unknown age. [290814]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is given in the following tables.

Not all of the data requested are available. Detailed information was collected on the first few hundred cases to provide information on the virus, it was not possible for the Health Protection Agency to continue to collect that level of detailed information as the number of cases increased.

Number of hospitalised virologically-confirmed pandemic influenza A(H1N1v) 2009 cases between 17-30 June 2009 reported to Health Protection Agency (HPA) Centre for Infections (CfI)[1]

Age group—years	*Number*
0-9	32
10-19	15
20-29	13
30-39	5
40-49	9
50-59	2
60+	3
Unknown age	1
Total	80

[1] These are the cases reported to HPA CfI between 17-30 June 2009 from England. No cases were reported for the period from Wales and Northern Ireland.

Imported and indigenous virologically-confirmed pandemic influenza A(H1N1v) 2009 cases known to the Health Protection Agency between 17 June and 30 June 2009 by age

		Age group—years								
Probable route of transmission	*Gender*	*0-9*	*10-19*	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*Age not known*	*Grand total*
Imported	Female	4	10	30	7	6	8	3	0	68
	Male	5	8	35	10	12	4	4	0	78
	Unknown gender	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Imported total		9	18	66	17	18	12	7	1	148
Indigenous	Female	355	482	328	124	88	56	21	21	1,475
	Male	393	568	316	74	52	31	13	17	1,464
	Unknown gender	276	311	104	60	35	13	4	38	841
Indigenous total		1,024	1,361	748	258	175	100	38	76	3,780
Unknown route of transmission	Female	42	38	24	9	12	6	3	4	138
	Male	44	60	22	6	10	8	2	3	155
	Unknown gender	42	51	24	11	9	1	1	50	189
Unknown route of transmission total		128	149	70	26	31	15	6	57	482
Grand total		1,161	1,528	884	301	224	127	51	134	4,410
Date of onset known		578	885	640	161	131	79	12	20	2,528
Date of onset not known		583	643	244	140	93	48	1	114	1,882

Imported and indigenous virologically-confirmed pandemic influenza A(H1N1v) 2009 cases known to the Health Protection Agency between 17 June and 30 June 2009 by age

Probable route of transmission	Gender	Age group—years 0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Age not known	Grand total
Grand total		1,161	1,528	884	301	224	127	13	134	4,410

Notes:
1. The 4,410 reports summarised in the table relate to the FluZone 'disaggregate' data set for England held at the HPA CfI and analysed on 30 June 2009.
2. Data on the date the sample was taken and on the date of commencement of antiviral prophylaxis or treatment are not available in the FluZone disaggregate dataset.

Number of hospitalised virologically-confirmed pandemic influenza A(H1N1v) 2009 cases reported by 16 June 2009, England (no hospitalised cases were known to the Health Protection Agency from Wales)

Age group—years	Number
0-9	2
10-19	0
20-29	1
30-39	1
40-49	1
50-59	0
60+	0
Unknown age	1
Total	6

Swine Flu: Drugs

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to maintain adequate levels of manufacturing capacity in the UK for generic *(a)* antibiotics and *(b)* anti-viral drugs; [290720]

(2) which suppliers of anti-viral drugs for the treatment of swine influenza manufacture such drugs in the UK. [290721]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The United Kingdom has stockpiled both Relenza, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), and Tamiflu, manufactured by Roche. Neither product is manufactured in the UK. Based on scientific advice from the British Thoracic Society, the Government have stockpiled 15.3 million treatment courses of antibiotics as part of their pandemic response.

In addition, the Office for the Life Sciences, working with relevant Whitehall departments including the Department of Health has recently published a Life Sciences Blueprint. This sets out the Government's commitments on a range of issues which we and industry have identified as being most important to make the UK attractive to the life sciences industries (including the pharmaceutical industry) including manufacturing.

Swine Flu: Northamptonshire

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what trends have been identified in the incidence of swine influenza in Northamptonshire. [290889]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on influenza-like illness by primary care trust is published on the Health Protection Agency website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/infections/primarycare.htm

Influenza-like illness has been declining in recent weeks, following a peak in July.

We are now relying on clinical diagnosis instead of laboratory confirmation to identify cases of swine flu and so no longer have detailed data about the precise number of cases. The estimated total number of cases of swine flu is mathematically modelled for England each week using the available surveillance information and the downward trend in cases is continuing.

Vulnerable Adults: Protection

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times his Department's Project Steering Group has convened since the publication of the No Secrets guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [290856]

Phil Hope: The review of the "No Secrets" guidance has been overseen by two groups; the Programme Board and the Advisory Group. The membership of both is published in the consultation document, "Safeguarding Adults: A consultation on the review of the 'No Secrets' guidance"—Department of Health, October 2008. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The remit of the Programme Board is to review the effectiveness of present multi-agency safeguarding and adult protection guidance in producing positive outcomes for individuals at risk of abuse in the light of emerging information from recent cases, recent inspections and in the context of the Government's overall policy agenda in both health and social care, and to carry out a national consultation on these issues. The Advisory Group's remit was to advise on issues relevant to the consultation. The Programme Board met on 21 May 2008, 25 June 2008, 9 October 2008 and 2 September 2009. The Advisory Group met on 7 May 2008, 26 September 2008 and 12 November 2008.

The consultation opened on 16 October 2008 and closed on 31 January 2009. The analysis of the consultation responses was published on 17 July 2009. The time taken to publish the analysis reflected the fact that some 12,000 people, including those with learning difficulties, older people, those with mental health problems and people from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, participated in the consultation.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Consultants

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many contracts have been granted to consultants in relation to London 2012 in each year since 2004; to whom the contract was granted in each case; what each project was; and how much each contract was worth. [277458]

Tessa Jowell: The procurement of consultancy services by both GOE and ODA is a planned response to the need to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees to deliver the London 2012 games on time and within a budget of £9.325 billion.

The consultants provide valuable short term support or key specialist skills and expertise not otherwise readily available.

The use of consultants has enabled us to make excellent progress across the many facets of the Olympic programme and in particular in the construction of the Olympic venues and development of legacy planning. As well as rapid progress we have seen significant savings across the venues and infrastructure construction programme, whose anticipated final cost (AFC) fell by £179 million from £7,413 million when we published the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report in January 2009 to £7,234 million when we published our Quarterly Economic Report in May 2009.

As the IOC recently recognised, inputs such as these are continuing to transform the Lower Lea Valley and provide a lasting legacy for the people of London and the UK.

Spending by the Olympic Delivery Authority on consultancy fees reduced from £19.8 million (3.7 per cent. of total ODA spend) in 2007-08 to £16 million (1.2 per cent.) in 2008-09.

This reduction reflects the shift from the planning, design and preparation phase of the programme, where consultancy costs are traditionally concentrated, to the development phase.

Spending by the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) on consultancy was £0.4 million in 2007-08 and £0.3 million in 2008-09, 4.6 per cent. and 3.4 per cent. respectively of GOE's total budget.

Details for contracts let by the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), the former Olympic Programme Support Unit and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to July 2008 were set out in the answer that I gave to the hon. Member on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 292W. I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses tables which set out in the following:

the details of contracts let by the GOE from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

The value of payments during the whole of 2008-09 to consultants who were contracted by the ODA during earlier years and remained engaged during 2008-09 and to those who were newly contracted during 2008-09. The table for ODA contractors excludes those listed in my earlier answer whose services ended before 2008-09 began. The information is, therefore, presented differently to that in my earlier answer, which listed the names of ODA's consultants by the year in which they were first contracted together with, in the case of each consultant, a cumulative figure for the value of ODA consultancy spend to July 2008.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether UK forces in Afghanistan have a guarantee of secondary medical support within an hour following a major injury. [289117]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Medical support in Afghanistan is provided in accordance with Military Medical Doctrine and takes account of the requirements of different types of injury. Operational and medical support planning is done in accordance with these guidelines. This doctrine allows two hours to get the casualty to a primary surgery facility.

All infantry troops are accompanied by a team medic, at a ratio of one to four, who is able to provide Role 1 care; immediate airway and haemorrhage control within 10 minutes. Battle Field Advanced Trauma Life Support (BATLS) is provided to all injured personnel within one hour; the airborne Medical Emergency Response Teams that are dispatched to incidents where casualties have been sustained bring Accident and Emergency (Role 2) level care and resuscitation, including the ability to ventilate patients and give blood during flight, to the front line.

The Allied Command Operations Directive 83-1 (Medical Support to Operations) requires that casualties requiring surgery should be under treatment in a correctly equipped facility, a Role 3 facility such as Camp Bastion Hospital, within two hours of being wounded. We adhere to this directive.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what Ridgback vehicles have been *(a)* delivered to and *(b)* shipped from the United Kingdom; and what the delivery number of each such shipment was. [290922]

Mr. Quentin Davies: 157 base vehicles ordered under the Ridgback programme have been delivered to the UK. I am withholding details of vehicles delivered to Theatre as this could compromise operational security.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects Ridgback vehicles to be used in operations. [290923]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Ridgeback vehicles have been used operationally in Afghanistan since June this year.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Ridgback vehicles will be fitted with new suspension units to improve off-road performance. [290924]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Ridgback does not have any suspension problems. Trials are due to begin in October 2009, looking at ways of improving the mobility and payload of the various Ridgback variants, and as part of this alternative suspension systems will be investigated. This is part of the ongoing improvement programme for all protected mobility vehicles; as the first phase of the trial and evaluation process is not due to complete until the end of this year, it is too early to say what modifications might be made.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made in the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle programme; and if he will make a statement. [290955]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Some 30 expressions of interest were received for the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle programme following publication in the Defence Contracts Bulletin on 25 February 2009. Pre-Qualification Questionnaires were issued in response to these expressions of interest and 16 responses have been received; these are currently being evaluated and down-selected. The intention is that the vehicle should enter service in 2011.

Defence Trade Treaty

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the US-UK bilateral defence trade treaty to be ratified. [290787]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1808W, to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr. Wallace).

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288903]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Performance figures for June 2009, against the Government's agreed 10 day payment target, are as follows:

	Percentage
FMSSC	97.5
Met Office	92.3
UKHO	97.4
DSTL	27.8

We are working with the Defence Support Group towards a target to pay trade creditors' invoices within 10 days of receipt.

Departmental Expenditure

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department incurred in *(a)* equipment expenditure, *(b)* non-equipment expenditure, *(c)* service personnel costs and *(d)* civil personnel costs in Scotland in each year since 1997. [290801]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Estimated direct MOD expenditure in Scotland under the categories requested for the years where data are available (i.e. 2001-02 to 2006-07) are presented in the following table:

VAT exclusive at current prices (£ million)

Scotland	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total	1,480	1,560	1,720	1,630	1,720	1,620
of which:						
(a) Equipment expenditure	450	580	670	600	560	520
(b) Non Equipment expenditure	320	270	300	290	400	320
(c) Service personnel costs	480	510	570	560	560	590
(d) Civilian personnel costs	230	200	180	180	200	190

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
2. Figures relate to expenditure in the whole Scottish Government Office Region rather than to any individual military or civilian establishments.
3. Indirect expenditure, such subcontracted work, is not reflected in the figures.
4. Personnel costs exclude contributions made by MOD to the Armed Forces Pensions Scheme and War Pensions Scheme.
5. Data were either not prepared or were deemed not to be of sufficient quality prior to 2001-02.

Helicopters: Nepal

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcomes were of his Department's investigation into the gifting of two M1-17 helicopters from the Conflict Prevention Fund to the Royal Nepal Army in 2002; and if he will make a statement. [290892]

Bill Rammell: After investigation, MOD Police Fraud Squad concluded that there was no evidence of criminality in the procurement and purchase process of these helicopters, nor any misappropriation or misuse of UK Government funds. The Nepalese Government has been advised to dispose of them in the manner which best suits them.

Manpower: Fife

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of civilian jobs there have been in the defence sector in Fife in each year since 1997. [290678]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Figures for the numbers of MOD civilian personnel who are directly employed at MOD establishments/bases located in the Fife local authority area in each of the years since 1997 where data are available are presented in the following table. Requested information prior to 2007 broken down at local authority level is not available and cannot be compiled without incurring disproportionate costs.

Table 1: MOD civilian personnel directly employed in MOD establishments/ bases located in the Fife local authority area as at 1 January of each year.

	Number
2007	790
2008	770
2009	730

Source:
DASA CPS06

Estimates for those people employed directly and indirectly in industry and commerce in Scotland in those companies that receive contracts directly from MOD and indirectly through the supply chain supporting such contracts (for each of the last five years) where data are available are presented in the following table. Requested information prior to 2002-03 broken down at local authority level is not available and cannot be compiled without incurring disproportionate costs.

Table 2: Estimated Direct employment dependent on MOD expenditure in Scotland

	Direct	*Indirect*	*Total*
2002-03	10,000	2,500	12,500
2003-04	10,000	2,500	12,500
2004-05	9,000	2,500	11,500

Table 2: Estimated Direct employment dependent on MOD expenditure in Scotland

	Direct	Indirect	Total
2005-06	9,000	2,500	11,500
2006-07	7,000	2,000	9,000

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 500 jobs
Source:
DASA

Missiles

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what tracking system for missiles his Department will use in circumstances in which its proposal to close its base on St. Kilda is implemented. [290696]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There is no intention to close the St. Kilda base. Under the proposals to rationalise the use of the MOD Hebrides ranges, the more modern G-Band radars based on South Uist would perform the missile tracking role in place of the ageing I-Band NIDIR radars based on St. Kilda.

Navy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of operating a *(a)* Type 22, *(b)* Type 23 and *(c)* Type 42 vessel was in the last year for which information is available; and what the estimated annual cost of operating a Type 45 vessel is. [287196]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Operating costs for Royal Navy vessels are not held centrally. Officials are, however, in the process of compiling this information and I will write to you once the work has been completed.

Substantive answer from Quentin Davies to Michael Hancock:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 1 September 2009 (Official Report, column 1804W) regarding the operating costs for various Royal Navy vessels.

As you are aware from my previous answer, such costs are not held centrally within the Ministry of Defence. Officials have, however, consolidated the key cost driver information in order to provide you with approximate annual operating costs for Type 22 and Type 23 Frigates, and Type 42 Destroyers. Current estimates of the operating costs for Type 45 Destroyers have also been provided.

I should first make clear that, as the Type 45 Destroyers have not fully entered service with the Royal Navy, their costs are estimates and not directly comparable with the actual operating costs provided for in-service vessels. This is due to the different cost base information that has been used in determining operating costs for each class of vessel, which is explained below.

As you will also be aware, in-service Class operating costs are heavily influenced by an individual ship's operational tasking and upkeep/maintenance regime during any particular 12 month period. Direct comparisons can, therefore, be misleading and should be avoided. For the same reasons it is pragmatic to only provide operating costs for each class of ship, rather than for an individual vessel.

The annual operating cost for the Type 22 Class of Frigates, which comprises four ships, is £129.8M. This is based on information primarily from Financial Year 07/08 the last year for which this information is available, and includes typical day-to-day costs such as fuel and manpower and general support costs covering maintenance, repair and equipment spares. Costs for equipment spares are also included, although these are based on Financial Year 08/09 information as this is the most recent information available. Costs for weapon system support are not included as they could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The Type 23 Class of Frigates, comprising 13 vessels, has a combined annual operating cost of £340.3M. This figure is derived in the same way as that for the Type 22 Class cost.

The annual operating cost of the Type 42 Class of Destroyers, covering a total of eight vessels in the 07/08 period, is £250.8M. The costs have been derived in the same way as the Type 22 and 23 Frigates.

Turning to the Type 45 Destroyers, their actual running costs cannot be provided as the First of Class, HMS DARING, has not yet entered operational service with the Royal Navy. For the purpose of internal planning, however, estimates have been derived from cost modelling based on a class of six ships, which indicate a support cost of around £188 million per annum for the Class. This figure includes support for weapon systems (including the Sea Viper missile system) but excludes a number of other operational costs, such as berthing and fuel, which have yet to be determined.

I hope this information is helpful.

Navy: Scalpay

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received reports of the involvement of a Royal Navy submarine in an incident off the Isle of Scalpay on 24 July 2009. [290797]

Bill Rammell: A Royal Navy submarine was conducting routine training off the Isle of Scalpay on the 24 July 2009, but it was not involved in any incident. A Scottish Fisheries Protection vessel and a Maritime Patrol Aircraft were also in the area at the time, but these units were not involved in any coordinated activity.

NIDAR Radar System

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how often he expects the NIDAR radar system on St. Kilda to be used in each of the next seven years. [290695]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We are unable to predict how often the I-Band NIDIR radar on St. Kilda will be used in each of the next seven years. They are, however, currently used infrequently and this usage will continue to decline as the majority of the current and planned weapons systems are equipped for G-Band radar tracking.

St. Kilda

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what mechanisms the outer range area will be *(a)* monitored and *(b)* used by his Department in circumstances in which its proposal to close its base on St. Kilda are implemented. [290697]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The proposal would not involve the closure of the St. Kilda base. Range area monitoring would also not be affected by this proposal. The surveillance radars on St. Kilda remain but would be remotely controlled and deep range clearance would therefore be unaffected.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of his Department's likely expenditure on the Initial Gate phase for Trident. [288778]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK's nuclear deterrent comprises a number of elements, including the Trident D5 missile system, the nuclear warhead and the Vanguard Class submarines. Decisions are not required in the near future on the D5 missile or the warhead and neither will be included in the forthcoming Initial Gate business case, which will concentrate on the replacement submarine and associated propulsion system.

Initial Gate is a decision point in the acquisition process. The final spend on reaching Initial Gate cannot be calculated until after that point is reached; however, the total spend on the replacement submarine and associated propulsion system since the beginning of April 2007 to the end of June 2009 is some £250 million.

Until Initial Gate decisions are made it is too early to say what the likely expenditure will be for the period between that time and the Main Gate decision point.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the final Reaper unmanned air system to be delivered; [290783]

(2) when he expects the third Reaper unmanned air system to be cleared to fly in US airspace; [290784]

(3) how many flight training hours have been purchased from the United States Air Force to train Royal Air Force crews on the Reaper unmanned air system; and what the cost was of that purchase. [290785]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The final Reaper unmanned air vehicles are due to be delivered in 2010. I am withholding further details as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

We are delivering the training of UK Reaper mission crews through a combination of places on the US Air Force Reaper Formal Training Unit and the UK Reaper Operational Conversion Course based at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada. I am withholding further details of the support provided by the US Air Force as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

In the longer term, the UK is exploring the viability of basing and flying a UK Reaper unmanned air vehicle in US airspace to support UK mission crew training. We are, however, in the very early stages of this complex process and it is too early to comment on when a UK Reaper unmanned air vehicle might require or receive clearance to fly in US airspace.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on the provision of allotments by local authorities; what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the matter since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [290742]

Mr. Ian Austin: The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide sufficient allotments where they consider that there is a demand for them in their area.

Government do not provide a formula for local authorities to determine the number of allotments they should provide. However, the Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation 2002 (PPG17) requires local authorities to make provision for all types of open space and requires them to undertake robust assessments of local needs and audits of existing open space, to establish standards for new provision. The accompanying guidance to PPG17 advises local authorities on setting local standards.

Given the ever increasing demand for allotments, my Department has recently written to the Government Office responsible for determining applications for consent for disposal of statutory allotments in England on behalf of the Secretary of State, to stress the need to demand and scrutinise evidence from local authorities to support their applications for allotment disposals.

"Growing in the Community", a good practice guide to assist those who manage allotments to work effectively, was published by the Local Government Association in 2001. This was updated in March 2008.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated to each group receiving funding under the Prevent Partnership area-based grant in each area since 2008. [290716]

Mr. Ian Austin: 78 local authorities in England received Prevent funding through Area Based Grant in 2008-09. 82 local authorities received funding in 2009-10. They are:

Region	*Local authority*	*£ 2008-09*	*£ 2009-10*
London	London Borough of Hounslow	165,000	218,292
	London Borough of Brent	205,000	268,292
	London Borough of Ealing	205,000	268,292
	London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	125,000	168,292
	London Borough of Harrow	145,000	193,292
	London Borough of Hillingdon	125,000	168,292
	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	105,000	143,292
	London Borough of Barnet	165,000	218,292
	London Borough of Bexley	—	143,292
	London Borough of Bromley	105,000	143,292
	London Borough of Camden	185,000	243,292
	London Borough of Croydon	165,000	218,292
	London Borough of Enfield	185,000	243,292
	London Borough of Greenwich	125,000	168,292
	London Borough of Hackney	205,000	268,292

Region	Local authority	2008-09 £	2009-10 £
	London Borough of Haringey	185,000	243,292
	London Borough of Islington	145,000	193,292
	London Borough of Lambeth	145,000	193,292
	London Borough of Lewisham	125,000	168,292
	London Borough of Merton	125,000	168,292
	London Borough of Newham	325,000	418,292
	London Borough of Redbridge	205,000	268,292
	London Borough of Southwark	145,000	193,292
	London Borough of Tower Hamlets	365,000	468,292
	London Borough of Waltham Forest	225,000	293,292
	London Borough of Wandsworth	145,000	193,292
	City of Westminster	165,000	218,292
	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	—	143,292
	London Borough of Sutton	105,000	143,292
	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	145,000	193,292
	London Borough of Kingston upon Thames	105,000	143,292
South West	Bristol City Council	125,000	168,292
South East	Aylesbury Vale Council	105,000	143,292
	Brighton and Hove City Council	—	143,292
	Crawley Borough Council	105,000	143,292
	Oxford City Council	105,000	143,292
	Slough Borough Council	145,000	193,292
	Reading UA	105,000	143,292
	Woking Borough Council	105,000	143,292
	Wycombe District Council	125,000	168,292
	Southampton City Council	105,000	143,292
	Portsmouth Council	105,000	143,292
East of England	Bedford Borough Council	105,000	143,292
	Luton Borough Council	185,000	243,292
	Peterborough City Council	125,000	168,292
	Watford Borough Council	105,000	143,292
	St. Albans District Council	—	143,292
East Midlands	Leicester City Council	205,000	268,292
	Derby City Council	125,000	168,292
	Nottingham City Council	125,000	168,292
	Milton Keynes Council	105,000	143,292
	Northampton Borough Council	105,000	143,292
West Midlands	Birmingham City Council	645,000	818,292
	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	145,000	193,292
	Walsall Council	145,000	193,292
	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	105,000	143,292
	Stoke-on-Trent City Council	125,000	168,292
	Coventry Council	125,000	168,292
	East Staffordshire Borough Council	105,000	143,292
	Wolverhampton City Council	105,000	143,292
Yorkshire and Humber	Calderdale	125,000	168,292
	Leeds City Council	165,000	218,292
	Kirklees	245,000	318,292
	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	105,000	143,292
	Sheffield Council	193,000	243,292
North East	Middlesbrough Borough Council	105,000	143,292
	Newcastle City Council	125,000	168,292
North West	Bolton	165,000	218,292
	Bury	105,000	143,292
	Manchester	225,000	293,292
	Oldham	185,000	243,292
	Rochdale	165,000	218,292
	Stockport	105,000	143,292
	Tameside	105,000	143,292
	Trafford	105,000	143,292
	Blackburn and Darwen	185,000	243,292
	Burnley	105,000	143,292
	Hyndburn	105,000	143,292
	Pendle	125,000	168,292
	Preston	125,000	168,292
	Liverpool	105,000	143,292

Figures for 2009-10 include the additional funding for Prevent announced by the Communities Secretary on 28 August.

In April 2009 the then Secretary of State provided a list of groups that local authorities funded in 2008-09 using Area Based Grant, in support of their work on Prevent. This information was placed in the House Library.

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of council rent receipts were remitted to the Government for redistribution in each of the last five years; and how much each local authority received in redistributed rents in each such year. [290811]

Mr. Ian Austin: Tables containing this information have been placed in the House Library.

Departmental Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 11 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, what the reasons are for the increase in the cost of central administration from 2009-10 to 2010-11; and for what reasons the cost of that increase has not been met from annual efficiency savings. [290733]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department's central administration spending plans (as reported in the 2008-09 Resource Accounts) include the ringfenced administration budget, the Department's own capital expenditure and other current expenditure. It is an increase in the budget for other current expenditure that accounts for the reported increase in budgets between 2009-10 and 2010-11. These costs sit outside of the Department's administration budget, on which it is expected to deliver 5 per cent. annual efficiency savings. Plans for administration spending in 2009-10 and 2010-11 take full account of the efficiency savings required.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department are employed in a non-party political advisory role on a fixed-term contract for up to 12 months; and how many such staff have been recruited in the last 12 months. [290735]

Mr. Ian Austin: Civil servants provide impartial advice to Ministers whether employed on fixed-term, permanent or other recognised contractual terms. At 31 July 2009, Communities and Local Government employed 59.5 Full Time Equivalent staff on fixed-term contracts.

In the 12 month period to 31 August 2009, our personnel records show that Communities and Local Government made 17 appointments on fixed-term contracts of up to 12 months.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 656W, on Tony Clements, whether Mr Clements *(a)* held a previous position in and *(b)* acted as a consultant to his Department prior to his appointment as a policy adviser in the Department. [290658]

Mr. Ian Austin: Tony Clements has neither held a previous position in the Department nor acted as a consultant to the Department.

Departmental Property

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Crown Estate properties his Department owns; and what the *(a)* most recent assessed market and *(b)* book value is of each such property. [290941]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer to the Department for Communities and Local Government Resources Accounts 2008-09 (for year ended 31 March 2009) available on the website

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1299006.pdf

As at 31 March 2009 the following properties were revalued professionally in accordance with RICS Valuations Standards, by ATISReal Limited—Chartered Surveyors and International Real Estates Consultants.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, London was valued during March 2009 by ATISReal. The total valuation was reported at £25,000,000 but with a value of £21,500,000 in the Department's books because of a trading fund outside interest in the property.

Burlington House, Piccadilly, London was valued during March 2009 by ATISReal, at £250,000. Due to the Department's reversionary interest in the property a detailed reinspection was not carried out for the 2009 report.

Fire Experimental Unit Offices and Stores, (on the Fire Service College site) Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire was valued during March 2009 by ATISReal. The total valuation was reported at £1,700,000.

Hanger97, Little Rissington, Gloucestershire was valued during March 2009 by ATISReal Chartered Surveyors. The total valuation was reported at £700,000.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate she has made of the annual emissions savings which would be realised if all Government department headquarters buildings were fully to implement the recommendations made in respect of their assessments for energy performance certificates; and if she will make a statement. [290901]

John Healey: We have not made such an estimate. Energy performance certificates (EPCs) are required on sale, rent or construction of all non-domestic properties from October 2008. Prior to this, EPCs were required on sale, rent or construction of non-domestic properties over 10,000 m^2 from April 2008 and over 2,500 m^2 from July 2008. Few Government department headquarter buildings would have required an EPC since their introduction.

Government Office for London: Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialists and *(d)* executive support and administration staff are employed by the Government Office for London (GOL); how many such staff are (i) on secondment from each Government department, (ii) employed directly by GOL on permanent contracts and (iii) employed directly by GOL on temporary contracts; and what the planned total salary cost is for each group of such staff in 2009-10. [290943]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table sets out permanent, seconded and temporary staff paid for by

GOL as at August 2009 and the projected salary costs for each group for 2009-10.

		Staff seconded to GOL from departments and other organisations				
Staff	*Department*	*Number of staff*	*Permanent GOL Staff*	*Fixed term appointments and agency staff*	*Total staff*	*Total salary cost (£)*
Directors and Deputy Directors (senior managers)	DWP	1	0	0	9	975,236
	CLG	3				
	HO	1				
	DCSF	2				
	DFT	2				
Specialists	Cabinet Office	1	6	0	8	451,486
	CLG	1				
All other staff	CLG	9	150	8	183	8,630,033
	HO	1				
	MOJ	2				
	Defra	1				
	Other	3				
Salary cost (£)		1,774,830	8,130,929	142,995	200	10,056,755

Housing: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what bids for housing capital finance by *(a)* Barnet Council, *(b)* Barratt Homes and *(c)* housing associations in respect of housing projects in Barnet have been (i) made, (ii) granted, (iii) refused and (iv) remain to be taken up after being granted to (A) central Government directly, (B) the Housing Corporation and (C) the Homes and Communities Agency for (1) affordable loans for subsidised purchase and (2) social housing for rent; under what schemes each bid was made; and what the (x) sum bid for, (y) number of properties involved and (z) proposed tenure mix was in each case. [29847]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows bids received, approved and rejected through the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) (and prior to 1 December 2008 the Housing Corporation's) Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) in 2008-09 for low cost home ownership and social housing for rent. These bids were made by registered social landlords and other providers for schemes sponsored in Barnet. Bids received from Barratt Homes totalled £0.3 million for eight units in 2008-09 and are included in the low cost home ownership bid figure. Barnet council did not bid for AHP funding from the HCA in 2008-09.

The balance between all bids and the sum of allocations made and bids rejected can be due to withdrawal of scheme, decision pending or scheme being resubmitted.

All bids received 2008-09

HCA affordable housing programme	*Grant (£ million)*	*Units*
Total social rent	116.8	770
Total low cost home ownership	16.4	322
Grand total	134.1	1,353

Allocations made 2008-09

HCA affordable housing programme	*Grant (£ million)*	*Units*
Total social rent	76.0	494
Total low cost home ownership	11.8	235
Grand total	87.8	729

All rejected 2008-09

HCA affordable housing programme	*Grant (£ million)*	*Units*
Total social rent	37.1	249
Total low cost home ownership	2.9	59
Grand total	40.9	569

In addition, Barrett Developments PLC has been short listed for HCA Kickstart programme funding in July 2009 for a development of the 'Stonegrove' project in Edgware, which is now undergoing a process of due diligence before the HCA confirms if it will support each scheme. The shortlist has been published at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/kickstart-response-shows-industry-appetite?p=3

Other programmes within CLG do not provide homes for social rent or affordable loans for subsidised purchase.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales have a conservatory according to records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [290804]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 2 September 2009, the number in England was 790,429. Matters in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

LLM Communications

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1661-2W, on LLM Communications, which Minister in his Department authorised the payment to LLM Communications for services in respect of the Campaign for More and Better Housing. [290659]

John Healey: In 2006 the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly), granted the Campaign for More and Better Homes £25,000 + VAT to help fund a series of regional housing debates.

Local Government Ombudsman

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place for oversight of the work of the Local Government Ombudsman; and if he will make a statement. [290736]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Through the Local Government Act 1974 Parliament has established the local government ombudsman as independent of both central Government and local government. Parliament has required the ombudsman to present an annual report to it and the ombudsman's decisions, including on individual cases, can be subject to judicial review by the courts.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future oversight of the work of the Local Government Ombudsman; and what representations he has received on the creation of a body to oversee that work. [290737]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Through the Local Government Act 1974 Parliament has established the local government ombudsman as independent of both central Government and local government. Parliament has required the ombudsman to present an annual report to it and the ombudsman's decisions, including on individual cases, can be subject to judicial review by the courts. We consider this sufficient.

The Department occasionally receives correspondence or take telephone calls from members of the public seeking clarification on who supervises the work of the ombudsman.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of arrangements for *(a)* new and *(b)* current local government employees; and if he will make a statement. [290734]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The affordability, viability and the fairness of the Local Government Pension Scheme to taxpayers is kept under regular review. The triennial actuarial valuation exercise of all 89 Scheme pension funds ensures that their pension liabilities can be met, sets affordable employer contribution rates and maintains on-going stability and discipline in overall funding. Regulatory changes to ensure an equitable balance between employers' and members' contributions towards the cost of providing pensions are already in place. If further amendments to the Scheme became necessary, a consultation with Scheme stakeholders will take place, as required by the Superannuation Act 1972.

Non-Domestic Rates

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to extend Small Business Rate Relief to cover enterprises with an annual turnover of less than £500,000; and if he will make a statement. [290858]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have no plans to make such a change. The Small Business Rate Relief scheme is based on the rateable value of premises and is targeted at small businesses occupying premises with low rateable values. Billing authorities do not hold the data on businesses occupying property liable for business rates which would be necessary to base eligibility for Small Business Rate Relief on business turnover rather than the rateable value of their property.

Non-Domestic Rates: Public Consultation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has plans to *(a)* extend the closing date of his Department's consultation on transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England and *(b)* bring forward the publication date of the 2010 ratings list, in order to make available to companies details of their updated rateable values before such companies make submissions to that consultation. [290942]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have no plans to extend the closing date for the consultation on the transitional arrangements or to bring forward the publication of the draft 2010 rating lists. The closing date for the consultation of 23 September is required to ensure regulations implementing the transitional arrangements can be made by the end of December 2009 as required by statute. The draft rating lists and summary valuations will not be ready for publication before 30 September.

Standards Board for England: Public Relations

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Standards Board for England has incurred expenditure on external public relations companies in the last 18 months. [290661]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Out of their budget of £8.2 million for 2008-09 and £7.4 million for 2009-10, which we have provided for the Standards Board for England, the Board spent £416,000 in 2008-09 and plans to spend £325,000 in 2009-10 on external public relations, including outsourcing the production of guidance and training materials for local authorities and the organisation of its Annual Assembly of Standards Committees.

Sustainable Development

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of sustainable procurement policies in each region; and what account he expects to be taken of such policies in the setting of annual carbon budgets. [290650]

John Healey: Regional Development Agencies and local authorities are autonomous bodies responsible for taking their own procurement decisions, subject to the requirements of domestic and European legislation and to the ELV UK regulatory framework. Ministers have no ability to intervene in individual procurement decisions. Existing guidance to local authorities recommends that they take account of sustainability and quality when considering both service delivery options and service suppliers.

Regional Development Agencies are working closely with Government to improve the basis for sustainable procurement, and the RDA Sustainable Procurement Working Group is working to align policies and practices in a consistent fashion across all RDAs.

In November 2007, the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) in conjunction with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the North East Centre of Excellence, published a 'Sustainable Procurement Strategy for Local Government' which included a route map of actions for local authorities to ensure they are compatible with the principles of sustainable procurement and development. The IDeA concluded that many local authorities have already attained significant progress in meeting their target to drive up standards in sustainable procurement.

There is no requirement for regions to have carbon budgets. However, we will expect regions to contribute fully to the delivery of the Low Carbon Transition Plan and the Renewable Energy Strategy, including regional targets for the delivery of renewables. The national performance framework for local authorities includes indicators on reducing carbon emissions in their areas, and from their operations, and a large number of authorities have chosen to include these indicators in their Local Area Agreement. The recent consultation document: Strengthening Local Democracy set out proposals on how local authorities could further contribute to meeting national carbon emission targets perhaps through developing their own local carbon budgets. It will be for regional and local authorities to determine how they might meet regional and/or local targets and the role which sustainable procurement policies could play in doing so.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities and regional planning bodies on the conduct of and methodology for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments (GTAAs); whether it is his Department's policy that GTAAs should take into account the extent to which the provision of new traveller sites is likely to attract residents from outside the *(a)* local authority and *(b)* study area; and what guidance his Department has issued on the extent to which such potential demand should be reflected in assessments of need. [290803]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government published guidance on "Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments" in October 2007.

The guidance provides advice to local authorities on carrying out assessments of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. It states that the exact approach will need to be adapted to local circumstances.

The responsibility for carrying out the assessment rests with individual local authorities. However, the guidance strongly recommends that local authorities work in partnership with neighbouring authorities. Such an approach will provide a better understanding of migration into, out of, and within the survey area and a better understanding of travelling patterns, particularly where they cross administrative boundaries, factors which must be understood if appropriate provision is to be made.

The guidance advises that the most accurate possible projection of future as well as current need, covering the next 5-10 years, should be made in the assessment. This would include analysis of travelling patterns within the survey area and in and out of surrounding areas; the likely rate of household formation and annual population increase and the intentions of those households planning to move.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local planning authorities on whether likely effect on property values is a material consideration in assessing planning applications for Traveller sites. [290805]

Mr. Ian Austin: Guidance on what matters may be considered as material considerations in assessing planning applications is set out in the 'The Planning System: General Principles', which is an Annex to PPS1. This confirms that material considerations must be genuine planning considerations, i.e. they must be related to the development and use of land in the public interest. The considerations must also fairly and reasonably relate to the application. Ultimately, the Courts are the arbiters of what constitutes a material consideration.

Any development may affect the value of one or more existing properties, either positively or negatively. However, in considering planning applications, including those for Traveller sites, case law, e.g. Great Portland

Estate v. Westminster City Council [1985], has established that the impact of the proposed development on purely private interests cannot generally constitute a material consideration.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1700W, on planning permission, what guidance has been provided to local planning authorities on equality and diversity in decisions on planning applications relating to Travellers. [290910]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning policy for Gypsy and Traveller sites is contained in ODPM Circular 01/06 "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites". This confirms that Gypsies and Travellers have the same rights and responsibilities within the planning system as all other applicants for planning permission. The Circular includes guidance highlighting the general duty that local authorities have under the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to actively seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations in all they do. This duty does not give Gypsies and Travellers a right to establish sites in contravention of planning control.

JUSTICE

International Criminal Court

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals for the amendment of the International Criminal Court Act 2001 to allow those suspected of committing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity prior to 2001 to be prosecuted in UK courts. [288835]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 41-42WS. The statement confirmed that we will bring forward amendments to the Coroners and Justice Bill for consideration at Report stage of the Bill. We intend, as far as is permissible under the legal principles applicable to retrospection, to cover the categories of crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity from 1 January 1991.

Arrests: Bicycles

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of being under the influence of alcohol while in charge of a bicycle in (i) Test Valley Borough and (ii) Southampton in each of the last five years; [287760]

(2) how many people were *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of being under the influence of illegal drugs while riding a bicycle on a public road in (i) Test Valley Borough and (ii) Southampton in each of the last five years. [287761]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. The alcohol related offences presented in the table are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

Information showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offences "Pedal cyclist driving under the influence of drink or drugs" under section 30 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act and "Being drunk in charge of a carriage, horse, cattle or steam engine" under section 12 of the 1872 Licensing Act, in the Hampshire Police Force Area from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The Ministry of Justice do not centrally collect charging data; proceeded against information has been provided in lieu. Data are not collected centrally below police force area; therefore information relating to Test Valley borough and Southampton cannot be provided.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the offences "Pedal cyclist driving under the influence of drink or drugs"[1] (section 30 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act) and "Being drunk while in charge on any highway or other public place of any carriage[2], horse, cattle or steam engine" (section 12 of the 1872 Licensing Act), in the Hampshire Police Force Area, 2003 to 2007[3,4]

	Statute	
	Section 30 1988 Road Traffic Act	*Section 12 1872 Licensing Act*
Proceeded against		
2003	4	6
2004	3	1
2005	2	—
2006	3	1
2007	1	1
Found guilty		
2003	3	3
2004	2	1
2005	2	—
2006	2	1
2007	1	1

[1] The number of persons proceeded against and found guilty for driving under the influence of drinks or drugs cannot be separately identified under this statute.

[2] A bicycle, whether ridden or pushed, is a carriage within the meaning of this offence. The number of persons proceeded against or found guilty of being drunk in charge of a carriage cannot be separated from those involving a horse, cattle or steam engine.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Bankruptcy

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have *(a)* entered into an individual voluntary arrangement and *(b)* been declared bankrupt in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iv) England in each relevant year since 1979; [290651]

(2) how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(d)* England in each year since 1979. [290655]

Mr. Wills: Data on the number of mortgage possession claims in the county courts leading to an order being made for homes in York, North Yorkshire, Yorkshire and Humberside and England for 2000 to 2008 are shown in the following table.

Number of mortgage possession claims leading to an order being made for homes in York, North Yorkshire, Yorkshire and Humberside and England 2000-08

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
York UA	115	115	65	90	95	145	200	185	205
North Yorkshire	345	330	255	250	275	495	525	600	760
Yorkshire and the Humberside	5,395	5,145	3,995	3,735	3,945	6,165	8,240	9,145	11,770
England	41,630	39,670	35,485	36,165	42,055	64,100	81,640	84,610	103,780

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Corresponding figures for earlier years are not available. The statistics showing mortgage possession claims in the county courts leading to an order being made, broken down by local authority based on the locations of the properties which were the subject of the possession actions, were published for the first time by the Ministry of Justice in August 2009. These can be found on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgagelandlordpossession.htm.

Statistics broken down by individual court for 1987 onwards can also be found on the Ministry of Justice website.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold data on the number of people who have entered into individual voluntary arrangement or have been declared bankrupt. Figures published by the Ministry of Justice show the number of bankruptcy petitions presented to the courts and therefore are not exact measures of bankruptcies. Court level statistics on bankruptcy petitions from 2007 onwards are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/companywindingupandbankruptcy.

These figures are not available broken down by local authority.

The insolvency service publishes statistics on a quarterly basis on individual voluntary arrangement and individual insolvencies. The data can be accessed on their website at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm

Convictions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there have been for offences under the Protection of Trading Interests Act 1980. [288274]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply

There have been no convictions under the Protection of Trading Interests Act 1980 during the last five years. An investigation into whether there have been any convictions prior to this is likely to involve disproportionate expense.

Copyright: Music

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of offences of copying music stored on a compact disc to a digital format for their own personal use in each of the last 20 years. [290627]

Claire Ward: Personal copying is a civil matter and not a criminal offence. As a result, there are no criminal convictions in relation to such an activity. Copying from one media to another becomes a criminal offence under Section 107 of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 only if conducted on a scale prejudicial to the interests of the legitimate rights holder, or in the course of business.

Crime: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is given to the judiciary on the gravity of instances of online child abuse. [288880]

Mr. Straw: In April 2007, the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council published a definitive guideline on the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This includes guidance to the judiciary on the offences of child prostitution, child pornography and 'Grooming'.

This and all other published guidelines can be viewed at

www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk

Departmental Invoices

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288917]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is fully committed to achieving compliance with the Prime Minister's target of paying suppliers within 10 days where possible, and is a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code. The MOJ has only been collecting performance data for the proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt of a supplier invoice since November 2008. Performance since that date is set out in the following table.

	Percentage paid within 10 day target	*Number of invoices paid within 10 days*
November 2008	64	63,307
December 2008	59	58,743
January 2009	55	57,679
February 2009	67	67,693
March 2009	66	82,116
April 2009	82	65,422
May 2009	92	61,462
June 2009	88	73,539

The Ministry has recognised that its performance against the target must improve, and has implemented a prompt payment improvement programme to address the issue. The results from April in the table indicate that this is having an effect, and further improvements will be evident as the programme progresses.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in 2008-09. [276478]

Mr. Straw: I apologise to the hon. and learned gentleman for the unacceptable delay in answering this question.

(a) The Ministry's accounting records do not distinguish between expenditure on advertising and publicity. Work to differentiate the two components would incur disproportionate cost. Combined expenditure during 2008-09 was as follows:

	£
Ministry of Justice HQ	1,976,102
HM courts service	486,233
Tribunals service	41,303
Office of the public guardian	39,000
National offender management service (NOMS)	[1]3,409,968
Total	5,952,607

[1] The figure shown for NOMS is recorded as recruitment expenditure on their accounting system.

Over 95 per cent. of the Ministry's expenditure on advertising and promotion relates to recruitment, with the majority of recruitment activity being within NOMS to ensure sufficient prison officers are in post to operate effectively the prison system.

As a result, the figure for NOMS may include other recruitment expenditure, not considered to be publicity and advertising. Work to split out publicity and advertising spend from the total recruitment amount would incur disproportionate cost.

The NOMS figure also excludes expenditure by the 42 local probation boards and trusts whose records are held locally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost. A one-off exercise undertaken in 2007-08 found that expenditure on advertising and promotion by local probation boards and trusts was £58,264. There are no current plans to repeat this information-gathering exercise for 2008-09.

(b) To collate information for all of the Ministry's non-departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) would incur disproportionate cost. However, the expenditure of the Ministry's three largest NDPBs which account for 97 per cent. of NDPB expenditure (excluding Legal Aid) is as follows:

	£
Criminal injuries compensation authority	91,312
Youth justice board	585,187
Legal services commission	[2]367,000

[2] The legal services commission did not record any expenditure on advertising for 2008-09. The figure of £367,000 provided is for publicity spend only.

2008-09 accounts are still being finalised by the Ministry, its agencies and NDPBs. Figures may therefore be subject to adjustment during the annual audit process.

Departmental Plants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* cut flowers in 2008-09. [280020]

Mr. Straw: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in answering this question.

The information requested is set out as follows and covers expenditure for pot plants and cut flowers during 2008-09 for the Ministry of Justice headquarters and Her Majesty's Courts Service:

(a) Pot plants—£23,824.49[1]

(b) Cut flowers—£5,935.77[1]

[1] Excluding VAT

While there is a very slight increase in the cost of pot plants on the year 2007-08, the overall cost of plants and flowers incurred by the MoJ in the year 2008-09 has been significantly reduced. As consolidation of the MoJ estate evolves it is anticipated these numbers will reduce further.

Upon re-tender of the Facilities Management contract, the provision of cut flowers was seen as an area for immediate cost reduction and duly ceased in August 2008.

There is a slight decrease in the figure given for cut flowers in comparison to an earlier answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle), Minister of State for Justice, to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1257W. This is due to the earlier figure being based on an annual budget figure and the current figure being based on actual yearly expenditure, which was slightly less than what was originally budgeted for.

The figures do not include costs from the Tribunal Service or the National Offender Management Service as no separate accounting code is used to record pot plants or cut flowers and to obtain this information would require a manual trawl of each division at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department incurred on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy in 2008-09. [276480]

Mr. Straw: I apologise to the hon. and learned Gentleman for the unacceptable delay in answering this question.

(a) Entertainment	£
Ministry of Justice HQ	3,774
HM Courts Service	1,041
Tribunals Service	747
Office of the Public Guardian	0
Total	5,562

The Ministry's other agency, the National Offender Management Service, does not record expenditure on entertainment separately from expenditure on hospitality. Combined expenditure on hospitality and entertainment in 2008-09 was £238,039. To separately identify entertainment expenditure would incur disproportionate cost but it is likely to be a small percentage of the total figure.

The figure for the National Offender Management Service excludes expenditure by the 42 local probation boards and trusts whose records are held locally and could currently be collated only at disproportionate cost.

(b) Advertising and promotion	£
Ministry of Justice HQ	1,976,102
HM Courts Service	486,233
Tribunals Service	41,303
Office of the Public Guardian	39,000
National Offender Management Service (NOMS)	3,409,968
Total	5,952,607

Except for NOMS, the figures quoted are for advertising and publicity which are recorded as a combined expenditure category within the Ministry's accounting system. The Ministry does not have a separately identifiable expenditure category for promotion.

The figure shown for NOMS is recorded as recruitment expenditure on their accounting system.

As a result, the figure for NOMS may include other recruitment expenditure, not considered to be publicity and advertising. Work to split out publicity and advertising spend from the total recruitment amount would incur disproportionate cost.

The NOMS figure also excludes expenditure by the 42 local probation boards and trusts whose records are held locally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost. A one-off exercise undertaken in 2007-08 found that expenditure on advertising and promotion by local probation boards and trusts was £58,264. In the light of the hon. and learned Member's question, I have asked for advice on the cost of mounting a similar exercise in respect of 2008-09.

(c) Public relations consultancy

The Ministry does not distinguish between different types of consultancy expenditure in its accounting records. Analysing expenditure to determine the amount that relates to public relations would incur disproportionate cost. Such an exercise was last undertaken in 2007-08 and found that expenditure on public relations consultancy was £290,476. There are no current plans to repeat this information-gathering exercise for 2008-09.

All the figures provided are unaudited.

All expenditure incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on health and safety training in each of the last two years. [287966]

Mr. Straw: The expenditure on Health and Safety Training by the Ministry is stated as follows:

	£
2008-09	
Ministry of Justice HQ	47,366
HM Courts Service	286,805
Tribunals Service	21,523
Office of the Public Guardian	500
Total	356,194
2007-08	
Ministry of Justice HQ	60,441
HM Courts Service	293,552
Tribunals Service	19,810
Office of the Public Guardian	500
Total	374,303

The expenditure incurred is for external training courses only with the use of approved Health and Safety training consultants.

To supplement these external courses, internal Health and Safety training is provided across the Ministry by in-house staff. To obtain an accurate figure for this would incur disproportionate cost.

The National Offender Management Service employs over 50,000 staff in more than 140 locations. At present, there is no single central point for management information relating to health and safety training for staff. To obtain the information requested would involve identifying and contacting sources of information in many different locations and would thus incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision is made to enable students to undertake work experience in his Department; by what means members of the public may obtain information about work experience in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [288727]

Mr. Wills: While comprehensive information is not held centrally, records indicate that during the period 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009 over 420 students have undertaken work experience.

The Department advertises its provision through, and members of the public may obtain placements, via:

Internships, such as those offered by the civil service-wide Ethnic Minority Summer Development Programme and Disability Summer Placement Scheme

Connections with local schools, colleges and universities

Local authority educational business partnerships

The Careers Advisory Service

Registered charities such as the Trident Trust

Students and their parents applying directly to courts, tribunals and other MOJ offices locally.

Fines: Drivers

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average fine was imposed for the offence of driving uninsured against third party risks in each of the last 10 years. [287698]

Claire Ward: The average fine imposed at magistrates courts and at the Crown court for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks in England and Wales for the years 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The average fine (£) imposed at the magistrates' court and the Crown court for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[2,3]

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[4]	2004	2005	2006	2007
Magistrates courts	214	212	203	150	155	160	169	177	185	194
The Crown court	156	193	183	214	150	142	167	185	339	201

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.143 (2)
[2] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many flags his Department owns; and what the cost was of maintaining such flags in the latest year for which figures are available. [287974]

Mr. Straw: The number of flags within Ministry of Justice HQ is currently 13. This is due to two flag poles with multiple flags at both 102 Petty France and Selborne House (a building which we no longer occupy).

Data on the number of flags within HM Courts Service are not held centrally by HMCS Estates nor the Regional Estates Offices and the Judges Lodgings Management Team. Detailed information on the number of flags would necessitate calls to individual courts/lodgings with flag poles and can be collated only at disproportionate costs.

Every prison establishment within NOMS has a Union Flag and Prison Service Flag. There are 122 Public Sector Prisons with 244 flags.

The latest expenditure on flag maintenance by the Ministry in the financial year 2008-09 is stated as follows:

	£
Ministry of Justice HQ	1,127
HM courts service	[1]35,743
Tribunals service	0
Office of the public guardian	0
Total	36,870

[1] Of the £35,743 for HM courts service, £24,052 was incurred on the provision and removal of flags, as well as flag maintenance. It is not possible to separate the two elements without a detail review of invoices that would incur disproportionate cost.

Flag maintenance expenditure includes the testing, inspection and surveying of the flags to ensure that they are in full operating condition.

Every flag pole/mast is inspected each year by the maintenance department held locally by prisons and probation boards/trusts of the National Offenders Management Service and the information can be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Fraud: Unemployment Benefits

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences related to fraudulent claims for unemployment benefits there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* Castle Point in each of the last 10 years. [289152]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

Information relating to the number of convictions for offences relating to fraudulent claims for jobseeker's allowance is not available.

However, information is available for the number of people convicted for benefit fraud cases for all Department for Work and Pensions-administered benefits in each of the last five years. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 289W, to the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon).

Freedom of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hon. Members have referred responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Information Commission in each of the last three years; and in each case how many such referrals were not resolved after 12 months of consideration. [287999]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent authority responsible for enforcing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Information about the numbers of complaints referred by hon. Members to the ICO and the time taken to resolve them is set out as follows. However, it should be noted that this information was identified on the basis of complaints made from a respondent address of the Palace of Westminster. It does not include referrals made by hon. Members from their constituency or other address or from MEPs or MSPs.

	Number of hon. Members	*Total number of cases*	*Resolved in over 12 months*
2006-07	16	17	7
2007-08	28	44	5
2008-09	32	72	2
2009-10 (to 25 August 2009)	8	13	—

The ICO is committed to resolving cases as efficiently as possible, and is improving its closure rates despite large increases in the volume of case receipts since the introduction of the Act.

This information was provided by the ICO.

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made towards ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and if he will make a statement. [290830]

Mr. Wills: The International Convention will be an important tool for preventing enforced disappearance and secret detention in the future. The UK was active throughout the negotiations to draft the convention, and we supported its adoption last year at both the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

It is however the long-standing practice of the UK not to sign international treaties unless we have a firm and realistic intention to ratify within a reasonable time-frame.

The Government have therefore been conducting a detailed analysis of the provisions of the convention. This has included analysis of the need to replicate common law provisions in statute law and to create one or more specific new criminal offences, as well as consideration of the need for any reservations or declarations upon ratification. It is now clear that a potentially substantial volume of primary legislation will be necessary to give effect to certain provisions of the convention before the United Kingdom can ratify it. Given that this will require preparation and then parliamentary time, it is not currently possible to set a timetable.

Legal Aid

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from residents in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley were granted in each of the last three years. [288771]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record the grant of legal aid by constituency or borough. The following tables show the numbers granted in the areas requested, based on providers within the following postcodes covering those areas.

Bexleyheath—DA6 and DA7

Crayford—DA1

LB Bexley—DA1, DA5, DA6, DA7, DA8, DA14, DA15, DA16, DA17, DA18

Table 1: Instances of civil legal help reported by providers (excluding matters started under the community legal advice telephone advice scheme)

Financial year	*Area*	*New matter starts*
2006-07	Bexleyheath and Crayford	1,330
	LB Bexley	1,972
2007-08	Bexleyheath and Crayford	1,199
	LB Bexley	1,510
2008-09	Bexleyheath and Crayford	1,599
	LB Bexley	2,340

Table 2: Civil representation certificates granted by the LSC

Financial year	*Area*	*Certificates*
2006-07	Bexleyheath and Crayford	473
	LB Bexley	662
2007-08	Bexleyheath and Crayford	456
	LB Bexley	603
2008-09	Bexleyheath and Crayford	507
	LB Bexley	671

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of implementing best value tendering for criminal legal aid; [289107]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effects of his Department's expenditure of best value tendering for criminal legal aid over *(a)* the full contracting cycle and *(b)* the next five years. [289108]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) published a response to consultation on Best Value Tendering (BVT) of criminal defence services on 20 July 2009 and a copy has been placed in the House Library. The response sets out the LSC's intention to pilot BVT in Greater Manchester and Avon and Somerset during the period of the next criminal contract, which will take effect in July 2010 and is expected to run until 2013.

The estimated administrative cost of implementing a Best Value Tendering (BVT) pilot is £748,000 in 2009-10 and £263,000 in 2010-11. A breakdown of the main areas of expenditure is set out in the following table and includes some upfront development costs which would not be reincurred if BVT were subsequently implemented outside the pilot areas. These figures relate to the costs of implementation and exclude costs associated with policy development or consultation.

£000

Item	*Costs 2009-10*	*Costs 2010-11*
Staff costs and changes to administrative systems	473	263

£000

Item	Costs 2009-10	Costs 2010-11
Auction, including auction prototype and provider training and support	250	n/a
Pilot review[1]	25	n/a
Total	748	263

[1] the costs of the pilot review are subject to revision once the scope and method of review have been determined.

The aim of BVT is to secure a sustainable future for criminal legal aid services over the longer term by enabling prices to reflect local costs of delivery. It is impossible to predict the outcome of a competitive tender exercise as prices are expected to vary depending on the costs of providing a service in a particular area and the nature of the local market. While the Government have always recognised that prices could increase in some areas, it expects that BVT would encourage greater efficiencies on the part of legal aid providers and lead to some savings overall. However, we cannot be precise about what those savings might be.

No decisions have been made about implementing BVT outside of the two pilot areas and this will be dependent on the outcome of a full evaluation of the pilots in 2012. Any such wider implementation would not begin before the next contracting cycle is due to begin in 2013.

The pilot tender exercise will provide a much clearer indication of the savings or costs in the pilot areas, and will enable the LSC to estimate the potential cost impact if BVT were to be rolled out more widely from 2013.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the number of solicitors working on criminal legal aid cases of the use of best value tendering. [289109]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) published a response to consultation on Best Value Tendering (BVT) of criminal defence services on 20 July 2009 and a copy has been placed in the House Library. The response sets out the LSC's intention to pilot BVT in Greater Manchester and Avon and Somerset from 2010 and to evaluate the pilot in 2012 before making any decisions on implementing BVT in further areas.

BVT will not affect the total volume of criminal legal aid work available within a particular area, but there is the potential for many different outcomes in terms of who secures contracts, and within this there is the potential that some current providers will not be successful. However, we expect that other providers will secure greater volumes of work and may be able to expand and take on staff. BVT is also expected to encourage efficiencies on the part of providers and so may have an impact on the way in which firms choose to structure themselves.

With respect to the number of firms, the LSC will require a minimum number of between four and eight firms in each scheme in the pilot areas. However, the maximum number of firms that potentially could win BVT contracts is much higher. The BVT pilot model sets a low minimum bid size in order to enable firms of all sizes to compete on an equal basis. The impact assessment, included within the consultation response, contains more detail on the potential impact on the structure of the market in the two pilot areas.

National Crime Reduction Board: Meetings

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings of the National Crime Reduction Board he has attended in the last 12 months. [285272]

Mr. Straw: Other diary commitments have prevented my attendance at meetings of the National Crime Reduction Board (NCRB) during the last 12 months. However, members of my ministerial team have attended all NCRB meetings during that period and reported back to me.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the number of people to be employed by each director of offender management in England and Wales in 2009-10. [290875]

Maria Eagle: Staffing levels within each Director of Offender Management's office are shown in the table. To bring the respective area and regional offender management organisations of the Prison and Probation Services together effectively the Regional Restructure Project was commissioned and implementation of the model began in April 2009. It provides a framework on which every new regional office will operate around a core structure, with similar roles being carried out nationally by individuals of the same grade. A number of other roles also exist, outside of the core structure, but which report into the Director of Offender Management. The core structure involves the same number of roles in each region, with variation in the number of posts depending on the geography and size of the region.

Director of Offender Management—as at 31 August 2009

DOMs office	Headcount (core and non-core)
East Midlands	84
East of England	52
London	48
North East	53
North West	123
South East	109
South West	43
Wales Cymru	30
West Midlands	63
Yorkshire and Humberside	41
DOMS office total headcount	646

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were working in an offender management role in each year since 2003. [280840]

Mr. Straw: Figures on the number of staff working in an offender management role in the National Probation Service prior to 2006 are unavailable as the figures collected were not broken down into Offender Management Roles. The table shows the number of staff working in an offender management role in 2006 and 2007 broken down into job group:

National Probation Service

	[1]2006	[2]2007
Deputy Chief Officer	16	16
Assistant Chief Officer	81	75
Area/District Manager	74	83
Middle Manager	684	694
Senior Practitioner	124	111
Probation Officer	3,876	3,998
Probation Services Officer	2,616	2,459
Psychologist	4	5
Other Operational Staff	32	20
Support Staff-Administration	2,137	2,103
Support Staff-Other	19	11
Other Staff	9	2
Total	9,672	9,577

[1] Figures provided are full time equivalent and are as at 31 December for each year.
[2] Figures provided for 2007 are about to be made public.
Notes:
1. Figures for 2008 are currently unavailable due to issues with data classification at this level of detail. A data validation exercise is currently taking place that will resolve these issues and information will be available at the conclusion of this exercise.
2. Information is not collected on how many Prison Service staff undertake offender management roles. Offender management is an integral part of the Prison Officer's role within an establishment. How this resource is deployed varies from establishment to establishment.

Non-Payment: Council Tax

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who have *(a)* appeared in court and *(b)* been imprisoned for failure to pay council tax were aged (i) 64 years and under and (ii) 65 years and over in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [290936]

Claire Ward: Persons who have appeared in court and been imprisoned for offences under Section 56 of the Council Tax (Administration & Enforcement) Regulations 1992 cannot be separately identified on the Ministry of Justice Court proceedings database as these offences form part of a miscellaneous offence group which cannot be analysed centrally.

Pharmacy

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pharmacists have been prosecuted for incorrectly dispensing prescription medication under the Medicines Act 1968 in each of the last 10 years. [286586]

Claire Ward: Both the MHRA and the CPS can bring prosecutions under the Medicines Act 1968.

The MHRA has brought two prosecutions for incorrectly dispensing prescription medication under the Medicines Act 1968 since 1999. Neither of these cases involved the prosecution of an individual pharmacist.

The CPS does not collect data on the profession of those prosecuted under the Medicines Act. To identify their profession would involve disproportionate cost. It is possible that some of those prosecuted under the Medicines Act may be individual pharmacists.

Prison Service: Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the difference was between the capital budget and capital expenditure outturn for the Prison Service for the financial years *(a)* 2006-07, (b) 2007-08 and (c) 2008-09. [288822]

Maria Eagle: The outturn figures for HM Prison Service (HMPS) are as follows:

	Capital budget	*Capital expenditure*	*£ million Variance*
2008-09	24.6	29.1	(4.5)
2007-08	19.3	26.8	(7.5)
2006-07	17.2	16.1	1.1

From 2008-09 HMPS became subsumed within the reorganised National Offender Management Service and figures are not separated in the accounts, but the equivalent figure has been obtained from NOMS' internal management accounts.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the most recent incidence of absconding from HM Prison Sudbury by a prisoner convicted of murder took place; and what steps he is taking to reduce the number of such incidents. [290685]

Maria Eagle: The most recent incident of absconding from Sudbury by a prisoner convicted of murder was on 21 September 2007. The prisoner was recaptured on 25 September 2007.

Sudbury continues to work closely with Derbyshire police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in responding to all instances of individuals absconding from the prison and ensuring that whenever an absconder is arrested, he is brought to court and charged. The National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) Police Advisors and the Association of Chief Police Officers are discussing the implementation of a national agreement for referring absconders for prosecution which would see the approach taken at Sudbury extended throughout the estate.

Absconds levels are monitored closely by NOMS. The Director General and Chief Operating Officer review abscond rates regularly. The risk assessment process for open conditions is stringent—and becoming more sophisticated at assessing risk. As a result, abscond rates are falling.

Individual open prison governors are responsible for implementing local security strategies to combat absconds. Open prisons operate intelligence systems to try and spot those who might be planning to abscond; prisoners are screened and those who are at significant risk of absconding are sent back to closed conditions; in many areas the prison, police and CPS are working together to prosecute absconders to provide a deterrent to others who may be thinking of doing the same.

All absconds are reported immediately to the police who will take steps to apprehend the prisoner. Re-captured absconders will be returned to a more secure closed prison where they face either a criminal prosecution for escaping or an internal adjudication in prison in front of a visiting judge. In both cases they can receive additional time in prison on top of their existing sentence.

Prisoner Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released on temporary licence reoffended in the last five years; and how many such prisoners were returned to custody. [289113]

Maria Eagle: Time spent on release on temporary licence affords prisoners the opportunity to find work, re-establish family ties, reintegrate into the community and ensure housing needs are met. For long-term prisoners these are essential components for successful resettlement. The most recent published statistics[1] show that in the five year period between January 2004 to December 2008 there were 2,075,506 temporary release licences issued to prisoners. In this same period there were 1,592 failures of licence (0.1 per cent. failure rate), the majority of which were for minor infringements such as returning late to the prison. To provide the information requested on further offences committed whilst on temporary release would involve the manual examination of all 1,592 individual records which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

[1] The attention of the House is drawn to the bulletin, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2008, which was published on 31 July 2009. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of this House and another place. I hope that this will provide additional context to the statistics supplied in the answer. Ministry of Justice Caseload Statistics, tables 9.6 and 9.11 available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/offender-management-caseload-statistics-2008-2.pdf

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many grams of *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* heroin and *(c)* cocaine have been found in prisons on (i) visitors, (ii) staff and (iii) prisoners in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [290756]

Maria Eagle: The number of finds of cannabis, heroin and cocaine from April 2008 to March 2009 is shown in the table.

Drug	*Number of finds*
Cannabis	1,373
Heroin	764
Cocaine	238

It is important to note that many drugs are similar in appearance and in many cases finds of drugs are not categorically identified by scientific analysis.

Although NOMS records the number of occasions on which all drug types were found on it does not record centrally the weight of seizures or the type of drug found. To provide those details would require a manual investigation into each find at disproportionate cost.

The number of all drug finds from April 2008 to March 2009 is given in the table. The "other" category includes not only finds on staff but also the very many finds that are not attributable to a person, such as parcels that have been thrown over prison boundaries or found in communal areas. To disaggregate staff from the "other" category would also require a manual investigation into each find at disproportionate cost.

Found on	*Number*
Other	1,368
Visitors	701
Prisoners	155

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Prisons: Manpower

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Prison Service are on the surplus employees list. [290876]

Mr. Wills: As of 4 September 2009 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has 254 staff that are actively seeking permanent redeployment. 221 work for the National Offender Management Service (including the Prison Service), 33 work for the rest of the MOJ (including one SCS). The figure comprises both full-time and part-time staff. They are engaged in work contributing to the delivery of public services, including core frontline activities, policy and project work and other operational roles.

Probation

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of offenders *(a)* released from prison, *(b)* under probation supervision without programmes and *(c)* under probation supervision with programmes were reconvicted within two years in the last five years. [288184]

Claire Ward: The latest statistics on reoffending published in May 2009 report the re-offending rates over a one year follow-up period.

The following table shows the one year reoffending rates for adult offenders who were discharged from custody or who commenced a community order or suspended sentence order in the first quarter of 2006 and 2007, and (a) received an accredited programme requirement and (b) did not receive an accredited programme requirement under that order. Data about individual requirements were not available prior to 2006.

			Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders reoffending*
Q1 2006	Custody		14,364	46.5
	Community orders	Without AP[1]	19,637	34.5
		With AP[1]	8,281	40.6
	Suspended sentence orders	Without AP[1]	3,150	33.1

			Number of offenders	Proportion of offenders reoffending
		With AP[2]	2,129	41.9
Q1 2007	Custody		12,810	47.2
	Community orders	Without AP[1]	20,696	39.1
		With AP2	6,897	41.0
	Suspended sentence orders	Without AP[1]	3,734	32.5
		With AP[2]	3,328	40.9

[1] Offenders who did not receive an accredited programme as a requirement under their community or suspended sentence order.
[2] Offenders who received an accredited programme as a requirement under their community or suspended sentence order. This may be the only requirement, or in combination with others.

Comparisons to assess the effectiveness of different requirements and sentence types cannot be made from these results, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics or other factors that affect reoffending and the type of sentence given.

Further information on the one year rates of reoffending can be found in

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm.

Probation Officers: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of offenders to probation officers has been in each of the last five years, broken down by probation service area. [280839]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is shown in the following table for the years 2004 to 2007 inclusive. A data validation exercise is currently taking place on the probation officer information for 2008 to be completed during the summer of 2009.

There are a number of factors which could affect average caseloads over time, resulting in regional variations shown in the table. These include:

Fluctuations in caseload according to changing sentencing patterns

Improving accurate workforce planning

Variations in the nature of cases will call for a different workforce. High risk cases will call for resource intensive supervision by more senior practitioners. For lower risk cases (e.g. unpaid work supervision), a high caseload can be managed safely by a small number of practitioners. Comparing these cases under a single "average caseload" calculation is therefore misleading.

The ratio of offenders supervised by offender managers, by each probation service area in England and Wales at 31 December in each year from 2004-07

Area	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	26.0	24.8	23.0	23.7
Bedfordshire	41.1	35.3	32.7	32.1
Cambridgeshire	29.0	33.2	32.5	35.3
Cheshire	24.3	26.2	29.2	32.5
Cumbria	33.5	29.7	26.3	29.5
Derbyshire	34.0	32.3	30.9	32.1
Devon and Cornwall	25.3	23.6	23.9	22.7
Dorset	24.7	23.6	27.1	29.9
Durham	23.3	23.8	24.7	27.3
Dyfed Powys	26.3	24.1	26.7	29.5
Essex	39.1	42.2	48.8	54.9
Gloucestershire	26.9	28.8	32.9	37.6
Gwent	36.9	37.4	29.2	27.5
Hampshire	28.7	29.9	32.0	33.6
Hertfordshire	39.6	40.8	47.6	40.2
Humberside	25.6	24.6	24.0	27.0
Kent	31.6	30.4	34.2	35.5
Lancashire	24.0	25.3	27.9	31.1
Leicestershire	25.1	24.2	25.6	26.4
Lincolnshire	31.9	28.0	27.1	26.8
London	40.7	50.7	47.6	48.2
Greater Manchester	35.6	38.8	33.8	37.0
Merseyside	34.5	36.6	38.3	33.7
Norfolk	28.7	28.1	31.3	30.3
North Wales	26.6	27.5	31.4	34.7
North Yorkshire	22.4	25.0	26.3	28.2
Northamptonshire	33.1	33.7	26.3	29.5
Northumbria	21.4	21.0	23.1	26.1
Nottinghamshire	33.4	33.2	30.1	33.3
South Wales	31.6	29.7	30.1	30.5
South Yorkshire	29.6	28.2	29.3	29.6
Staffordshire	24.6	24.1	24.9	26.2
Suffolk	20.3	21.8	23.7	23.3
Surrey	25.3	25.7	28.2	24.7
Sussex	37.3	30.7	33.2	40.5
Teesside	30.8	32.7	33.9	32.5
Thames Valley	30.6	32.6	35.3	35.1
Warwickshire	27.8	23.8	29.2	33.1
West Mercia	23.8	25.9	25.2	27.3
West Midlands	41.0	36.7	37.0	40.4
West Yorkshire	31.4	30.6	29.4	30.1
Wiltshire	34.1	27.7	28.3	33.2
National Average	31.8	32.5	32.6	34.1

Note:
Figures provided are Full Time Equivalent and include Senior Probation Officers, Probation Officers, Senior Practitioners and Practice Development Assessors

Robbery: Children

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were *(a)* charged and *(b)* cautioned for robbery in (i) the East of England and (ii) Suffolk in each of the last five years. [286266]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of children aged 10 to 17 who have been proceeded against at magistrates courts and cautioned for robbery in the

East of England region and Suffolk police force area is shown in tables 1 and 2. The Ministry of Justice do not collect charging data; proceeded against information has been provided in lieu.

Table 1: Number of persons aged 10 to 17, proceeded against at magistrates' courts for robbery, in the East of England region and Suffolk police force area, 2003-07[1, 2]

	East of England region[3]	Suffolk police force area
2003	251	26
2004	290	32
2005	370	19
2006	333	24
2007	334	26

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

[3] The East of England region includes Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Table 2: Number of offenders aged 10 to 17 cautioned[1] for robbery in the East of England region and Suffolk police force area, 2003-07[2, 3]

	East of England region[4]	Suffolk
2003	24	3
2004	45	6
2005	41	5
2006	40	2
2007	38	6

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

[4] East of England region includes Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Sentencing : Courts

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the *(a)* sentencing practices and procedures and *(b)* operational procedures at Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester by comparison with other Crown courts dealing with similar cases. [290619]

Mr. Wills: It would not be appropriate for the Government to review or comment on sentencing practices at an individual court. Within the statutory framework set by Parliament, sentencing decisions are a matter for the judiciary, taking into account the particular circumstances of the case.

Minshull street Crown court has effective procedures in place to manage the criminal cases brought before it. In 2008-09 80.5 per cent. of the court's cases commenced within target against a national KPI of 78 per cent. and it reduced its ineffective trial rate from 10.8 per cent. to 9.5 per cent.

Treatment Programmes

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners entered *(a)* detoxification, *(b)* maintenance, *(c)* 12 step, *(d)* cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT), *(e)* shorter duration CBT and *(f)* therapeutic community treatment programmes in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and at what cost for each type of programme in each year. [288087]

Maria Eagle: The table provides figures for prisoners recorded as entering drug treatment in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

	Intervention starts[1, 2]	
Intervention type	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Clinical Treatment (detoxification or maintenance prescribing)[3]	58,810	64,770
12-Step	870	850
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)[4]	4,070	4,160
Short Duration Programmes	6,050	5,550
Therapeutic Communities	280	260

[1] These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

[2] Rounded to nearest 10.

[3] Figures for detoxification and maintenance are not disaggregated.

[4] Figures include starts on Action on Drugs for 2007/08—(programme now discontinued)—FOCUS, P-ABBO and STOP.

The Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) is bringing improvements to the quality and volume of drug treatment in prisons. IDTS allows a closer integration of clinical and psychosocial drug treatment services in order to ensure that the interventions delivered are more closely matched to the individual needs of prisoners, dependent upon the stage of their treatment they are at.

The 2008-09 Key Performance Target for drug treatment programmes focused on completions rather than starts. Across prisons and the community there were 15,434 accredited drug programme and Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) completions—exceeding the target of 12,919.

Most expenditure on accredited drug treatment programmes comes from prison service general funding. It is currently not possible to accurately disaggregate these costs. However, NOMS is undertaking a specification, benchmarking and costings exercise which will provide more detailed information on the costs of interventions delivered in prisons.

Welsh Assembly Government : Prosecutions

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has with the Welsh Assembly Government on its powers to postpone prosecutions brought under the Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Wales) Regulations 2009; and what mechanisms are in place for monitoring the use of those powers. [288061]

Claire Ward: There are no provisions in these regulations to enable the postponement of prosecutions for offences under food contact materials legislation. Therefore, there have been no discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on this issue.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish his Department's second consultation paper on availability to play; and when he expects the local authorities whose bids for small and large casino licences have been successful to be able to hold competitions for the operation of those licences. [290760]

Mr. Simon: The Government's consultation on proposals for regulations in order to define what would constitute a gaming table in the new categories of casino established by the Gambling Act 2005 closed on 15 May 2009. The Gambling Act 2005 (Gaming Tables in Casinos) (Definitions) Regulations 2009 were laid before Parliament on 20 July 2009 and came into force on 11 August 2009.

It is up to the individual licensing authorities whose bids for small and large casino licences were successful to decide when they will invite and consider applications for the operation of those licences. None of them have yet done so.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department's proposals for the analogue radio switch-off in 2015 have been submitted for rural proofing to the *(a)* Commission for Rural Communities and *(b)* Rural Advocate. [290702]

Mr. Simon: The Digital Britain White Paper set out our commitment to a full impact assessment of the Digital Radio Upgrade; including consideration of the rural impact. To inform these assessments we will work closely with the relevant stakeholders, such as the Commission for Rural Communities and the Rural Advocate.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the merits of providing financial assistance to *(a)* low-income households and *(b)* households in hilly rural areas in respect of the analogue radio switch-off in 2015. [290703]

Mr. Simon: The Digital Britain White Paper set out our commitment to conduct a full impact assessment, including a cost benefit analysis of Digital Radio Upgrade. The results of this impact assessment will help determine whether there is a case for a Digital Radio Help Scheme, and if so, what its scope would be.

In addition, the Consumer Expert Group, which brought together key consumer representatives to inform the Digital TV switchover process, has been invited to extend its scope to cover radio and will ensure that the Digital Radio Upgrade programme takes account of the wide range of listener needs.

English Heritage: Educational Visits

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what target has been set by English Heritage for free education visits each year from 2008-09 until the end of the funding agreement period. [290811]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage has set targets for the number of free education visits to its sites for the period of its current Funding Agreement as set out in the following table.

	Target
2008-09	450,000
2009-10	450,000
2010-11	450,000

This represents a revision of the aim to reach 650,000 visits by 2010 set out in Making the Past Part of Our Future in 2005, and reflects changing patterns of visits across the sector and an increased emphasis on more interactive, facilitated visits to reflect educational needs. This is being delivered through a series of new Discovery Visits, hands-on programmes which have been introduced at 60 sites since 2006.

English Heritage: Manpower

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff are employed in communications, media, press and other public relations roles by English Heritage. [290852]

Mr. Simon: Information from English Heritage is that it employs 10 full-time equivalent staff in these roles, each of whom has a direct communications, media, press or public relations role.

Gambling: Gibraltar

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the reasons for which William Hill and Ladbrokes decided to relocate their betting operations from the UK to Gibraltar; and if he will make a statement. [290759]

Mr. Simon: This was a commercial decision for the two companies. The Secretary of State has not made any formal assessment of the reasons for which William Hill and Ladbrokes decided to move their online betting operations from the UK to Gibraltar.

Heritage Lottery Fund: Manpower

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff are employed in communications, media, press and other public relations roles by the Heritage Lottery Fund. [290853]

Mr. Simon: Information from the Heritage Lottery Fund is that it employs 8.5 full-time equivalent staff in these roles, each of whom has a direct communications, media, press or public relations role.

Horse Racing: Bookmakers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of progress towards resolution of the on-course bookmakers' dispute; and if he will make a statement. [290761]

Mr. Simon: My friend the Minister for Sport wrote to the Federation of British Bookmakers and Racecourse Association on 28 July setting out his current thoughts about the unresolved issues around on-course bookmaking.

He has strongly encouraged both sides to show willingness to compromise so that mutually acceptable solutions can be found, and he expects the outstanding issues to be resolved through negotiations, which officials have been helping to facilitate.

Another meeting of the Working Group is to be convened on 22 September to assess progress. We will continue to keep all options under review, including the legislative option.

Licensing

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many fast food outlets have been granted a late night refreshment licence in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Southend-on-Sea in each of the last two years. [290940]

Mr. Simon: Late night refreshment permissions allow for the provision of hot food or drink to the public, for consumption on or off the premises, between 11pm and 5am or the supply of hot food or hot drink to any persons between those hours on or from premises to which the public has access. This is however not restricted to fast food outlets, and can be granted to any premises type (for example, restaurants, bars and pubs). Although a licence is needed for sales between 11pm and 5am, it does not necessarily mean that a premises will have a licence for the whole of that period or that, if it did, it would necessarily operate those hours.

The Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, reported there were an estimated 67,500 premises licences with late night refreshment permissions in England and Wales as of 31 March 2007, and an estimated 76,800 premises licences with late night refreshment permissions in England and Wales as of 31 March 2008.

In Essex there were 1,207 premises licences with late night refreshment as of 31 March 2007 (this excludes, Braintree, Brentwood, Maldon and Thurrock whom did not respond to this question) and 1,498 premises licences with late night refreshment as of 31 March 2008 (this excludes Braintree, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock who did not answer).

Southend-on-Sea had 279 premises licences with late night refreshment as of 31 March 2007. They did not respond to this question in 2008.

Licensing: Essex

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pubs, clubs and bars have been granted a licence to operate after *(a)* 11pm and *(b)* 2am in (i) Essex, (ii) Southend-on-Sea and (iii) Rochford in each of the last two years. [290939]

Mr. Simon: The information you require on operating hours is not held centrally. However the Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, does collect the number of premises with permission to open for up to 24 hours, although their actual opening hours may vary.

In Essex there were six pubs, bars and nightclubs with 24-hour alcohol licences as of 31 March 2007 (this excludes Brentwood, Maldon and Thurrock who did not answer this question) and eight pubs, bars and nightclubs with 24-hour alcohol licences as of 31 March 2008 (this excludes Braintree who did not answer this question).

Southend-on-Sea had no pubs, bars and nightclubs with 24-hour alcohol licences as of 31 March 2007 or as of 31 March 2008.

Rochford had no pubs, bars and nightclubs with 24-hour alcohol licences as of 31 March 2007 or as of 31 March 2008.

National Lottery: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 772-74W, on the national lottery, how much was received by each of the national lottery good causes in 2008-09. [290902]

Mr. Simon: The following tables show the total income for each of the national lottery good causes for each financial year since 1995-96. Figures are adjusted to 2008-09 prices, using GDP deflators for the most recent year available from the Treasury. All figures are rounded to the nearest £ thousand. Figures for the financial year 2008-09 are provisional figures subject to audit and do not take account of the transfer of £73 million from the National Lottery Distribution Fund to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund, which took place on the 2 February 2009.

The sport good cause comprises the following Lottery Distributing Bodies: UK Sport, Sport England, Sport Northern Ireland, Sports Council Wales and Sport Scotland. The arts good cause comprises Arts Council England, Arts Council Wales, Arts Council Northern Ireland, Scottish Screen, UK Film Council and Scottish Arts Council. The millennium good cause comprised the Millennium Commission, which was dissolved in 2006-07. The heritage good cause comprises the Heritage Lottery Fund. The health, education, environment and charitable expenditure good cause comprises the Big Lottery Fund, which is the successor to the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund.

Sport

	Amount adjusted to 2008-09 prices (£)
1995-96	422,857,000
1996-97	421,144,000
1997-98	470,735,000
1998-99	384,195,000
1999-2000	343,497,000
2000-01	362,161,000
2001-02	362,607,000
2002-03	300,423,000
2003-04	257,324,000
2004-05	263,935,000
2005-06	263,841,000
2006-07	223,841,000
2007-08	221,791,000
2008-09	218,635,000

The Arts

	Amount adjusted to 2008-09 prices (£)
1995-96	422,712,000
1996-97	418,743,000
1997-98	458,115,000
1998-99	357,510,000
1999-2000	329,473,000
2000-01	340,664,000
2001-02	354,996,000
2002-03	297,642,000
2003-04	259,278,000
2004-05	265,528,000
2005-06	264,986,000
2006-07	223,286,000
2007-08	221,791,000
2008-09	218,634,000

Millennium

	Amount adjusted to 2008-09 prices (£)
1995-96	423,842,000
1996-97	426,895,000
1997-98	516,000,000
1998-99	497,515,000
1999-2000	439,808,000
2000-01	420,358,000
2001-02	167,866,000
2002-03	24,888,000
2003-04	7,286,000
2004-05	6,698,000
2005-06	4,232,000
2006-07	1,682,000
2007-08	—
2008-09	—

Heritage

	Amount adjusted to 2008-09 prices (£)
1995-96	421,877,000
1996-97	421,002,000
1997-98	473,931,000
1998-99	393,671,000
1999-2000	363,186,000
2000-01	388,282,000
2001-02	384,894,000
2002-03	338,643,000
2003-04	278,861,000
2004-05	293,300,000
2005-06	292,084,000
2006-07	242,648,000
2007-08	221,794,000
2008-09	218,634,000

Health, Education, the Environment and charitable expenditure

	Amount adjusted to 2008-09 prices (£)
1995-96	423,544,000
1996-97	421,092,000
1997-98	607,955,000
1998-99	799,146,000
1999-2000	684,000,000
2000-01	653,652,000
2001-02	913,939,000
2002-03	888,174,000
2003-04	771,336,000
2004-05	790,185,000

Health, Education, the Environment and charitable expenditure

	Amount adjusted to 2008-09 prices (£)
2005-06	787,657,000
2006-07	660,503,000
2007-08	665,376,000
2008-09	655,880,000

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* UK Sport, *(c)* the Football Foundation and *(d)* the Youth Sport Trust received in grant-in-aid funding from his Department in each year since 1997. [290769]

Mr. Bradshaw: Table 1 shows the grant in aid funding from DCMS for Sport England and UK Sport since 1997.

	£ million	
	Sport England	*UK Sport*
1997-98	33.758	11.791
1998-99	33.341	11.548
1999-2000	37.523	12.600
2000-01	38.323	12.750
2001-02	43.162	16.773
2002-03	80.324	16.321
2003-04	44.572	23.175
2004-05	74.456	23.500
2005-06	78.963	29.305
2006-07	102.500	53.105
2007-08	113.296	67.305
2008-09	133.163	72.201

The Football Foundation and the Youth Sport Trust do not receive grant in aid funding directly from DCMS, but are funded by Sport England.

Sport England has advised that they allocated the following amounts to the Football Foundation and the Youth Sport Trust, since their records began in 2003.

	£ million (to nearest thousand)	
	Football Foundation	*Youth Sport Trust*
2004-05	2.141	2.235
2005-06	4.518	2.658
2006-07	22.064	2.593
2007-08	18.307	2.754
2008-09	21.796	3.991

Swimming

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public swimming pools in England *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in 2008. [288257]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* In 2008, 79 swimming pools were opened and 67 closed:

Ownership	*Local authority*	*Education*	*Commercial*	*Others*	*Total*
Pools opened	31	15	32	1	79
Pools closed	43	10	10	4	67

We are encouraging local authorities to plan strategically for the provision of facilities so they meet modern standards and expectations. This will include rationalising existing stock where necessary.

There has been significant public investment in sports facilities in recent years which will lead to new local authority pools opening. Government and lottery money contributed to four new 50 meter pools in Sunderland, Portsmouth, Leeds and Liverpool, which means there is now at least one 50 meter pool in every region of the country.

Corby's new East Midlands International 50 meter pool opened on 24 July, and next year will see two more 50 meter pools opening in Hillingdon and Basildon.

In addition, there will be investment in 60 projects as part of the Government's Free Swimming scheme. £23 million has already been committed to this in 2009-10. This investment includes upgrades of existing facilities and new builds.

UK Film Council: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budget of the UK Film Council for 2008-09 was; and what it *(a)* is in 2009-10 and *(b)* will be in 2010-11. [290850]

Mr. Simon: In 2008-09 the total expenditure for the UK Film Council, combining both lottery and grant in aid was £71.3 million.

In 2009-10 budgeted spend for all activities is £71.7 million (excluding the transfer of £5.9 million to the Olympic lottery distributor). These figures align with the current UK Film Council business plan "Film in the Digital Age" which covers the period until March 2010.

The budgets for 2010-11 will not be fully established and approved until the next spending round (2010 to 2013) has been formulated.

Sources:

2008-09 data from 2008-09 Annual Report and Financial Statements.

2009-10 data from budget approved by UKFC board in March 2009.

2010-11 data from DCMS allocation letter re GIA and DCMS lottery projection issued in January 2009, confirmed as current in June.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Protection Fund

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who retired before April 2005 are members of schemes under the Pension Protection Fund; how many such people have had their pensions capped; what estimate she has made of the annual cost of restoring the full pensions of *(a)* those people who have had their pensions capped and *(b)* all of those who retired before April 2005 who are members of such schemes; and what estimate she has made of the effect of such expenditure on the level of the annual levy for eligible schemes. [281716]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Such information as is available was provided to the hon. Member on 4 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 622W.

Business Link

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the courses offered by Business Link as part of the six month offer are available to people who have not been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than six months. [290729]

Jim Knight: Business Link's business advice and support is available to anyone who is interested in starting a business. However, in recognition of the problems that longer-term jobseeker's allowance customers may have, under the six month offer we are funding additional intensive support for those who have been unemployed for six months or more and who are interested in taking up self-employment or starting a business.

In addition, on claiming jobseeker's allowance, some groups of customers who face particular disadvantage in the labour market are fast-tracked immediately to the six-month stage of the jobseeker's regime, and can take advantage of the six month offer. Fast-tracked customers are those who have had specific periods of time spent on benefit or who have been otherwise inactive immediately prior to claiming jobseeker's allowance. Other disadvantaged groups can choose to fast-track to the six month stage, subject to capacity and their personal adviser's discretion and will have access to the six month offer. These groups include, for example, people who have completed a custodial sentence, are homeless, are affected by drug addiction, have been in residential care or have language, literacy or numeracy problems.

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission plans to publish *(a)* the 2007-08 Client Funds Account together with the Comptroller and Auditor General's report thereon and *(b)* the report from Pricewaterhouse Coopers on child maintenance debt balances. [290625]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission plans to publish (a) the 2007-08 Client Funds Account together with the Comptroller and Auditor General's report thereon and (b) the report from PricewaterhouseCoopers on child maintenance debt balances. [290625]

In order to interpret the question correctly, clarification was sought from your office. They confirmed that you wanted to know when the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission plans to publish (a) the 2008-09 Client Funds Account together with the Comptroller and Auditor General's report thereon.

The Commission plans to lay the 2008/09 Client Funds Account soon after the House returns from summer recess. Contained within the Client Fund Account is a summary of the findings of the work undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers in respect of child maintenance arrears balances. This will include how these findings have been incorporated into our assessment of collectability; additionally this forms the basis of National Audit's work in auditing the arrears balances included in the Client Fund Account.

I hope that you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10-days of receipt in June 2009. [288938]

Helen Goodman: 96.02 per cent.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships her Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281509]

Jim Knight: The DWP supports a small number of paid and unpaid internship/work experience schemes but these are all aimed at undergraduate or sixth form students. Therefore the number of such placements offered to those who have already graduated over the past six months is nil.

We have already indicated our commitment to the new Graduate Talent Pool initiative so will be offering places under this scheme from September.

Employment Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 767W, on employment schemes, when the requested information on payments will be made available. [278476]

Jim Knight: The recruitment subsidy and the six month offer were introduced on 6 April 2009. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish Official Statistics from autumn 2009.

Ethnic Minority and Employment Task Force

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job application forms were sent to businesses by the Ethnic Minority and Employment Task Force as part of its research into barriers to employment; by what criteria the businesses were selected; and what advance consultation there was with employers prior to the issue of the job application forms. [286751]

Jim Knight: The National Centre for Social Research was commissioned to do this research and sent 2,961 job applications to employers in response to advertised vacancies. Commissioning took place after the employer-led Business Commission on Race Equality, chaired by Gordon Pell, Chief Executive, Retail Markets, Royal Bank of Scotland, recommended 'matched CV' testing to measure progress towards eliminating the ethnic minority employment gap. The Chancellor of the Exchequer accepted this recommendation and asked the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force (EMETF) to oversee delivery and report back to him in writing by December 2009. A Confederation of British Industry (CBI) member sits on the EMETF. The CBI is also on the steering group for the research project. No specific employers or sectors of industry were targeted.

Future Jobs Fund

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent consideration she has given to extending the exception to the long-term unemployment condition for Future Job Fund eligibility, to include those not in education, employment or training, to blind and partially sighted individuals claiming job seeker's allowance. [290944]

Helen Goodman: The jobs created using the Future Jobs Fund will be targeted at young people approaching ten months on jobseeker's allowance and other long-term benefit claimants living in areas of high unemployment. Some jobseeker's allowance customers, including those with a disability, can volunteer for more intensive support from Jobcentre Plus earlier in their claim at the discretion of their personal adviser. Customers who are fast-tracked to this more intensive support will be able to access Future Jobs Fund jobs from four months.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library copies of the bid assessment documents for each of the 117 successful Future Jobs Fund Bids announced on 29 July 2009. [290730]

Helen Goodman: The individual bid assessment documents cannot be placed in the Library because the information is commercially sensitive.

Housing Benefit

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to monitor the effects of the arrangements by which housing benefit is paid to tenants rather than landlords; and if she will make a statement. [290818]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill), on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1286W.

Industrial Diseases: Social Security Benefits

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid to people with *(a)* hand arm vibration syndrome, *(b)* noise-induced hearing loss and *(c)* other work-related diseases through (i) industrial injuries disablement benefit for disease and deafness and (ii) other disability benefits in each of the last three years; and how much of that

money has been recovered by the Government in accordance with the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997. [287749]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information on the monies paid through industrial injuries disablement benefit is in the table.

Payments through industrial injuries disablement benefit in 2006-07

Injury	*Amount paid (£ million)*
Hand arm vibration syndrome	22
Noise-induced hearing loss	37
Other work-related diseases	103

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest million.
2. Industrial injuries disablement benefit expenditure on particular diseases is estimated using annual statistical data. Latest finalised annual statistical data are for 2006-07. Figures for the next two years are not yet available.

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data.

Information on payments of other disability benefits is not available broken down by the disease categories requested.

The amounts recovered in each of the last three years by the Government in accordance with the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997 covering industrial injuries disablement benefit and other disability benefits are detailed as follows:

Recoveries of monies paid through industrial injuries disablement benefit

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*£000 2008-09*
Hand arm vibration syndrome	1,727	1,857	1,306
Noise-induced hearing loss	42	24	36
Other work-related diseases	6,931	8,562	9,830

Recoveries of monies paid through other disability benefits

Disease	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£000 2008-09*
Hand arm vibration syndrome	15,956	22,580	11,413
Noise-induced hearing loss	16	19	0
Other work-related diseases	6,716	7,438	14,223

Note:
Information is rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Source:
DWP accounting data.

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid to people with *(a)* mesothelioma, *(b)* asbestosis, *(c)* bilateral pleural thickening and *(d)* other prescribed asbestos diseases (i) under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers Compensation) Act 1979, (ii) through industrial injuries disablement benefit for disease and deafness, (iii) under Part 4 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 and (iv) through other disability benefits in each of the last three years; and how much of that money has been recovered by the Government in accordance with the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997. [287750]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on payments to people under the Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers Compensation) Act 1979 is only available for all work-related diseases covered by the scheme, not individual diseases. The available information is in the table.

Financial year	*Payments (£ million)*
2006-07	26
2007-08	27
2008-09	32

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest £ million

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data

The available information on monies paid through Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit is in the following table. Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit expenditure on particular diseases is estimated using annual statistical data. The latest finalised annual statistical data are for 2006-07.

Payment through Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit in 2006-07

		£ million
(a)	Mesothelioma	10
(b)	Asbestosis	[1]
(c)	Bilateral pleural thickening	9
(d)	Other prescribed asbestos diseases	23

[1] Less than £1 million.

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest £ million except where stated.
2. The estimate for *(b)* is for primary carcinoma of the lung with accompanying evidence of one or both (A) asbestosis (B) unilateral or bilateral diffuse pleural thickening.
3. The estimate for *(c)* is for unilateral or bilateral diffuse pleural thickening.
4. The estimate for *(d)* is for pneumoconiosis, which is prescribed for occupations involving working with asbestos and a number of other occupations.

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 made provision for the new 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma scheme (known as the 2008 scheme) which enables lump sum payments to be made to people who suffer from diffuse mesothelioma caused by exposure to asbestos in the UK, and who do not currently qualify for help from the Government. This scheme has only been running since October 2008. Information is only available for all work-related diseases, not individual diseases. The expenditure up to March 2009 is £5.5 million.

Note:

This excludes Northern Ireland payments made under this scheme.

Source:

DWP statistical and accounting data.

Information on payments of other disability benefits is not available broken down by the disease categories requested.

The amounts of money recovered in each of the last three years under the categories requested are set out in the following tables:

Recoveries of Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers Compensation) Act 1979 Lump Sum payments—October 2008 to March 2009

Disease	*£000*
Mesothelioma	4,465
Asbestosis	411
Bilateral Pleural Thickening	42
Other prescribed asbestos diseases	247

Recoveries of Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit payments

£000

Disease	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Mesothelioma	3,024	3,944	5,306
Asbestosis	1,072	1,031	1,287
Bilateral Pleural Thickening	179	207	276
Other prescribed asbestos diseases	4,425	5,262	4,303

Recoveries of Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 Lump Sum payments—October 2008 to March 2009

Disease	£000
Mesothelioma	165

Recoveries of payments through Other Disability Benefits

£000

Disease	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Mesothelioma	2,089	2,644	7,989
Asbestosis	556	418	976
Bilateral Pleural Thickening	70	276	134
Other prescribed asbestos diseases	19,972	26,699	16,537

Notes:
1. Information is rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.
2. Any lump sums paid under the 1979 Act or the 2008 scheme are recoverable under the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997. The lump sum payments are recoverable from all cases where the compensation is paid on or after 1 October 2008. Prior to that date data were not separately captured on these cases.
3. For Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers Compensation) Act 1979 'Other prescribed asbestos diseases' include Cancer, Pleural Plaques and Non-Coded diseases.
4. For Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and Other Disability Benefits 'Other prescribed asbestos diseases' include Cancer, Pleural Plaques and Other Work Related Diseases.

Source:
DWP accounting data

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what jobcentres she has visited since becoming Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. [290845]

Helen Goodman: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State visited St. Marylebone Jobcentre (part of Central London District) on 8 June and Leith Jobcentre (part of Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders District) on 1 July.

Jobcentre Plus: Offices

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus has spent on *(a)* acquiring office space, *(b)* extending existing office space and *(c)* converting existing office space as a result of an increased level of demand for its services in the most recent period for which figures are available. [286750]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your questions asking how much has been spent by Jobcentre Plus on (a) acquiring office space, (b) extending existing office space and (c) converting existing office space as a result of an increased level of demand for its services. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is continuously reviewing existing service delivery arrangements in order to meet the challenge of the current economic climate and the planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years.

In the light of the increased customer demand we have secured the required funding to convert or extend our existing buildings where necessary. In addition we aim to make our services accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach facilities, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises. We are supplementing these measures by operating extended opening hours in some locations where the need for this is identified locally. This includes some offices opening to the public on Saturday. We will only acquire new space where all other measures are insufficient.

To date estates work has been undertaken and completed on 18 of our buildings at a cost of £1 million, increasing our capacity to deliver additional customer service to the public. Estates work is planned for a further 151 buildings. This work is currently at an early stage and therefore the costs are not fully known.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on jobseeker's allowance, how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance in each local authority area had been claiming it for a period of *(a)* up to three months, *(b)* between three and six months, *(c)* between six and 12 months, *(d)* between 12 and 24 months and *(e)* more than 24 months in each month since January 2009; and if she will make a statement. [290824]

Helen Goodman: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Swine Flu

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has made provision for benefit claimants with swine influenza to sign on for their benefits without attending the jobcentre plus office in person; and if she will make a statement. [287309]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* There is already an easement to the normal jobseeker's allowance conditions of being immediately available for work, capable of work and actively seeking work. The easement allows someone who is sick for two periods of up to two weeks, within a 12 month period, to be treated as capable of work and continue to receive jobseeker's allowance.

Maternity Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been *(a)* awarded and *(b)* refused a Sure Start Maternity Grant in each of the last five years; and on what grounds such refusals have been made. [279660]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is given as follows.

Sure Start Maternity Grants

	Number of awards and initial refusals				
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of awards	235,900	237,500	236,700	243,100	262,600
Number of initial refusals	94,500	98,900	105,000	105,400	110,800

	Number of initial refusals by reason for refusal				
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
No qualifying benefit or tax credit	71,100	74,400	77,100	77,500	87,100
Certificate not provided	14,900	15,300	19,800	17,600	10,000
Claim made too early	13,400	14,500	14,500	12,800	12,800
Claim made too late	3,100	3,000	3,200	4,000	4,400
Repeat application	1,300	1,300	1,400	2,800	2,400
Other	3,300	2,800	2,700	3,900	5,900

Notes:
1. The number of awards includes awards made after re-consideration or appeal.
2. The number of initial refusals is the number of claims refused at the initial decision-making stage. Some claims which are refused at the initial decision-making stage may be successful on re-consideration or appeal. As a result, some claims may be counted under both awards and initial refusals.
3. Up to two reasons for refusal can be recorded for each claim which is initially refused. Therefore, for each year, the total number of reasons for refusal exceeds the number of initial refusals.
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Members: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter of 6 May from the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling, on behalf of Ms Denise Roberts. [290776]

Helen Goodman: A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 13 August 2009.

New Deal Schemes

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have participated in the Flexible New Deal programme in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month since the scheme was introduced; [289145]

(2) how many people have found employment through the Flexible New Deal in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month since the scheme was introduced; [289146]

(3) how many people have participated in the Flexible New Deal programme trial in Wandsworth in each month since the trial began; [289147]

(4) how many people have found employment through the Flexible New Deal programme trial in Wandsworth in each month since the trial began; [289148]

(5) how many people who have found employment through the Flexible New Deal programme have returned to the programme at a later date in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month since the scheme was introduced; [289149]

(6) what her Department's *(a)* budget for and *(b)* expenditure on the Flexible New Deal programme has been in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district in each month since the programme began. [289150]

Jim Knight: The Flexible New Deal programme is being introduced in two phases. The first phase, covering 28 Jobcentre Plus districts including Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth, will start from 5 October 2009. The second phase will follow in October 2010. A number of Jobcentre Plus offices, including Wandsworth, have tested aspects of the new regime for jobseekers that will accompany the Flexible New Deal, but not the programme itself, so information on participation, performance and expenditure will not be available until after the full service has started.

The budget for Flexible New Deal is being finalised following the Budget 2009, which made an additional £2.8 billion available to DWP, on top of the £1.3 billion funding announced in the pre-Budget report, which will ensure we can continue to maintain our support to jobseekers through the economic downturn, including funding to support the Flexible New Deal.

Pension Credit

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* England have received pension credit in each year since such credits were introduced. [289160]

Angela Eagle: The number of household recipients of pension credit in the City of Sunderland local authority and England are shown in the following table.

Date	*Sunderland local authority*	*England*
November 2003	15,330	1,742,960
November 2004	19,010	2,200,630
November 2005	19,470	2,266,420
November 2006	19,600	2,290,810
November 2007	19,510	2,287,390
November 2008	19,420	2,286,610

Notes:
The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pensions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners living outside of the UK do not qualify for inflationary pension uprates. [290869]

Angela Eagle: There are around 540,000 people living outside the UK who do not qualify for pension uprates.

Notes:
Rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Source:
Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, February 2009.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners living outside the UK who do not qualify for pension uprates receive a pension of less than £50 a week. [290870]

Angela Eagle: There are currently around 460,000 pensioners living abroad receiving less than £50 state pension a week, who do not qualify for pension uprates.

Notes:

Rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, February 2009.

Social Security Benefits: Mentally Ill

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will ensure that the independent review commissioned by the Government of the ways in which people with mental health conditions can be better supported by the benefit and welfare to work system *(a)* reports and *(b)* will be made publicly available before the Welfare Reform Bill completes its passage through Parliament. [290945]

Jonathan Shaw: The independent review referred to, which is being led by Dr. Rachel Perkins of the South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust, will report in the autumn. The Government will consider its findings and respond in due course.

Vocational Training: Young People

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to assist young people who are in employment but not receiving training to receive training. [284030]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have put substantial training provision in place for people in employment. Through Train to Gain, employers can access training at work for their employees who are 19 or above. Funding for Train to Gain will increase to over £1 billion by 2010-11. Training leading to Skills for Life literacy or numeracy qualifications, full level 2, and first full level 3 (where the learner is aged between 19 and 25) do not require a financial contribution.

The Government are committed to ensuring that by 2015 all young people under the age of 18 who are in employment are accessing accredited training.

The National Apprenticeship Service is committed to increasing the uptake of Apprenticeships among the group of 16 to 18-year-olds who are currently in Jobs without Training as part of our 16 to 18 Apprenticeships Action Plan. The Government have increased funding for Apprentices by almost a quarter since 2007-08 to over £1 billion in 2009-10.

The Learning Agreement Pilots, which ended in July 2009, tested interventions, incentives and options for engaging young people who are in jobs without training. These lessons are feeding into, for example, the on-going Activity Agreement pilots for those who are not in education, employment or training and the development of the Foundation Learning Tier as the learning suite for 14 to 19s working predominantly at Entry level or Level 1.

Work Capability Assessment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of people undergoing the new Work Capability Assessment who have *(a)* passed that assessment and moved into the work-related activity group of the employment and support allowance, *(b)* passed that assessment and moved into the support group of the employment and support allowance and *(c)* failed that assessment; and what proportion of people assessed under the personal capability assessment (i) passed and (ii) did not pass that assessment. [290732]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on Employment and Support Allowance is due for publication in October.

Work Capability Assessment: Mentally Ill

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent changes have been made to Work Capability Assessments to take account of the circumstances of those with fluctuating mental health conditions; and if she will make a statement. [290946]

Jonathan Shaw: There have not been any recent changes to the Work Capability Assessment. However, when it was introduced in October 2008, it was designed to ensure that people with mental health conditions are better identified and that their functional ability and support needs are correctly assessed. In addition, to allow for fluctuating conditions, the Work Capability Assessment does not take a snapshot of a person's condition on the day of assessment. Instead it looks at the person's level of function over time and considers whether they are able to complete actions reliably and repeatedly.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what adjustments have been made to his Department's funding allocations to Advantage West Midlands in each of the last three years. [288038]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows indicative funding allocations made to Advantage West Midlands compared with their final allocation in each of the last three years.

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Indicative allocation	284	286	279
Final allocation	290	292	296

British Telecom

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings Ministers and officials of his Department have had with representatives of BT to discuss the proposals in Government's Digital Britain report in the last six months. [285039]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* The Digital Britain project is a joint initiative led by the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport under Lord Carter as Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting. Over the past six months, there have been four meetings on Digital Britain issues between Lord Carter and representatives of BT, and a further nineteen with BIS officials only.

Broadband: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Government has allocated for expansion of high-speed broadband usage in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279334]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not allocated central funding for expansion of high-speed broadband usage in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997.

As you may already be aware, in the Budget on 22 April the Chancellor confirmed the Government's commitment to delivering a Universal Service for broadband at a speed of 2 Megabits per second, by no later than 2012. In the Digital Britain report, we will set out in greater detail our plan of how the Universal Service Commitment might work and we will be publishing the report very shortly.

Broadband: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has allocated for the roll-out of high-speed broadband in the North East in the next three years. [289155]

Mr. McFadden: In the Digital Britain White Paper, the Government announced the creation of a Next Generation Fund, to be funded by a 50p per month supplement on all fixed telephone lines from 2010. This will generate £150-175 million per year and will encourage investment in super-fast broadband or 'next generation' broadband for the "Final Third" of the country that the commercial market will not deliver to otherwise. It is not possible at this time to say what areas will benefit or by how much. The proposed Network Design and Procurement Group will be responsible for this through the procurement process and network design.

Business Links: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much and what proportion of Business Links' budget was spent on support for self-employment and business start-ups in the last 12 months; and what expenditure under what budgetary headings Business Links has incurred on service delivery in that period. [285141]

Mr. McFadden: Business Link does not have a national budget. The Department provides regional development agencies (RDA) with funding in a single pot for the delivery of services. The RDAs contract with regional suppliers to deliver Business Link. The question requires gathering data from the nine regions and the multiple suppliers they contract with to deliver start up services locally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Business: Government Assistance

David Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Leicestershire have applied for assistance under the Enterprise and Finance Guarantee Scheme to date. [254340]

Kevin Brennan: As of 12 August, in Leicestershire 70 businesses have been offered loans totalling £7.77 million.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials at each grade have been employed on work relating to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme since its creation; how much has been allocated by his Department for staff costs; what recent discussions he has had with the Treasury on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [259064]

Mr. McFadden: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee has been developed by the Department's Enterprise Directorate, which has policy responsibility for start-up and growth for small and medium sized enterprises. The Directorate's resources are deployed on a project basis whereby resources follow priority work.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee was developed and is being monitored from within an Access to Finance team consisting of around a dozen staff with responsibility for policy and monitoring of all aspects of finance for small and medium businesses.

Capital for Enterprise Limited, a wholly owned Government non-departmental public body, is responsible for the delivery of the Government's finance interventions, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist small to medium-sized enterprises through the current economic downturn. [261966]

Kevin Brennan: We have taken steps to help improve cash flow, to increase the availability of the credit businesses need, and to encourage investment so that businesses come through the recession ready to grow.

In particular, we obtained bank lending commitments from RBS and Lloyds to lend £27 billion additional lending to businesses this year. This includes lending guaranteed under the working capital scheme.

In addition, we introduced a trade credit insurance top-up scheme which provides protections for firms suffering a reduction in cover.

We have also taken steps to assist small businesses to overcome short-term cash-flow problems—for example the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and also measures to ensure prompt payment by both public and private sectors.

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for finance guarantees from

companies in each local authority area under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved. [270686]

Kevin Brennan: The Department records information about the Enterprise Finance Guarantee on a regional basis. It does not hold the information at the level requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Set out in the table is the information, for all UK regions, since the launch of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee on 14 January.

	Total eligible cases	*Total value of eligible cases (£ million)*	*Number of new loans offered to customers*	*Total value of offered Loans (£ million)*	*Number of offered loans drawn down*	*Total value of drawn Loans (£ million)*
Cumulative data	6,027	680.98	4,520	454.66	3,498	337.98
Region						
No region details as yet	1,085	173.91	1	0.1	0	0.0
East Midlands	342	37.60	323	35.33	244	25.7
East of England	569	50.30	540	46.40	409	36.06
London	590	68.47	537	59.92	389	40.95
North East	173	16.89	163	15.90	125	10.89
North West	527	52.95	475	46.25	403	40.16
South East	709	72.41	663	67.08	517	50.64
South West	555	50.44	527	47.22	411	32.33
West Midlands	469	44.82	437	41.44	335	30.53
Yorkshire and The Humber	305	32.18	278	29.41	217	21.2
Wales	242	18.50	229	17.53	167	11.29
Scotland	405	51.94	305	39.58	254	32.67
Northern Ireland	56	10.45	43	8.51	27	5.54

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* cost for (i) staff time, (ii) refreshments, (iii) security, (iv) transport and (v) other matters was of arranging and hosting (A) the employment summit on 12 January 2009, (B) the car industry summit on 28 January 2009, (C) the car industry summit on 12 December 2008, (D) the credit care summit on 26 November 2008, (E) the prompt payment summit on 10 December 2008, (F) the car industry summit on 27 November 2008 and (G) the pharmaceutical industry summit on 27 January 2009. [271593]

Mr. McFadden: Regarding the Employment Summit on 12 January, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the then Minister of State for Pensions and the Ageing Society to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 5 May, *Official Report*, column 118W.

Regarding the Car Industry Summit on 28 January, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Economics and Business to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 20 March, *Official Report*, column 1408W.

BIS has no record of a Car Industry Summit being held on 12 December 2008.

The Credit Card Summit was held at the BERR conference centre in London on 26 November 2008. The total cost of the event was £6,080. The costs are broken down by budgetary headings in the following table.

	Expenditure breakdown of Credit Card Summit held on 26 November 2008 (£)
Catering costs	547
Venue hire	273
Staff costs	5,260
Total	6,080

Notes:
1. Figures rounded up to the nearest pound.
2. Calculating exact staff costs would be onerous, therefore figures are an estimate.

The Prompt Payment Summit on 12 December 2008 was held at the BIS Conference Centre in London. Refreshments were limited to tea and biscuits to around 20 delegates so costs were therefore minimal.

The Car Industry Summit on 27 November 2008 was held at the BIS Conference Centre in London. Total costs for this event were £784, broken down as £287 for room hire and £497 for catering.

The Pharmaceutical Summit held on 27 January was chaired by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister at Downing street. My noble friend, the Minister for Economic Competitiveness and Small Business participated in the summit. BERR made no financial contribution to the cost of hosting the summit. BIS made no estimate of the cost of staff time, security or transport in preparing BIS's input to this event. This information is not held centrally and to do so would involve disproportionate cost.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* individuals have applied for assistance under each initiative announced by his Department since November 2008; how many applications have been (i) accepted and (ii) rejected; for what reasons applications were rejected; and how much funding has been provided in relation to each initiative. [276869]

Kevin Brennan: Since November 2008 the Department has announced the following schemes.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG)

This was launched on 14 January 2009. To date, over £680 million of eligible applications from 6,207 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed. 4,526 businesses have been offered loans totalling nearly £455 million.

Decisions on individual lending rests with the lender, whose decision will follow a commercial assessment of the viability of the proposition and the ability to service the loan and other charges, the suitability of EFG as opposed to lender's other commercial lending products, and the EFG eligibility criteria.

Capital for Enterprise Fund

The Capital for Enterprise Fund was also announced on 14 January. 1,611 businesses have registered their interest in the fund. The fund managers have made offers totalling £36 million to 24 businesses. Four businesses have accepted the terms of the funding offered with a total value of £5 million. Thus far, two businesses have received investment totalling £3 million. The fund managers are continuing due diligence on the further proposals that have been put forward.

Trade Credit Insurance

Take-up is demand-led as it depends on the number of credit limit reductions in the private sector. All applications, payments, claims and queries under the scheme are dealt with by the trade credit insurer. At present, 52 policies totalling £7.045 million have been accepted by trade credit insurers.

Scrappage Scheme

Over 165,923 orders for new vehicles have been taken since the scrappage scheme was announced in the Budget. The scheme was launched on 18 May. Under the terms of the scheme, vehicle dealers liaise with customers. BIS does not hold information on whether orders are made by businesses or individuals. A small number of orders are cancelled/removed each week for a variety of reasons e.g. accidental duplicate orders by dealers, the customer changing their mind. However, we anticipate that, subject to any future minor adjustments of this sort, all orders that meet the scheme criteria would qualify for Government funding of £1,000 per vehicle matched by at least £1,000 from the manufacturers.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with accredited lenders under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme about the terms and conditions under which loans are made to businesses; and if he will make a statement. [279302]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* Capital for Enterprise Ltd, which delivers the Enterprise Finance Guarantee on behalf of BIS, has regular discussions with the main participating lenders about lending under the scheme and is working with them to ensure terms and conditions are communicated throughout their networks to Relationship Managers. Each lender has access to a web based portal which includes information on the EFG rules and training on the use of the portal.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme in supporting small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [279303]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* The Enterprise Finance Guarantee has been designed to lend to viable businesses at the margins of commercial lending decisions representing approximately 3 per cent. of the total SME lending market and is facilitating lending that would otherwise not be available. Since the launch of the scheme in January:

As of 12 August 2009, over £680 million of eligible applications from over 6,027 firms has been granted, being processed or assessed.

So far, over 4,520 businesses have been offered loans totalling almost £455 million.

The network of approved lenders has expanded from eight at launch to twenty-seven, providing access across the whole of the UK.

A mystery shopper exercise (of the main four EFG lenders) showed that 77 per cent. of bank business advisers surveyed showed a good awareness of EFG.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many loans have been made to small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* West Derbyshire under the Small Business Loan Guarantee scheme since its inception. [279652]

Kevin Brennan: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee was launched on 14 January and replaced the Small Firms Loan Guarantee. Set out in the table is the information for Derbyshire and West Derbyshire:

	Number	*Value (£ million)*
Derbyshire		
Loans offered	75	7.00
Loans drawn	62	5.66
West Derbyshire		
Loans offered	5	0.40
Loans drawn	3	0.34

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to *(a)* assist small businesses, *(b)* assist medium-sized businesses, *(c)* develop the skills base, *(d)* facilitate innovation and *(e)* facilitate business start-ups in Coventry in the last two years. [280718]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* The information is as follows:

1. The Government are committed to ensuring that a comprehensive range of assistance is available, particularly to businesses affected by the economic downturn. The support available includes a package of schemes to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs of small businesses under the Real Help for Business campaign launched in January 2009. Full details of the support available can be found at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

2. Within the West Midlands region, The West Midlands Task Force set up by the Minister for the West Midlands, has established a 'one stop shop' website at:

www.supportwm.co.uk

dedicated to signposting businesses and individuals across the region to support available, including specialist regional support.

3. The following provides details of the range of support available to businesses at a national and regional level. It should be noted that it is not possible to provide Coventry specific data in many cases, as data are not routinely available at a local level and schemes do not generally distinguish between small and medium sized firms.

National Measures to assist business under Real Help for Business—January 2009 to 21 August 2009

4. Support available includes government guaranteed lending under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, the Capital for Enterprise Fund, the RDA Transition Loan Funds and a series of other financial measures instituted to help businesses with their cash flow such as the Prompt Payment Code, Top-up Trade Credit Insurance. Other key measures put in place include the Help for Business Helpline and special help to the automotive sector including scrappage and the Automotive Assistance Programme. The following provides details of the take up of this support at national level. Figures on take up are provided for the West Midlands where available.

Overview of national initiatives—cumulative figures to 21 August 2009

National initiatives	
Enterprise finance guarantee scheme	Over 4,600 businesses have been offered total loans of £470 million.
	West Midlands EFG: 448 businesses have been offered total loans of £43.15 million.
Capital for enterprise fund	Almost £36 million offered to 24 businesses.
RDA transition loan funds	Loans totalling over £50.3 million have been agreed.
Prompt payment code -business to business	427 signatories to the Prompt Payment Code.
	75 West Midlands companies have signed up to the code.
Prompt payment code -government to business	In July, central Government departments paid 9 out of 10 invoices within 10 days; median performance across 22 departments was 92.96 per cent.
Top-up trade credit insurance	52 accepted applications to a value of £7.045 million made up of 39 suppliers in 7 sectors.
Help for business helpline	A total of 226 companies were considered urgent enough to require Government intervention by MPs and Peers who referred cases to the Help for Business helpline. 155 of the total cases were identified as SMEs; 29 from the West Midlands.
Business link health checks	Over 74,000 businesses have benefited from a health check.
	West Midlands: 9,706.
Temporary vehicle scrappage scheme	Almost 160,000 orders for new vehicles have been taken since the scheme was announced in the Budget, 9 per cent. of these were placed in the West Midlands.
	41 manufacturers signed up.
Automotive assistance programme	BIS officials have been in direct contact with over 90 companies, which is around 25[illegible] of all companies who qualify for the support package. To date, officials have worked with over 20 companies on their formal expressions of interest.

Regional measures to assist businesses over the last two years

5. Key initiatives are set out in the following table along with details of the level of support provided to businesses in the Coventry and Warwickshire area during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (Coventry data are in italics where they are available).

Key business initiatives	
Advantage West Midlands (AWM) businesses assisted	3, 267 businesses assisted.
AWM business start ups	669 businesses supported.
AWM inward investment activity	Assisted 11 new foreign owned companies to set up and in the expansion of 2 new foreign owned companies.
AWM grant for business investment (includes SFIE)	26 businesses received grants totalling £2 million.
AWM regional venture capital funds	*14 businesses in Coventry received funds totalling £0.3 million.*
Business link West Midlands	Within Coventry:
	Market engagement/penetration (unique businesses) with 6,444 businesses.
	Assisted 272 businesses.
	Assisted 465 start ups.
	1,500 intensively assisted incorporating diagnostic review and follow up support.
	1,901 individuals given advice on business start up in 2008-09.
Manufacturing advisory service	Within Coventry:
	Market engagement/penetration with 268 businesses.
	Intensively assisted 100.
UK trade and investment (funded by BIS)	*58 companies, (mainly small businesses) were assisted through its Passport to Export Programme.*
	Additionally, outside of the Passport to Export Programme, significantly assisted a further 195 (mainly medium sized) companies to increase their exports.
Local enterprise growth initiative (LEGI) aimed at increasing levels of entrepreneurial activity and supporting SMEs. LEGI was jointly sponsored by ODPM (now DCLG), DTI (now BIS) and HM Treasury	Between *April 2006 and March 2010, Coventry* received just over £12 million, through the LEGI initiative, outcomes include:
	support and advice to 626 businesses.
	403 individuals being supported in developing business propositions leading to 311 new business start ups.
Advantage transition bridge fund	The Advantage Transition Bridge Fund reopened in November 2008. To date, it has made offers of loans totalling £9.3 million to 55 businesses. Of these, 9 businesses were located in Coventry and Warwickshire, who received loan offers totalling £1,405,000.
Business link business doctor service	The business doctor service (which operated during February and March 2009) sought to address the immediate needs of businesses affected by the economic conditions. The service was targeted at providing face to face support on key issues, including strategy development, marketing, financial management etc. A small element of grant funded specialist support to help businesses access advice on financial restructuring and recovery measures was also provided. This initiative delivered specialist support to 140 businesses across the region (sub regional breakdown not available), awarding £340,000 in grant funding.

Key business initiatives	
Community development finance institutions (CDFIs)	12 loans were made to Coventry based businesses, totalling £401,734.

Innovation support

6. The Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region has significant strengths in innovation being home to Coventry University and the University of Warwick, as well as clusters of high growth industries including ICT, digital media and medical technologies. The area benefits from region wide innovation activity, supported by AWM, such as Innovation Networks, Grant for Research and Development, the Index Voucher Scheme and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. Also, going forward Business Link West Midlands is developing the Innovation Advisory Service to work with partners (including MAS) to offer a range of innovation support to business.

7. Examples of innovation support provided by AWM to businesses in the Coventry and Warwickshire area during 2007-08 and 2008-09 include:

20 Research and Development Grants, totalling £0.7 million.

Development of a world-class research and development park at Ansty, which has already attracted Ericsson's international R and D department. Ansty has also been identified as the location for the National Manufacturing Technology Centre.

Part funding the University of Warwick's flagship scheme—The Digital Lab ,This centre includes visualisation and simulation technologies and brings together some of the world's top academics in digital technologies working on digital manufacturing and digital healthcare and space for companies to work with researchers.

The launch of the Serious Games Institute and Health Design Technologies Institutes at Coventry Universities. Both of these centres have strong business links and are in key areas of regional industry strength/growth.

Development of Centres of Excellence in lightweight vehicles at Warwick University; this builds on AWM's funded Premium Auto Research and Development Programme (PARD) at the University.

Under the AWM led Science City Programme of activity, Warwick University are leading three projects: Energy Efficiency (around £9 million for sustainable building and transport technologies—heat pumps, power electronics and automotive and rail applications); Translational Medicine (clinical trialling leading to improvements—particularly in obesity, diabetes, heart disease etc.) and Advanced Materials two (innovative uses of new materials including sensors in harsh environments, composites in transport applications and smart bio-materials).

Coventry University was involved in a Science City demonstrator project on Intelligent Vehicles—using wireless technologies to position vehicles for trialling/testing. This led to a joint venture between two of the region's companies (one Coventry based).

The universities of Coventry and Warwick are also involved in a number of other AWM innovation support interventions including Innovation Vouchers, Innovation Networks (led by Coventry University) and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.

8. Additionally, UKTI through its Passport to Export Scheme has targeted and assisted seven research and development intensive companies. More generally, working with Coventry University Enterprise, UKTI also provides a range of training and support programmes to help businesses in Coventry and across the region.

Developing the skills base

9. The following table provides an overview of support provided in the Coventry and Warwickshire area over 2007-08 and 2008-09, unless otherwise stated. Coventry specific data are provided where available.

Regional initiatives	
Train to gain	Over the last four years £4.5 million funding has been invested, with over 4,500 employers benefiting from training. During 2008-09 an additional £7 million was invested in the area in Train to Gain delivery, enabling over 6,000 employers to benefit from training.
Coventry LEGI initiative	Between 2006-09 LEGI provided mentoring support, training and/or advice to over 1,300 individuals to enable them to overcome barriers to employment or enterprise start up.
AWM's advantage graduate scheme	Over the last two years it has: Completed around 40 placements in the Coventry area. Assisted around 160 students from Coventry to improve their employability skills.

10. Under the Advantage Graduate Scheme, AWM also collaborates with partners to produce a brochure detailing regional job opportunities which is available to all final year students in the West Midlands. The 2009 edition contains a list of 1,000 business in the West Midlands who are interested in employing graduates, over 100 of which are in Coventry.

11. In terms of Leadership and Management skills, AWM supports a brokerage service delivered by Business Link that targets leadership and management support at middle tier aspirational businesses. The service works with management teams to improve business performance. So far six teams have been supported in Coventry—approximately 10 per cent. of the total number.

12. AWM has also provided funding for TUC Learning Centres in the Coventry area to enable work based learning.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to assist small and medium-sized businesses in Leeds. [282010]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 24 June 2009]*: Through Business Link Yorkshire, small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in Leeds can access the wide range of mainstream Government business support products and services. In 2008-09 Business Link Yorkshire dealt with 14,727 requests for advice and support from SMEs in the Leeds local authority area.

The Government have delivered on their commitment to simplify support with the roll out of the Solutions for Business portfolio of services. Solutions for Business offers a comprehensive and streamlined package of 30 publicly funded support products for SMEs.

Additional support has been made available to help SMEs during these tough economic times through Real Help Now for Businesses. This includes business financial health checks and a rapid response service to help SMEs hit hardest by the recession. The rapid response service provides support to people recently made redundant or facing redundancy to help them find new jobs or consider starting a business.

The full suite of business support services is routinely delivered in Leeds, including advice, guidance and practical financial support with business start-ups, support for entrepreneurs and innovators with information on how to develop and explore their ideas, from inspiration to planning, to research, marketing, launch, business growth and exporting. Jobcentre Plus assists local businesses with recruitment and training and the LSC provides Train to Gain and apprenticeship funding.

Leeds secured £20.6 million from the Government's Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) in 2006. The Leeds LEGI programme—known locally as "Sharing the Success"—aims to develop enterprise, create new jobs and boost prosperity in some of the most disadvantaged communities and runs until March 2011. "Sharing the Success" is funding a wide range of community based initiatives including a network of local enterprise centres, business start up advice and a business growth fund for existing businesses.

Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Leeds City Council have formed a partnership—Enterprise Leeds—which brings together a range of business support organisations. They include Leeds Media, China Britain Business Council, Business Link Yorkshire and the West Yorkshire Employer Coalition Through Enterprise Leeds, businesses and entrepreneurs in the city can access a wide range of services including:

finding business premises in Leeds

information and advice to business advice and support organisations

business support for start ups, existing businesses and inward investors

business development and support for minority ethnic businesses

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Tamworth constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received funding from (i) the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and (ii) the Working Capital Scheme to date. [288166]

Kevin Brennan: The Department records information on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee on a regional basis, including the West Midlands. It does not hold the information at the requested level and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Set out in the table is the information for West Midlands since the launch of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee on 14 January:

	Number	Value (£ million)
Eligible applications	469	44.9
Loans offered	427	41.4
Loans drawn	335	30.5

No companies have received funding under the Working Capital Scheme. The Working Capital Scheme provides guarantees to banks on portfolios of short-term loans: businesses cannot apply for guarantees under this scheme.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been *(a)* offered to businesses, *(b)* accepted by businesses and *(c)* received by businesses under the Capital for Enterprise Fund. [287612]

Kevin Brennan: The appointed fund managers of the Capital for Enterprise Fund have so far made offers totalling almost £36 million to 24 businesses. Four businesses have accepted the terms of the funding offered with a total value of £5 million. The fund managers are continuing due diligence on the further proposals that have been put forward. Two businesses have received investment totalling £3 million.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 189-90W, on business: Government assistance, by what criteria his Department will determine whether an industrial project is *(a)* advanced and *(b)* of strategic importance to the UK's economic renewal. [288218]

Mr. McFadden: "Building Britain's Future: New Industry, New Jobs" set out our analysis of the opportunities facing the economy and the foundations of UK competitiveness. Determining whether projects are advanced and strategic will depend on an assessment of how the proposal fits with opportunities for UK-based businesses and whether it represents an opportunity where Government can have a real and beneficial impact. The assessments take into account, among other factors, the potential for a project to develop systemic linkages to the rest of the economy and meet public needs, the importance of a project for the economic future of a given region, the technological novelty and spill-over potential and the extent to which a project leads to increased use and further development of workforce skills.

In addition, all proposals will be appraised to ensure that they have a clear rationale that Government intervention will make a difference and provide good value for money in delivering longer term benefits to the UK wide economy.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 189-90W, on business: Government assistance, by what mechanism businesses will be able to access the £250 million of the Strategic Investment Fund which has been ring-fenced specifically for low carbon initiatives. [288317]

Mr. McFadden: The aim of the Strategic Investment Fund is to support the UK being in a stronger position to take advantage of opportunities as the global economy returns to growth. Although the SIF is not a fund to which businesses can apply directly, BIS seeks and continues to welcome a broad engagement with business and other organisations to understand opportunities and challenges they face as well as the areas in which government action can have a bigger impact.

"The UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy", published on 15 July 2009, set out the first investments from the £250 million of funding allocated for low carbon economic development. It will deliver targeted support for sectors with high growth potential such as offshore wind, wave and tidal energy, and remove barriers to low carbon investment in the UK.

Announcements on specific projects and sectors to be funded will be made over the coming months. Where it is possible to bid for elements of funding, the process for doing so will be made clear when funding is announced.

Business: Insurance

Mr. Osten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies have made an application under the Trade

Credit Insurance Scheme to date; how many such applications have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected in each month in which the scheme has been operational; and how much funding has been disbursed under the Scheme to date. [286382]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Take-up of the scheme is demand-led as it depends on the number of credit limit reductions in the private sector. All applications, payments, claims and queries under the scheme are dealt with by the trade credit insurer. Eligibility for the scheme is automatic for all those that qualify.

To date, we have had a total of 52 approved applications, broken down as follows:

	Number of approved applications
May	11
June	8
July	26
To 14 August	7

We have had one claim for a value of £81,000.

29 applications have been rejected by the Trade Credit Insurers for being ineligible under the scheme rules.

Business: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department has provided to *(a)* small and *(b)* medium-sized businesses in (i) Merseyside and (ii) Crosby constituency during the economic downturn. [283185]

Mr. McFadden: SMEs in Merseyside and Crosby are supported by the Northwest's Framework for Action which was launched in February 2009. The framework sets out a parallel process to stabilise a business in difficulties and to engage JobCentre Plus and LSC to support those made redundant or at risk. Businesses can access the full package of support by contacting Business Link Northwest. Business support includes Business Finance, Skills and Development and Innovation and Efficiency.

A copy of the Northwest's Framework for Action has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Cheques

Mr. Breed: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take in response to the withdrawal of cheques as a method of payment; and if he will make a statement. [290823]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The National Payments Council are not considering phasing out cheques as a method of payment, but only whether it would be sensible to set a long-term date for closing the use of a cheque clearing system.

In the National Payments Plan, the Payments Council committed to conducting initial research and analysis into the future of cheques as a method of payment, with the aims of:

understanding the barriers to cheque substitution;

identifying the areas where work is needed on acceptable alternatives to cheques; and,

clarifying where more education is needed on existing alternatives.

The Payments Council is committed to being open and transparent in its review of the future of the cheque clearing and even if a timescale were to be set, various milestones would need to be agreed and delivered before any final decision would be taken to irrevocably close cheque operations.

Continental Shelf Receipts

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Government *(a)* paid to the Isle of Man Government and *(b)* transferred to Northern Ireland in relation to UK continental shelf receipts in each year since 2000. [289015]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows how much the Government have paid to *(a)* the Isle of Man and *(b)* Northern Ireland in respect of a share of UK Continental Shelf receipts since 2000:

Payments to Isle of Man and Northern Ireland (£000)

Financial year	*Isle of Man*	*Northern Ireland*
2000/01	0	11,474
2001/02	0	16,108
2002/03	0	16,224
2003/04	0	13,175
2004/05	0	1,527
2005/06	0	1,317
2006/07	0	1,392
2007/08	0	1,340

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288923]

Mr. McFadden: During June 2009, the Department paid 92.3 per cent. of supplier invoices within 10 working days of receipt.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278742]

Kevin Brennan: I refer to the answer given by the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 450W.

We are unable to answer the question as to do so would breach the confidentiality of individual/s concerned.

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's executive agencies and they will respond to you directly.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* attempts and *(b)* successful attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each (i) database and (ii) ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [286553]

Mr. McFadden: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for departments to confirm information on the number of attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain unauthorised access to departmental systems or databases. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills complies with the mandatory requirements of the Security Policy Framework in relation to information security including managing the risk of unauthorised access to ICT systems.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answers of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1699W and 1934W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since November 2008. [289168]

Mr. McFadden: Since November 2008, this Department and its predecessor's Estates Section has spent £8,000 (exc.VAT) on the purchase and installation of flat screen televisions. We cannot separate purchase from installation costs without incurring disproportionate cost. No DVD players or stereo equipment have been purchased during this period. Information is not held centrally for any purchases of equipment made by individual directorates within the Department.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond directly to the hon. Member.

Departmental Equal Opportunities

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's definition is of equality of opportunity in relation to its policies; and if he will make an assessment of the impact on equality of opportunity of his Department's policies. [285305]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's definition of equality of opportunity is set out in the equality schemes of the former Departments of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Universities, Innovation and Skills (DIUS). We are currently reviewing these schemes with the aim of producing a single equality scheme for BIS.

Equality impact assessments (EQIAs) produced by BIS (and formerly by BERR and DIUS) measure the impact on equality of opportunity of departmental policies. EQIAs are either published as stand-alone documents on the BIS website which can be accessed at

http://bisintranet/Pages/BIShomepage.aspx,

or as part of a standard impact assessment, final versions of which are published on the Better Regulation Executive's impact assessment library at

http://www.ialibrary.berr.gov.uk/.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff employed in London on work contracted to their employers by his Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [273116]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills was created in June this year and made up of the former Departments of BERR and DIUS. That part of the Department which is ex- BERR does not have any directly employed staff earning less than £7.45 per hour in London. The pay and remuneration of staff employed by contractors used by ex- BERR is determined by their direct employers.

DIUS had already responded to this question before BIS was created 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 994W.

Departmental Press Releases

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills where Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills press releases are archived on the internet. [286991]

Mr. McFadden: The then Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills press releases are archived at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/press_releases.aspx

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate his Department's expenditure on enterprise funds in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [257649]

Kevin Brennan: The Enterprise Funds support the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and legacy Small Firms Loan Guarantee, along with the Department's equity fund portfolio including Enterprise Capital Funds, the Capital for Enterprise Fund and the Aspire fund.

BIS is fully committed to supporting the enterprise and growth agenda. The Department's 2008-09 Annual Report and Accounts gives details of spend on enterprise funds and planned expenditure up to 2010-11. Expenditure after that date will be agreed at the next spending review.

In addition, the Government announced the creation of the UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF) in June 2009. The UKIIF backed by £150 million of Government funding aims to attract significant private sector investment to help invest in growing small businesses, start ups and spin outs in the digital, life science, clean technology and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Departmental Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department incurred in *(a)* producing and *(b)* publishing its document, Better Deal for Consumers; and how many copies were printed. [286914]

Mr. McFadden: The total cost of designing, printing and translating (where necessary) the White Paper were £23,022.15. 1,000 copies of the White Paper were printed.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has met Lord Paul of Marylebone on matters relating to his departmental responsibilities since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [281958]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has had no meetings with Lord Paul of Marylebone.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees of his Department and its predecessors have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284977]

Mr. McFadden: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code.

Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the industry and Parliament Trust. Details on numbers of civil servants from this Department (and its predecessors) that have had such an attachment are not held centrally.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 394W, on trade unions, what office facilities are provided for the exclusive use of each trade unions recognised by the Department; and what the notional yearly value of such provision is in each case. [288721]

Mr. McFadden: This Department provides office facilities for the exclusive use of the trade union side at its building at 1 Victoria street, London and at Moorfoot in Sheffield. The current cost per annum of providing this space is £22,000 in London and £3,950 in Sheffield.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many work placements his Department and its predecessor offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274693]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills was created on 5 June 2009 with the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS).

(a) DIUS offered 12 work experience places which were taken up by school pupils in 2008.

BERR and its predecessor DTI did not keep central records of the number of work placements offered to school pupils. Any such opportunities are arranged by individual business groups.

(b) and *(c)* Work placements in both DIUS and BERR for university students and graduates were arranged by the individual business groups. No central records were kept of the placements that were offered or the numbers that took up these positions.

BERR participated annually in the Cabinet Office Diversity Internship Programme for undergraduates and graduates from ethnic minority backgrounds which are under represented in the civil service. The scheme provides six to eight week paid placement scheme for students who are considering the civil service as a future career.

Based on the information available from 2003 to 2009, a total of 32 students have been placed in the Department as part of the scheme.

Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Secretary of State last *(a)* met and *(b)* communicated with (i) Mr Derek Draper and (ii) Mr Charlie Whelan in the course of his official duties. [287358]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State met Mr. Charlie Whelan on 15 January in the course of his official duties.

Economic Situation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what initiatives announced by his Department since November 2008 to assist *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* individuals (i) have been implementend and (ii) remain to be implemented; on what date each was implemented; and if he will make a statement. [268508]

Kevin Brennan: The Government acted swiftly at the beginning of the year to help small businesses survive the current economic downturn. The package of support to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs of businesses announced by my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of Sate on 14 January under the Real Help campaign provided:

£1 billion of guarantees supporting £1.3 billion of lending to smaller businesses through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme;

Up to £10 billion of guarantees through the Working Capital Scheme that will secure new and existing credit lines worth up to £20 billion—and free up new capital for lending; and

A £75 million capital (£50 million from HMG and £25 million from banks) fund to invest in businesses that need equity or quasi equity.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee became operational on 14 January and as of 12 August lenders have logged over £680 million of eligible applications from over 6,000 businesses which have been granted, being processed or assessed.

Capital for Enterprise Fund was open to registration from 14 January, the two fund managers have since been appointed to appraise propositions for potential investment. Funds managers have made offers totalling almost £36 million to 24 businesses, of which four businesses have accepted the terms of the offer issued with a value of £5 million. Two businesses have received investment totalling £3 million.

The Working Capital Scheme was announced on 14 January and formally launched on 2 March.

The Government have also recently launched the UK Innovation Fund as part of Government's strategy for Building Britain's Future.

Employment Agencies: Conditions of Employment

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 438-39W, on employment agencies: conditions of employment, on what charges employment agencies were convicted in January and June 2009 as a result of complaints made to the Employment Agency Standards helpline. [285530]

Mr. McFadden: In January 2009, a recruitment agent in the entertainment sector was prosecuted for failing to pay workers £3,500 for their performances.

In June 2009, a recruitment agency consultant supplying rail workers was prosecuted for failing to pay workers £11,000.

Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many additional student places have been provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in each year since 1992. [288583]

Mr. Lammy: Table 1 shows full-time equivalent (FTE) student numbers allocated through HEFCE's main Additional Student Number (ASN) exercises for the years 1998 to 2009. Figures prior to 1998 are not included because places were allocated under a different system.

Table 1: Additional student numbers (ASNs) allocated by HEFCE from 1998-1999 to 2009-10

	Fully-funded	Co-funded	Total
2009-10	10,000	7,100	17,100
2008-09	13,900	5,000	18,900
2007-08	26,500	1,600	28,100
2006-07	21,300	200	21,500
2005-06	16,500	0	16,500
2004-05	18,500	0	18,500
2003-04	18,300	0	18,300
2002-03	17,600	0	17,600
2001-02	22,200	0	22,200
2000-01	19,600	0	19,600
1999-2000	31,300	0	31,300
1998-1999	9,600	0	9,600

Notes:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 FTE.
The table includes fully-funded ASNs as well as those co-funded by employers fully-funded ASNs include: increases in intakes to undergraduate medicine and dentistry courses; FTEs to support diversification out of Initial Teacher Training; Prototype Foundation Degrees (awarded 2001-02 to 2004-05).
Where ASNs are co-funded, the FTEs to be delivered have been included rather than the fully-funded figures.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1330-31W, on higher education: admissions, how many applications for full-time undergraduate courses in England were *(a)* submitted and *(b)* accepted in each year since 1979; and how many such applicants were domiciled (i) outside the EU, (ii) in the EU but not in the UK and (iii) in the UK. [278875]

Mr. Lammy: The information is in the tables. Comparable information, which separately identifies non-UK students applying to institutions in England, is not held centrally for years prior to 1994. Prior to the formation of UCAS in 1994, figures were published separately for the two admission systems, the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) and the Polytechnic and College Admission Service (PCAS), but they did not separately identify non-UK students applying to institutions in England.

Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via UCAS 1994-2008

Domicile	UK	EU	Non-EU	Grand total
1994	326,412	15,514	20,070	361,996
1995	316,917	19,891	21,479	358,287
1996	308,769	21,342	22,906	353,017
1997	334,691	24,356	25,915	384,962
1998	327,000	22,080	25,462	374,542
1999	323,025	21,010	23,440	367,475
2000	321,696	18,628	24,949	365,273
2001	327,564	15,927	28,362	371,853
2002	326,894	14,610	34,000	375,504
2003	334,355	15,276	38,722	388,353
2004	339,434	16,298	43,897	399,629
2005	369,719	17,826	47,144	434,689
2006	355,567	23,729	37,434	416,730
2007	376,177	26,872	39,435	442,484
2008	414,817	27,600	43,135	485,552

Source:
UCAS

Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via UCAS 1994-2008

Domicile	UK	EU	Non-EU	Grand total
1994	207,907	5,981	9,600	223,488
1995	218,596	8,825	11,241	238,662
1996	218,998	10,978	11,771	241,747
1997	251,535	13,711	14,374	279,620
1998	245,839	13,028	13,851	272,718
1999	250,360	12,742	14,411	277,513
2000	253,915	11,458	15,274	280,647
2001	268,570	9,593	18,342	296,505
2002	273,257	9,149	22,069	304,475
2003	274,983	9,400	24,788	309,171

Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via UCAS 1994-2008

Domicile	UK	EU	Non-EU	Grand total
2004	274,507	9,561	27,105	311,173
2005	299,288	9,904	28,298	337,490
2006	287,409	14,288	23,557	325,254
2007	304,796	16,008	24,377	345,181
2008	340,879	16,195	25,472	382,546

Note:
UCAS applicant data. The applicant figures cover applicants submitting one or more applications to an English institution (in 1994/95 each applicant could submit up to eight applications; this was reduced to six from 1995/96, and to five from 2008/09). Students in this table applying to English institutions may also have applied to institutions in one or more of the other home countries, and some may have been accepted to institutions in those countries. In 2008 the Nursing and Midwifery Admissions System (NMAS) was subsumed in to the UCAS application system and part of the increase from 2007 to 2008 can be attributed this factor. There were 14,184 applicants who were accepted to former NMAS courses, the majority of whom were English domiciled (and NMAS was only for English institutions).
Source:
UCAS

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of residents in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire, *(d)* the South East and *(e)* England entered university in each of the last 10-years. [284316]

Mr. McFadden: The Government does not collect data on the number of people resident in a particular area who are not in higher education. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate what proportion of residents in Hemel Hempstead constituency, Dacorum, Hertfordshire and the South East entered university in each of the last ten years.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published "Young participation in higher education" in January 2005, which is available from the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05/03/

The HEFCE report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 disaggregated by local education authority (LEA) for the years 1997 to 2000.

At national level, the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR) covers English-domiciled 17-30 year old first-time entrants to higher education courses, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figure is 43 per cent. in 2007/08.

The numbers of all-aged entrants to higher education from Hemel Hempstead constituency, Dacorum, Hertfordshire, the South East and England, in each of the last ten years, are shown as an alternative in the tables. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Entrants[1] from Hemel Hempstead constituency[2], Dacorum census district[2] Hertfordshire local authority[2], the South East Government Office Region[2] and England UK higher education institutions[3] : Academic years 1998/99 to 2007/08

Academic year	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	Hertfordshire	South East	England
1998/99	735	1,220	10,215	79,235	516,930
1999/2000	740	1,225	10,615	80,220	515,565
2000/01	845	1,340	11,045	80,705	516,750
2001/02	900	1,420	11,395	85,095	548,000
2002/03	865	1,385	11,620	86,875	570,695
2003/04	935	1,420	13,315	87,645	578,790
2004/05	880	1,410	11,940	90,500	579,200
2005/06	970	1,545	12,215	92,340	598,745
2006/07	855	1,365	11,585	87,305	575,085
2007/08	910	1,495	12,015	88,705	589,055

[1] Covers postgraduate and undergraduate entrants to both full-time and part-time courses.
[2] The table does not include entrants where the parliamentary constituency, local authority area, census district and Government Office Region of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.
[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants over the time series.
Notes:
Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much and what proportion of the funding awarded to higher education institutions as a result of the changes to the funding for students studying for equivalent and lower qualifications has been designated as core teaching funding for 2009-10. [287029]

Mr. McFadden: This policy redistributes funding for the teaching of students studying for equivalent or lower qualifications (ELQs) to the teaching of students who have not previously benefitted from higher education. For 2009-10 we have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England to redistribute £60 million from a total support for ELQ students of £325 million.

Innovation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on establishing a new national proof of concept fund. [280369]

Mr. Lammy: There is no dedicated proof of concept fund. To ensure businesses receive the most cost effective and comprehensive range of support a new national framework for proof of concept support was adopted by the RDAs in March. The framework comprises funding of up to £500,000; access to facilities, including business incubators, laboratories and science parks; and tailored help including help with business and financial planning and coaching on how to pitch for investment.

This new national framework ensures help is targeted to the specific needs of businesses. It avoids the overlap and duplication that would be created by a dedicated proof of concept scheme. All RDA support for proof of concept will be fully aligned with the national framework by 31 March 2010.

Insolvency

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many British businesses which *(a)* export and *(b)* do not export have entered into administration in each of the last 36 months. [277786]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to identify whether insolvent companies had exported or not. Further, insolvency statistics are not produced on a monthly basis.

Insolvency Service: Official Hospitality

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Insolvency Service spent on *(a)* promotional items and *(b)* gifts in each of the last five years. [285440]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service has spent the following amounts on *(a)* promotional items:

	Amount (£)
2004-05	Nil
2005-06	2,036.28
2006-07	3,654.25
2007-08	23,489.94
2008-09	4,142

and *(b)* on gifts:

	Amount (£)
2004-05	Nil
2005-06	663.89
2006-07	596.90
2007-08	Nil
2008-09	Nil

Lockerbie: Bombings

Mr. Hague: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Secretary of State has met Saif al-Uslam Gaddafi in an official capacity; whether the subject of *(a)* commercial contracts for oil and gas and *(b)* Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi have been discussed at any such meeting; and if he will place in the Library records of each meeting. [290637]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has had one official meeting with Saif al-Uslam Gaddafi. There was no discussion of commercial contracts for oil and gas. Saif al-Uslam Gaddafi raised the case of Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi. My noble Friend the Secretary of State made clear that this was a matter for the Scottish Executive.

Parker Pen Company: Newhaven

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to limit the likely negative effects of the proposed closure of the Parker Pen factory in Newhaven on the local businesses. [288871]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* Support to local businesses and work force to help them manage the impact of the proposed closure of the Parker Pen factory in Newhaven is delivered through a number of regional and local agencies. The range of support mechanisms that is currently available includes all the following.

"South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)" is providing a range of support mechanisms. SEEDA's Investor Development Manager and a broker from the Continuing Employment Support Service (CESS) have been in contact with Parker Pens. An offer of support is being put together for the company to consider. If accepted, there could be a local taskforce involving SEEDA and key partners such as Jobcentre Plus, Business Link, the local council and local recruitment agencies. This would support the work force and possibly also local businesses which form part of the supply chain for Parker Pens, and for whom the closure may have a significant impact.

"East Sussex County Council (ESCC)" has set up a 'Recession Task Force'. This group shares key information and co-ordinates work between different organisations, and provides practical support for ideas from a wide range of sources, including drawing on the Government's 'Real Help Now' programme. The Task Force includes representatives from the district and borough councils, Jobcentre Plus, major employers such as the NHS, local business support bodies such as Business Link and Trading Standards, and representatives from the voluntary and community sector, such as the Citizens Advice Bureau. ESCC has set up a £1 million Recession Fund to help the county through the recession. The funding will be spent on a wide range of initiatives and partnerships aimed at helping firms, families and individuals to fight the credit crunch. Projects include supporting small businesses by offering more support and speeding up the payment of invoices. In November 2008, the Council provided £100,000 to enable Business Link Sussex to offer specialist help to local businesses and grants to the local Credit Unions—community-based savings and loans organisations—to make it easier for people to access loans and protect residents from the loan sharks. Through the Fund a grant of £75,000 has been allocated towards the Newhaven community-based NewCEP Extra project—which will be used, with a focus on Parker Pens, to assist 125 clients with job search, action planning and skills development.

"Business Link (enterprise gateway service)" helps people facing barriers in starting up their own businesses. They offer a four-step programme called Building Business Confidence and a one-to-one mentoring service. They work locally with partner organisations such as Jobcentre Plus, NewCEP and Sussex Downs College, as well as social enterprises in the region, to identify individuals who are interested in self-employment.

"Newhaven's Enterprise Centre" funded by SEEDA at a cost of £4.75 million provides 2,000 sq m of new space. The Centre has been developed by Lewes District

Council in conjunction with specialist managed business centre operators Basepoint plc. It provides 44 units offering a wide range of high quality office space and workshops designed for all sectors of small to medium businesses and to encourage new and micro enterprises.

SEEDA has started a relevant new service in the "South East Women's Business Service". There will be two women's business advisers in Sussex, and they will provide intensive women-friendly business adviser support to women considering enterprise (pre-start) from the Business Link enterprise gateway service's priority groups and areas. For example it will support those who are disadvantaged, from groups under-represented in business or facing barriers to enterprise. They will be offering assistance to vulnerable early-stage, women-owned businesses, assisting self-employed women or women-owned businesses to stabilise and improve their performance.

Contact has been made by "Sussex Downs College (SDC)" with Parker Pens, and employees will be offered support through its 'Response to Redundancy'-funded 'Navigate' programme. SDC is the main further education provider covering the Newhaven area, with a campus in Newhaven at Denton Island Training Centre, and has wide experience of working in the town.

As the Skills Secretary announced on 21 October 2008, in a package of measures responding to the economic downturn, the LSC has £100 million to support workers affected by redundancy. It is making available £50 million from the European Social Fund (ESF) and £50 million through Train to Gain to boost skills interventions for individuals: those under notice of redundancy; those recently made redundant; and those that are unemployed and further from the labour market but could be made ready for work with a skills development support package. The aim of the Redundancy Support Programme is to ensure adults aged 18 and over in these groups are provided with the high-quality training and education support that they need to enable them to continue in, or enter or re-enter employment and contribute positively to the local labour market.

Regeneration: Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 530W, on regional development agencies: finance, how much each agency spent on regeneration programmes as a percentage of its total expenditure in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [278614]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows RDA expenditure on regeneration programmes as a percentage of its total expenditure in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

RDA expenditure on regeneration programmes as a percentage of its total expenditure

RDA	*2007-08*	*Percentage 2008-09*
AWM	38	46
EEDA	36	41
EMDA	48	47
LDA[1]	31	53
NWDA	41	39
ONE	29	29
SEEDA	40	38
SWERDA	33	38
YF	31	41

[1] The LDA have revised their definition of "regeneration programmes" from the previous answer 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 530W, on Regional Development Agencies.

Regional Development Agencies

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of unused land owned by regional development agencies. [277882]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* At 31 March, the monetary value of unused land owned by the regional developments agencies was £268,021,001.

The figure above gives the monetary value of land holdings recorded on each RDA's asset register at 31 March on which there is no activity or other development taking place although in virtually all cases the RDAs are actively negotiating the development or plans for development of these assets. While assets are revalued at least annually by RDAs, the book value may not reflect the actual value of a particular holding therefore these figures should only be considered an estimate.

Regional Development Agencies: Airports

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments each regional development agency has made to airports in the last 12 months; and for what purposes such payments were made in each case. [286679]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows RDA payments to airports in the last 12 months.

RDA	*Payments to airports (£000)*	*Purpose*
AWM	170	This relates to preliminary costs in respect of the project to extend the main runway at Birmingham International airport.
LDA	1,050	This was a payment made as part of a £1.6 million Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) grant to London City airport. The grant was a contribution to a wider £39.8 million project to construct additional apron over the north-west corner of the George V Dock, increasing stand space and providing an extra runway link.
ONE	416	This is comprised of: (a) four payments to Newcastle International airport to finance route development support to Copenhagen, Bergen and Krakow, as well as the cost of hiring a meeting room. (b) three payments to Durham Tees Valley airport for route development support to Warsaw as well as gap funding for economic development at the adjacent business park.

EEDA, EMDA, NWDA, SEEDA, SWRDA, and YF have recorded no payments to airports in the last 12 months.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each regional development agency has spent on *(a)* airport infrastructure and *(b)* subsidies designed to increase levels of use of airports in each region in each year since 1997. [286717]

Mr. McFadden: The following tables show expenditure by each RDA on airport infrastructure and subsidies designed to increase levels of use of airports in each region since 2003-04. The RDAs retain records of the last seven years. To provide records before this period will incur disproportionate costs.

RDA Expenditure on airport infrastructure (£000)[1]

RDA	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
AWM	0	0	0	0	0	142	28
EEDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EMDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LDA	54	0	0	0	0	0	0
NWDA	0	0	0	850	1,600	2,000	0
ONE	622	895	12	1,589	498	224	1,280
SEEDA	0	150	0	0	0	0	0
SWRDA	1,200	1,500	75	1,159	0	0	0
YF	0	0	150	1,094	3,239	1,135	4,700

[1] Expenditure on airport infrastructure relates to any direct expenditure on airport buildings and equipment and has been invested within the airport's boundaries.

Subsidies designed to increase levels of use of airports (£000)[1]

RDA	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
AWM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EEDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EMDA	0	0	0	0	426	922	49
LDA	350	0	200	0	0	1,050	0
NWDA	0	0	0	0	277	1,318	139
ONE	0	0	0	92	345	205	100
SEEDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWRDA	75	15	940	0	8,010	0	0
YF	0	0	50	0	0	0	0

[1] Subsidies designed to increase levels of use of airports relates to any expenditure aimed at increasing the use of or uptake of the airport and its facilities.

Regional Development Agencies: Expenditure

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding allocated by his Department to each regional development agency was spent on tourism in each of the last five years. [287907]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows RDA expenditure on tourism in the last five years.

Expenditure on tourism includes marketing and tourism promotion, capital spending related to tourism, product development related to tourism, and research related to tourism.

Expenditure on Tourism (£ million)

RDAs	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
AWM	2	3.8	8	12.5	9.5
EEDA	0.6	0.8	1.5	1.7	1.1
EMDA	2.5	4.1	5	4.6	4.2
LDA	23.7	23.8	23.9	29.4	25.9
NWDA[1]	4.1	5.5	3.4	9.5	11.8
ONE[2]	3.3	7.1	10.8	10.6	11.9
SEEDA	1.8	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.3
SWRDA[3]	9.2	7.5	6.4	5.5	4.7
YF	4	4.1	7.5	6.5	10.5

[1] NWDA have not included: (a) core cost for funding Destination Management Organisations or Regional Tourist Boards and (b) specific funding to organisations in Liverpool for Capital of Culture activity.
[2] ONE took over the delivery of tourism in 2004-05.
[3] Figures for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 include expenditure related to SWRDA's role as the national RDA lead for tourism policy.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether further budget changes are planned for each regional development agency before its current corporate plan expires. [285337]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The regional development agencies (RDAs) have budget allocations for 2009-10 and indicative budgets for 2010-11. There are no plans to change RDA budgets.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on the flow of funds from regional development agencies. [285510]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The Department has asked the RDAs to review their spending plans on how they will use their resources to deliver their priorities in the light of changes to their budgets and the changed economic conditions. This information will be available in the RDAs (refreshed) Corporate Plans, which will be published in the summer.

On an ongoing basis, the Department monitors the agencies use of funds including actual expenditure against annual budgets.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has channelled through regional development agencies for *(a)* skills training and *(b)* careers advice in the last five years. [288232]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The following table shows funding spent on RDA programmes where 'skills training' was the specific primary objective are as follows:

RDA Expenditure on Skills Training (£ million)

RDA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
AWM	12.9	6.0	3.6	2.1	2.2
EEDA	2.1	3.0	2.8	2.5	1.3
EMDA	3.5	3.8	7.5	7.5	4.1
LDA[1]	[2]	13.4	31.1	19.0	93.2
NWDA	9.3	7.3	16.6	23.2	16.8
ONE	2.7	5.2	5.7	7.9	5.0
SEEDA	3.1	2.3	2.4	2.2	1.8
SWRDA	0.4	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.5
YF	23.4	17.9	18.5	19.5	11.0

[1] Figures used are aggregate figures for the directorate of Business and Skills.
[2] To separate out the data would incur disproportionate cost.

(b) RDAs have no specific remit to provide careers advice, and as such, there is no direct funding of any careers advice programmes. However, there are a number of RDA programmes such as employment brokerage to

place graduates with SMEs, which may be considered to contain elements of 'careers advice' as a by-product of the programme.

Regional Development Agencies: Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much each of the regional development agencies and the London Development Agency *(a)* spent on media monitoring in each of the last three years and *(b)* has allocated to expenditure on media monitoring in each of the next three years; [280507]

(2) how much money each regional development agency has *(a)* spent on media monitoring in each of the last three years and *(b)* allocated to media monitoring in each of the next three years. [282034]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 and 24 June 2009]:* The following table shows RDA expenditure on media monitoring services in the last three years.

RDA actual expenditure on media monitoring

£

RDA	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
AWM	15,807	20,467	27,952
EEDA	19,000	20,000	9,000
EMDA	41,472	19,999	29,004
LDA [1]	5,437	9,210	18,000
NWDA	21,864	14,441	21,824
ONE	18,864	32,154	35,291
SEEDA	24,819	26,811	19,884
SWRDA	27,152	36,544	33,036
YF	30,014	21,385	24,876

Note:
During the period 2006-07 to 2008-09 the LDA also made an annual contribution towards the GLA Group In-House cuttings service.

The following table shows RDA allocations to media monitoring in the next three years. These figures are nominal, not yet part of formal budgets and therefore subject to change.

RDA allocated expenditure on media monitoring

£000

RDA	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
AWM	29	[1]—	[1]—
EEDA	9	9	9
EMDA	19	19	19
LDA	10	[2]—	[2]—
NWDA	25	25	25
ONE	18	18	18
SEEDA	28	28	28
SWRDA	32	31	30
YF	30	30	30

[1] AWM are currently reviewing their future spend in all areas.
[2] LDA has made no provisional allocation, as the contracts with media monitoring companies are due for renewal at the end of the 2009-10 financial year.

Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1276W, on regional planning and development, on what date the regional industrial development boards were established; how much funding his Department has allocated to each such brand for 2009-10; and what the remit and function of each such board is. [279992]

Mr. McFadden: The seven Regional Industrial Development Boards are non-statutory non-departmental public bodies. The first four Boards were established following the passage of the Industry Act 1972 and were the Northern Industrial Development Board, the North West Industrial Development Board, the Yorkshire and Humberside Industrial Development Board and the South West Industrial Development Board. The West Midlands Board was established in 1984 following that year's Regional Policy Review. The London and South East and East of England Boards were established following the 1993 Review of the Assisted Areas.

When Corby became a development area in 1979, the Yorkshire and Humberside Development Board became a joint board with the East Midlands. The Northern Industrial Development Board became the North East Industrial Development Board in 1982 when Cumbria ceased to be part of the Department of Trade and Industry's northern region.

None of the boards are allocated budgets as none entail public expenditure apart from the remuneration of travel and subsistence costs of members.

The role of the boards is to advise the regional development agencies on individual company applications for regional assistance between £250,000 and £1.99 million, except the East of England Board, which advises on applications between £100,000 and £1.99 million.

During 2008-09 we conducted a review of the boards in consultation with the Cabinet Office to ensure that their governance arrangements remained relevant in view of the significant changes to the way in which support for business in the regions is handled since they were established, particularly the creation of regional development agencies and the delegation to them of responsibility of operating business support schemes previously undertaken by the Government office network. This review concluded that the appropriate way forward would be to replace the boards with advisory investment panels, to be appointed and supported entirely by the regional development agencies. It is expected that the agencies will appoint new advisory panels to replace the boards over the course of 2009-10.

Research: Finance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the level of expenditure by his Department and its predecessors on grants for research and development in each region in each of the last three years; and what his Department's budget for such expenditure is for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [282816]

Kevin Brennan: Responsibility for delivering Grant for Research and Development is devolved to the Regional Development Agencies. RDA expenditure on Grant for Research and Development in years 2006-07 to 2008-09 is shown in the following table, together with the budgets for 2009-10 to 2010-11. LDA is reviewing its budget for the period 2009-10 and 20101-11. SWRDA has not yet set its budget for 2010-11.

	Expenditure (£)			Budget (£)	
RDA	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
AWM	1,408,002	1,457,311	1,567,079	2,000,000	2,000,000
EEDA	3,685,000	3,856,961	3,481,523	3,500,000	4,500,000

	Expenditure (£)			Budget (£)	
RDA	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
EMDA	2,685,507	3,346,115	3,435,912	3,446,200	2,400,000
LDA	2,154,962	2,461,348	1,750,660	359,586	100,663
ONE	1,794,977	2,189,200	2,482,321	2,500,000	2,500,000
NWDA	1,978,022	4,379,295	7,004,995	5,968,000	6,213,000
SEEDA	4,135,453	3,094,255	2,624,547	3,500,000	3,500,000
SWRDA	1,236,246	886,422	1,177,647	1,500,000	n/a
YF	2,808,454	1,091,559	2,573,119	3,200,000	3,750,000

Royal Mail: Stoke-on-Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if the Secretary of State will have discussions with regeneration partners in Stoke-on-Trent on *(a)* the job losses and *(b)* undertakings given to retain Royal Mail jobs in Stoke-on-Trent arising from the transfer of sorting operations to Wolverhampton; and if he will make a statement. [290816]

Mr. McFadden: Under reforms put in place by the Postal Services Act 2000, Royal Mail management was given greater commercial freedom to run the company without interference from Government. Both management and the unions wanted the Government to introduce these changes. Decisions about the movement of sorting operations and retention of such operations in specific areas are, therefore, a matter for Royal Mail management. Royal Mail is seeking to rationalise its mail centre network to improve its efficiency in a market where volumes of mail have been falling at unprecedented levels.

Skilled Workers: Construction

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department takes to monitor the extent to which the standards needed to obtain a construction skills register card are met by glassworkers working on building sites. [289154]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not monitor the operation of the Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS), or the extent to which the standards needed to obtain scheme cards are met by glassworkers, or other workers. CSCS is not a Government scheme, although its role in driving improvement in health and safety performance, and competence in the construction industry, is welcome. It is owned and managed by the construction industry and unions.

Small Businesses: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government are taking to assist small businesses to overcome short-term cashflow problems. [266659]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The Government have and continues to take steps to assist small businesses to access the finance they need to overcome short-term cash-flow problems by:

securing £27 billion lending commitments from Lloyds and RBS for additional lending to businesses this year;

HMRC Time to Pay—since last November businesses experiencing cash flow difficulties can get help from the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Business Support Service. So far more there have been more than 184,000 agreements with businesses to spread more than £3.2 billion in businesses taxes

Introducing the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) to enable banks to lend to businesses that would otherwise not secure a loan. The EFG to date has received over £680 million of eligible applications from 6,027 businesses which have either been granted, being processed or assessed.

Central Government Departments committing to paying all invoices to small businesses within 10-days.

Identifying and promoting business payment exemplars through the prompt payment code.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department has offered to small businesses in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide during the economic downturn. [268377]

Kevin Brennan: The new package of support to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs of businesses across the UK, announced by my noble Friend the Secretary of Sate on 14 January under the Real Help campaign, provides:

£1 billion of guarantees supporting £1.3 billion of lending to smaller businesses through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme;

Up to £10 billion of guarantees through the Working Capital scheme that will secure new and existing credit lines worth up to £20 billion—and free up new capital for lending; and

A £75 million capital (£50 million from HMG and £25 million from banks) fund to invest in businesses that need equity or quasi equity.

As of 12 August the number and value of EFG loans was as follows:

Area	*Number of loans offered*	*Value of loans offered (£ million)*
Jarrow	3	0.13
South Tyneside	9	0.27
North East	163	15.90

The Department records information on the Capital for Enterprise Fund on a regional basis. As of 12 August in the North East there was one enquiry under consideration.

Through One North East, the GBI scheme provided £17 million of funding to businesses, including SMEs, in the financial year ending 31 March. The Regional Enterprise Loan Fund has provided over £860,000 to SMEs in the last year, and the Transitional Loan Fund provided £9.9 million of funding to otherwise viable SMEs facing cash flow issues in the financial year ending 31 March.

South West Regional Development Agency: Finance

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding for each local authority in the South West region his Department has channelled through the South West Regional Development Agency in the latest period for which figures are available. [284416]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* The RDAs are financed through a single budget, a fund which pools money from all the contributing Government Departments (BIS, CLG, DECC, DEFRA, DCMS and UKTI). Funds are allocated to individual RDAs from this single budget and spent according to priorities established by each agency. None of the funds in the single budget is hypothecated—therefore funds are not 'channelled' through the RDAs towards any spending programme.

However, the table sets out a spatial breakdown of anticipated South West RDA single budget capital and revenue project expenditure directly on and in South West areas and sub-regions for 2009-11.

Area/sub-region	*Total 2009/11 (£ million)*
West of England (Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, and Bath and North East Somerset)	35.5
Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Exeter	35.2
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	56.2
Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole	7.8
Gloucestershire	15.9
Somerset	5.9
Wiltshire and Swindon	6.7
Region-wide programmes	98.5

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many learners at further education colleges paid *(a)* no fees, *(b)* partial fees and *(c)* full fees in the latest period for which figures are available; [287030]

(2) how many people studying at further education level are entitled to partial or complete remission of fees in respect of *(a)* age, *(b)* previous skills levels, *(c)* status as a benefit or tax credit claimant and *(d)* employment status. [287031]

Mr. McFadden: Full funding is provided in respect of certain categories of learning and learners in line with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding guidance at:

www.lsc.gov.uk

This includes: learners aged 16-18, adults undertaking Skills for Life literacy or numeracy qualifications, first full level 2, and first full level 3 (where the learner is aged 19-25) qualifications. Learners in receipt of income-related benefits are also eligible for full fee remission. For adult learners, where full fee remission does not apply, the amount of public funding provided assumes a contribution towards the cost of the course from the learner or employer. In 2009-10, the assumed fee contribution will be 47.5 per cent., with the Government contributing the remaining 52.5 per cent.

The post-16 Education and Skills Statistical First Release (SFR) (June 2009) shows that 2,464,100 learners participated in LSC funded further education provision in the 2007-08 academic year (this excludes Train to Gain and Apprenticeships). It is not possible to distinguish between learners who received full and partial LSC funding in all cases, for example where an FE college or provider waives fees and they do not record whether this is the full or partial amount of fee owed. It is therefore not possible to provide a full breakdown in this way.

It is possible to identify the number of learning aims studied in 2007-08 where full fee remission has been provided in line with Government fee policy. This is shown in the following table.

Fee remission in respect of:	*Number of aims*
Previous skill level (skills for life, level 2 and level 3 entitlement)	526,500
As a benefit or tax credit claimant	337,200
Of which in receipt of Job Seeker's allowance	79,500
Total	863,700

Notes:
Information is based on further education, adult and community learning and university for industry data—information is not available for work-based learning (WBL) data.
Learners with aims in more than one category will be counted once for every category in which they appear. However, where learners are eligible for more than one reason for a single aim, they will be recorded against only one category. Therefore, the total provided may not represent all of the people who are eligible for a particular category.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record, 2007-08.

Information on learners who pay the full fee amount themselves is not available.

Students: Finance

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on the implications for its policy on levels of assistance for part-time students in 2009-10 and 2010-11 of an increase in the number of Universities and Colleges Admissions Service applications. [285743]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The Department has had no discussions with the Funding Council on this subject. It is for higher education institutions to decide the mix of provision they want to provide within the teaching grant allocated.

Students: Grants

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students were receiving maintenance grants in *(a)* the City of Southampton and *(b)* Hampshire County Council local education authority area in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average grant received by such students was in that period. [288391]

Mr. McFadden: The information is found in the table.

Students awarded grant[1] academic year 2008/09 (provisional)[2]

Local authority	*Number of students awarded grant*	*Average (£)*
Southampton	1,560	2,380
Hampshire	8,660	2,060

[1] Figures cover the Higher Education Grant, the Maintenance Grant and grants and allowances for children and dependants. Each of these grant types has a different maximum entitlement amount.
[2] Data at mid-November 2008. Figures may change as later applications are processed.
Source:
Student Loans Company

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of people with student loans have paid back the full amount within the first two years of leaving higher education since loans were introduced. [287685]

Mr. Lammy: Income Contingent Loan borrowers become liable to repay their student loan in the April after leaving their course. This is known as the statutory repayment due date (SRDD). Borrowers will normally only start making repayment once their income is above the £15,000 threshold and they repay 9 per cent. of their income over the threshold level.

It is not possible to calculate precisely how many borrowers have paid back the full amount within the first two years of leaving higher education. However, as at 31 March 2009, Student Loan Company (SLC) figures show that 2.4 per cent. of ICR borrowers had repaid in full before their SRDD. A further 2.5 per cent. had repaid their loan within two years of their SRDD which may be almost three years after students have left their courses.

Providing the information for those with mortgage-style loans (MS) is not possible. In 1998, when the SLC migrated these data, only the number of borrowers who had fully repaid was recorded, not the number of financial transactions which would enable us to accurately calculate the percentage who had repaid within two years.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many people in each age group had not repaid their student loans in the *(a)* City of Southampton and *(b)* non-metropolitan County of Hampshire area on the latest date for which figures are available; [288392]

(2) how many people in each age group had begun repayments of student loans in the *(a)* City of Southampton and *(b)* non-metropolitan County of Hampshire area on the latest date for which figures are available. [288393]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Income-Contingent loan borrowers, March 2009[1]

	Numbers who have not yet made a repayment	*Numbers who have made a repayment*	*Total*
Southampton[2]			
Age[3]			
Less than 20	0	0	0
20 to 24	340	500	840
25 to 29	360	1,470	1,830
30 to 39	180	440	620
40 to 49	70	130	200
50 and over	30	30	70
Total	980	2,570	3,560
Hampshire[2]			
Age[3]			
Less than 20	30	20	40
20 to 24	2,570	5,290	7,870
25 to 29	2,220	13,830	16,050
30 to 39	680	1,490	2,090
40 to 49	370	770	1,140
50 and over	180	240	420
Total	5,980	21,640	27,610

[1] Table covers income-contingent loan borrowers liable to repay with known repayment or non-repayment status.
[2] Local authority where the borrower was resident at the time of application for student finance. This does not indicate current residence.
[3] Age at the end of the last tax year for which repayment/non-repayment information has been posted, mainly end of tax year 2007-08.
Source:
Student Loans Company

Borrowers become liable to repay their loans in the April after they leave their course. Repayments are at the rate of 9 per cent. of earnings above the £15,000 threshold. Those earning less than the threshold are not liable to repay. Those not yet repaying may include borrowers who have gone on to further study or are doing voluntary work.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been deducted from the salaries of individuals in each income group for student loan repayments in the *(a)* City of Southampton and *(b)* non-metropolitan County of Hampshire area in the last 12 months. [288394]

Mr. McFadden: The information is available in the following table.

Student Loans PAYE Deductions Tax Year 2007-08[1]

	Numbers who have had a deduction from earnings under PAYE	*Amount deducted from earnings under PAYE*	*Average amount deducted*
Southampton[2]			
Less than £15,000	550	60,000	110

Student Loans PAYE Deductions Tax Year 2007-08[1, 3]

	Numbers who have had a deduction from earnings under PAYE	*Amount deducted from earnings under PAYE*	*Average amount deducted*
£15-20,000	560	150,000	270
£20-25,000	470	320,000	670
£25-30,000	300	310,000	1,030
£30-35,000	140	200,000	1,490
£35-40,000	80	140,000	1,880
Over £40,000	90	230,000	2,690
Total	2,190	1,420,000	650
Hampshire[2]			
Less than £15,000	4,040	470,000	120
£15-20,000	4,160	1,190,000	290
£20-25,000	4,330	2,930,000	680
£25-30,000	2,880	3,060,000	1,060
£30-35,000	1,350	1,990,000	1,480
£35-40,000	710	1,330,000	1,870
Over £40,000	1,040	3,100,000	2,990
Total	18,500	14,070,000	760

[1] Tables cover deductions by PA YE from income-contingent loans. Excludes Self Assessment deductions. Tables cover deductions which HMRC has notified to SLC by 31 March 2009. There will be further deductions notified for tax year 2007-08.
[2] Local authority where the borrower was resident at the time of application for student finance. This does not indicate current residence.
[3] Note that earnings in the tax year is not the same as annual salary. A borrower who starts work late in the tax year on an annual salary above £15,000 will have deductions made but may have earnings during the tax year of less than £15,000.
Source:
Student Loans Company

Borrowers become liable to repay their loans in the April after they leave their course. Repayments are at the rate of 9 per cent. of earnings above the £15,000 threshold.

Take It To The World

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget for marketing, public relations, communications and advertising is of UK Trade and Investment's Take It To The World publicity campaign in 2009-10. [288845]

Mr. McFadden: UK Trade and Investment's June 2009 'Take it to the World' programme was aimed at both new and existing exporters, promoting the benefits of international trade and reaffirming the role of UK Trade and Investment as the organisation that can help make it happen. This is in line with the recommendation in the National Audit Office's recent value for money report.

The budget for the programme in 2009-10 was £430,000 (0.13 per cent. of UK Trade and Investment's total budget).

For the month of June alone this has helped achieve an additional 25,000 more visits to UK Trade and Investment's website when compared with the same month in the previous year.

Trade Unions: Consumers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 914W, on trade unions: legal opinion, if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that consumer protection rights apply to the sale and supply of goods and services by trade unions to their members. [288720]

Mr. McFadden: Consumer protection legislation usually applies in the area of the supply of goods and services by businesses to consumers. Where the supply of goods and service by trade unions falls within this area consumer protection provisions will apply.

UK High Technology Fund

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector funding has been provided for the UK High Technology Fund; what the cost of management fees related to the fund has been; and how many companies have received funding from the fund in each year since its formation. [284880]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* £20 million of public and £106.1 million of private funding has been provided for the UK High Technology Fund (UKHTF).

Fund manager fees of £2,992,017 to 31 December 2008 were made against the total size of the fund of £126.1 million and relate to the fees of the fund of funds manager and the nine underlying funds where the UKHTF was committed.

245 companies have received investment through the UKHTF between 2001 and 2008 as follows:

	Companies
2001	81
2002	29
2003	48
2004	38
2005	30
2006	15
2007	2
2008	2

UK Human Tissue Bank

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will provide support for the creation of a replacement for De Montfort University's UK Human Tissue Bank after its closure in September 2009. [288297]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research.

The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health, including the establishment of tissue banks, and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding. However, it should be noted that the MRC provides funding for research applications submitted by the scientific community in 'response mode', and does not normally commission research to address specific questions.

The MRC currently supports a number of tissue banks where there is a demonstrable need to provide an infrastructure to supply high quality and ethically-sourced material to support scientific investigation.

UK Innovation Fund

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the £100 million funding his Department plans for the UK Innovation Fund is part of the £750 million Strategic Investment Fund allocated in Budget 2009. [284878]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The Department is investing £75 million from the Strategic Investment Fund into the UK Innovation Investment Fund. The remaining £25 million will be found from other budgets within the Department.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies he expects to receive funding from the UK Innovation Fund in its first year of operation; and how much in private sector contributions he expects the fund to receive in that year. [284879]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* The UK Innovation Investment Fund will operate on a Fund of Funds basis which means that it will not invest directly into companies, but will invest in a number of specialist technology funds. At this stage, it is not possible to make any predictions about the number of companies UKIIF will invest in during its first year of operation.

The Government expects that its investment of £150 million will be at least matched by private sector investors during the first year.

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set a reserve price for the sale of a majority stake in the UK Atomic Energy Authority Ltd. [285841]

Mr. McFadden: This information is commercially sensitive during a live sale process.

Video Games: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much financial support was given by regional development agencies to the video games industry in 2007-08; [270805]

(2) how much funding was provided by regional development agencies to the video games industry in 2007-08. [276658]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows RDA funding to the video games industry in 2007-08.

RDA	*RDA funding to the video games sector in 2007-08 (£000)*
AWM	[1]0
EEDA	62
EMDA	164
LDA	121
NWDA	166
ONE	471
SEEDA	[2]0
SWERDA	[2]0
YF	99

[1] AWM does not directly support the 'video games' industry but has provided £800,000 in support to the development of the 'Serious Games' sector in the region. 'Serious Games' is the use of games technology for serious commercial purposes, allowing users to learn a new skill, rehearse a potentially dangerous/costly procedure, or explore a new process or design.

[2] SEEDA and SWERDA have no programmes that specifically fund the video games sector. To identify the funding that has been provided from broader programmes would incur disproportionate cost.

Wage Compensation Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with trade unions on introducing a wage compensation scheme for those on short-time working. [290631]

Mr. McFadden: Earlier this year, my noble Friend the Secretary of State responded to the joint letter from the Trade Union Congress and the Federation of Small Businesses which called for the introduction of short-time working subsidies. In his response to Brendan Barber (TUC, General Secretary) my noble Friend the Secretary of State set out the Government's position on why wage subsidies are not a feasible, cost effective or sustainable option for the UK.

Work Experience

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what provision is made to enable students to undertake work experience in his Department; by what means members of the public may obtain information about work experience in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [288732]

Mr. McFadden: Prior to the creation of BIS on 5 June 2009, the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills had commenced a pilot work experience programme. Included in the pilot were students from a

school local to one of the former DIUS London buildings. This programme continued following the merger of DIUS with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The new Department (BIS) had eight work experience students over a period of two weeks in July 2009, of whom six took part in the pilot programme of activities.

The availability of work experience opportunities was not advertised. The evaluation of the pilot will determine the approach to work experience taken by the Department in 2010.

Former BERR has participated for a number of years in the Summer Development Programme and the Summer Placement Scheme. Both come under the auspices of the Cabinet Office's Diversity Programme Internships. The two internships are for students from ethnic minority backgrounds and the registered disabled. Both schemes provide a paid six to nine week full-time placement to gain a more thorough understanding of the work of the civil service. The work experience opportunities for each of the schemes are not advertised and are evaluated by the Cabinet Office.

Working Hours: Ministers

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether Ministers who sit in the House are required to reckon the hours worked in pursuit of their Ministerial duties together with hours worked as an hon. Member for the purposes of keeping records to comply with the requirements of the EU Working Time Directive. [287589]

Mr. McFadden: The regulations implementing the Working Time Directive in the UK apply to "workers". A "worker" is someone who works under a contract of employment or a contract to perform personally any work or services for another party whose status is not that of a client or customer. Holders of political and elected office are not regarded as "workers" and are therefore not covered by the regulations.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 353-54W on business: Government assistance, what estimate his Department made of the cost of providing an answer to the remainder of the Question; and if he will make a statement. [276867]

Mr. McFadden: In considering whether it might be possible to answer the other parts of the hon. Member's question, account was taken of the ministerial written statement on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, made by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle), in which she informed the House that the disproportionate cost threshold increased to £750 with effect from 3 December 2008.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question 261386, tabled on 3 March 2009, on the Working Capital scheme. [281286]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 880W.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question 270234, on support for small businesses, tabled on 21 April 2009. [286012]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1744-45W.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question 260532, tabled on 24 February 2009, on learning disabilities; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [285953]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1751W. The delay in publishing this response was as a result of an administrative error.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Thursday 10 September and Monday 14 September 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cricket

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many registered amateur cricket clubs there were in each region in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2004, *(d)* 2006 and *(e)* 2008. [288780]

Mr. Bradshaw: Sport England has advised that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) does not hold details of how many registered community amateur cricket clubs there were in each region in each of the last 10 years.

However, the ECB holds details of the number of community amateur cricket clubs registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) since CASC status was established in 2002.[1]

[1] From 2004 publication of collated data changed from November to May of each year.

Date	*Number of registered cricket clubs*
November 2002	25
November 2003	103
May 2004	314
May 2005	587
May 2006	758
May 2007	842
May 2008	953
May 2009	1,032

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1376W, on public expenditure, how much his Department *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent on (i) sport, (ii) the arts and (iii) heritage in 2008-09. [290903]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* It is my Department's policy to publish details of funding spent, as opposed to funding allocated, to avoid confusion or potential double-counting where end-year flexibility has been applied or where funds have been transferred in year. The amount of Exchequer funding spent by DCMS and its NDPBs on sport, the arts and heritage in 2008-09 is set out in the following table.

2008-09

	£000
Sport (including central DCMS spend)	215,813
Arts (including central DCMS spend)	435,465
Heritage (including Royal Parks and Listed Places of Worship Scheme plus central DCMS spend)	224,833

English Heritage: Fees and Charges

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average price of entry to an English Heritage property was in *(a)* 1996-97, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [290896]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Information from English Heritage is that the average price of entry to an English Heritage property, based on one full price adult ticket, in 1996-97, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is as set out in the following table.

	Average charge (£)	*Constant sample of sites*
1996-97	2.16	104
2008-09	4.33	104
2009-10	4.52	104

Heritage Lottery Fund: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been distributed by the Heritage Lottery Fund *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* expressed in current prices in each year since its foundation. [290768]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Information from the Heritage Lottery Fund is that the amount paid to recipients of HLF grants in each financial year is as set out in the following table.

	Actual cash terms	*£ million Current prices*
1994-95	0	0
1995-96	35.9	49.5
1996-97	79.0	105.0
1997-98	129.7	168.1
1998-99	186.2	236.3
1999-2000	264.9	329.7
2000-01	374.4	459.9
2001-02	241.6	290.3
2002-03	245.1	285.3
2003-04	303.9	344.1
2004-05	284.8	313.7
2005-06	356.6	385.6
2006-07	339.1	356.1
2007-08	299.4	306.0
2008-09	297.1	297.1

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton's letter dated 27 July 2009 to him with regard to Ms Gina Hine, referred to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. [290991]

Mr. Simon: A response was sent from my right hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) on 8 September 2009.

Music

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of music venues and rehearsal spaces which have closed in *(a)* London and *(b)* each region in each of the last five years. [290911]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The information required to make these assessments is not held centrally.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the 12 pilot community music rehearsal spaces announced in December 2007 to be operational. [290912]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The first spaces were opened in Liverpool and Bristol in May and July 2009, respectively. It is difficult to be precise about the opening dates of further spaces—each has different requirements for instruments and these have to be sourced and costed before we can make a grant offer for the local authority concerned to consider. However, we are hopeful of making such offers in respect of five further spaces in the next few months—in St. Austell, Nottingham, Washington (near Sunderland), Hastings, and rural Norfolk. Discussions are also under way about setting up spaces in Manchester, Coventry and Birmingham.

Swimming

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria will be applied to the assessment of local authority bids for Phase 2 funding from his Department's free swimming initiative. [288273]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The overall aim of the Government's free swimming programme is to encourage more people to swim by assisting in modernising and enhancing publicly accessible swimming pools including pools at maintained schools of any category in England.

Applications to the second round of the Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Programme will be assessed against the criteria laid out in the programme prospectus, which was agreed by the Free Swimming Capital Project Board (comprising DCMS, Department for Children, Schools and Families, Sport England, the Amateur Swimming Association and Local Government Association representatives) for both rounds of funding (2009-10 and 2010-11). I have arranged for copies of the prospectus to be placed in the House Library.

TRANSPORT

A1(M): Hertfordshire

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the roadworks on the A1(M) in the vicinity of junction 4 to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [291144]

Chris Mole: The roadworks in the vicinity of A1(M) junction 4 are to carry out a major refurbishment of the Hatfield tunnel. Works are programmed to be completed in April 2010.

A1: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the *(a)* Blyth fly-over and *(b)* associated A1 improvements in Nottinghamshire will be open. [291009]

Chris Mole: The new two-level junction on the A1 at Blyth was fully opened to traffic in October 2008.

The associated A1 improvements in Nottinghamshire at Apleyhead and Markham Moor junctions were fully opened to traffic in October 2008 and March 2009 respectively.

The scheme replaces the roundabouts at Blyth, Apleyhead, Markham Moor and Gonerby Moor with two-level full grade separated junctions, and provides two-level compact junctions at Colsterworth and Carpenters Lodge. The scheme separates A1 traffic and local journeys thereby reducing congestion and delays, improving safety and journey time reliability. The project which has improved and upgraded six junctions between Blyth and Peterborough will be substantially completed on 7 October 2009.

A14: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when physical construction work on widening the A14 between junctions 7 and 9 around Kettering is scheduled to *(a)* start and *(b)* finish. [291066]

Chris Mole: The construction work on widening the A14 between Junctions 7 and 9 is currently scheduled to start in autumn 2011 with completion expected by spring 2013.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the *(a)* average and *(b)* peak daily traffic volumes for the A14 between junctions 7 and 10 around Kettering were in the latest period for which figures are available; and what they are forecast to be in (i) 2010, (ii) 2015 and (iii) 2020. [291070]

Chris Mole: A table providing information on the average and peak daily traffic volumes for the A14 between Junctions 7 and 10 around Kettering for the latest period and for 2010, 2015 and 2020, has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Bus Services: Concessions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to assist local authorities to meet the cost of freedom passes for pensioners and the disabled. [291158]

Chris Mole: Local authorities receive the bulk of their funding for concessionary travel via the formula grant system, which is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Since April 2008, local authorities have also received funding from the Department for Transport in the form of a special

grant to meet the additional cost of the extended England national bus concession. The special grant was £212 million in 2008-09, has risen to £217 million this year and will increase to £223 million in 2010-11. The Government are confident that there are sufficient funding, in total, for statutory concessionary travel.

In addition, the Government paid a grant of around £31 million in 2007 to local authorities outside London to replace existing bus passes with new ITSO smartcard passes. Over eight million of these have now been issued. London has received a grant of £4.8 million in 2009 to facilitate the replacement of existing freedom passes with new smartcard passes from April 2010.

Corby Station

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport further to his letter to the chair of the Transport Select Committee dated 6 July 2009, how many passengers *(a)* boarded and *(b)* alighted from trains at Corby railway station on each day since 14 June 2009. [291065]

Chris Mole: A table of the number of passengers originating and terminating their journey at Corby each day since 14 June 2009 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Kettering Station

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many passengers travelling *(a)* north and *(b)* south on the Midland Mainline (i) boarded and (ii) alighted from trains at Kettering station on each day since 27 April 2009. [291064]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. Although there is no readily available breakdown of north/south journeys, a table of the number of passengers originating and terminating their journey at Kettering each day since 27 April 2009 has been placed in the Library of the House.

London Midland: Standards

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the minimum level of service required to be delivered on any particular day of the week is for London Midland to fulfil its rail franchise agreement. [291078]

Chris Mole: London Midland is required to provide levels of services which are consistent with the minimum specification which is detailed in the Service Level Commitment which forms part of the Franchise Agreement. A copy of the Service Level Commitment for London Midland can be found on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/londonmidland/lmcommitment2.pdf

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment has been made of whether the level of service provided by London Midland on 6 September 2009 was in compliance with the terms of its franchise. [291083]

Chris Mole: London Midland is required to report to the Department for Transport their performance after the end of each railway reporting period. The current rail industry period ends on Saturday 19 September. London Midland will then submit their performance reports to the Department for review. This will include data for Sunday 6 September and this will enable an assessment to be made of London Midland's performance.

Motor Vehicles: Fuels

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the effects of the ethanol and bio content of some modern fuels on fibreglass fuel tanks and bonding glue; if he will issue guidance to motorists on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [291147]

Chris Mole: Fibreglass fuel tanks and aftermarket sealing agents are not used on modern road vehicles. Consequently, potential impacts of bioethanol on these materials do not pose a problem for motorists in general.

There is evidence from other countries that petrol with 10 per cent. ethanol content can have a deleterious effect upon some older fibreglass fuel tanks, depending upon the type of resin that was used in their construction. This issue has primarily affected fuel tanks on leisure marine vessels, although some older road vehicles may also have been affected. However, ethanol content of UK petrol is not expected to exceed 5 per cent. in the next few years. We do not at present have robust evidence of whether or not these issues could occur at the 5 per cent. ethanol content level.

We are currently discussing these issues with stakeholders, in the context of plans to implement the EU fuel quality directive 2009/30/EC. The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs in particular has raised concerns about the potential impacts of petrol containing ethanol on fibreglass fuel tanks and products used to reseal fuel tanks on older vehicles. We plan to let research to assess this issue over the next few months.

The only detailed information we hold on specific materials incompatible with ethanol is fuel industry guidance on materials used in storing petrol containing up to 10 per cent. ethanol content at filling stations and fuel terminals etc. This indicates that fibreglass using polyester and epoxy resins are not compatible with this fuel.

Railways: Construction

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the estimated cost to the public purse is of the work *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned by Network Rail into possible new high-speed rail routes from London to other major cities. [291167]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested. This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail

Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railways: West Midlands

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the estimated cost to the public purse is of High Speed Two's work to produce a report on a possible new rail link between London and the West Midlands. [291168]

Chris Mole: The estimated cost of High Speed Two's work is £8.5 million.

Rescue Services: Hope Cove

Mr. Steen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1272W, on rescue services: Hope Cove, what the basis is of the operational restrictions upon the Hope Cove lifeboat prior to the consultation process taking place. [291082]

Chris Mole: The operational restrictions placed on the MCA boat at Hope Cove are for the safety of its volunteer crew and the public.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on human health of odours from agricultural muck-spreading. [290985]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA, or MAFF as it was previously, has not undertaken any research specifically into the effects on human health of odours from agricultural muck spreading.

MAFF carried out a programme of research in the late 1980s/early 1990s to assess what factors affected the emissions of odours from the application (spreading) of agricultural manures to land to identify means of minimising emissions. As a result of this research, guidance on good practice was produced for the agricultural industry in the MAFF/DEFRA Code of Good Agricultural Practice. A copy of the code is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/farm/environment/cogap/

The code has provided the agricultural industry with guidance on the best equipment and techniques to use to minimise emissions while applying manures. It has also provided advice about the timing of manure applications, with respect to weather, days of the week and holidays etc., to minimise the impact on surrounding residents.

Local authority environmental health departments are responsible for investigating and abating statutory nuisances under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. One of the statutory nuisances in the Act is '[...] smell [...] arising from industrial, trade or business premises and being prejudicial to health or a nuisance'. Agricultural manure spreading activities have the potential to give rise to odours which may cause a statutory nuisance if not properly managed. There is no UK research at present which would conclusively demonstrate any adverse effects from agricultural odours on health. Therefore, in statutory nuisance investigations, proceeding under the nuisance limb of statutory nuisance is the more likely path.

There is also no evidence, as far as DEFRA is aware, of workers in the agricultural industry suffering adverse health effects from manure odours, despite the fact that they are inevitably exposed to higher concentrations of odours during the loading, transporting and spreading of agricultural manures than off-site receptors or residents.

Some odour emissions are inevitable from the application of agricultural manures, but with good management the impact and duration of these odours can be minimised. The use of agricultural manures is an important means of recycling plant nutrients into food production in a sustainable manner, and thereby reducing fossil fuel inputs and greenhouse gas emissions. These benefits have to be balanced against the potential for some short-term localised impact during seasonal peaks of manure application activities.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made on the implementation of codes of practice for animal welfare under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [291116]

Huw Irranca-Davies: During the last 12 months, we completed public consultation exercise on four draft codes—for the keeping of cats, dogs, equines and regulations and a code for meat chicken welfare. We are also consulting on the welfare of non-human primates in private ownership. We have been considering the many responses we had to the consultation on each draft code and have held discussions with key stakeholders. Once the draft codes have been finalised we will then ask Parliament to approve them.

Countryside: Access

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he had on his recent visit to Ilam Hall Youth Hostel on the role of the Youth Hostels Association in providing access to the countryside for young people from towns and cities. [291002]

Huw Irranca-Davies: When speaking at the formal opening of the Ilam Youth Hostel, Hilary Benn stated the important role which institutions such as the Youth Hostels Association play in not only enabling visitors to enjoy the benefits of our National Parks, but also in helping the next generation appreciate the invaluable role the National Parks play in combating climate change.

European Fisheries Fund

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to seek funding from the European Fisheries Fund to assist the fishing industry following the agreement of the days-at-sea limit in December 2008. [291041]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) can provide assistance to UK fisheries to adapt to conservation measures by improving their sustainability, for example in marketing and technology fields. Regulatory and regional selection criteria apply and applicants should first make contact with the Fisheries Department within their operational area for direct advice on application procedures.

Fisheries

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development on UK fisheries. [291042]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Constructive discussions with ministerial colleagues in the devolved administrations, including Northern Ireland, has culminated in the establishment of a Joint Ministerial Working Group to deliver proposals for quota management and licensing reforms. That work is now ongoing.

I was also pleased to be able visit Northern Ireland recently, to discuss with Michelle Gildernew and industry representatives the economic situation, the future of effort control/days at sea, the prospects for the autumn negotiations and other issues of importance to the local fleet.

Floods: Finance

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's plans are for expenditure on flood defences in 2010-11; and how much it spent in 2009-10. [291117]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are committed to effective management of flood and coastal erosion risk. It stands by its previous forecast of spending a record £2.15 billion on flood and coastal erosion risk management over three years and its commitment to spend £780 million in the 2010-11 financial year, with £20 million of the original £800 million moved forward into 2009-10 budgets to provide early protection for 27,000 homes.

Within the Government's previously announced figures for 2010-11, £659 million is going to the Environment Agency, local authorities' own expenditure will be an estimated £87 million and the remainder retained by DEFRA to implement the Pitt Review findings and help communities to adapt to climate change.

In August, the Secretary of State announced which local authorities will benefit from funding set aside to implement the findings of the Pitt Review.

Food Supply

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to increase the UK's self-sufficiency in food. [291017]

Huw Irranca-Davies: One of DEFRA's departmental strategic objectives is to ensure a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply. We want to see a British farming sector that is competitive, and producing food that consumers want in a way that is sustainable, so as not to jeopardise the ability of future generations to exploit and enjoy our natural resources and landscapes.

The UK is currently 60 per cent. self-sufficient in all food, a higher proportion than in the 1950s. However, this figure tells us very little about UK food security. We need to maintain a range of supply sources for our food to spread the risk that might entail from over-reliance on one or a few supply sources, and to lower the impacts of any unforeseen disruptions involving any particular trading partner or from within our domestic food sector.

The Department does not have targets for self-sufficiency in food. Government's role is to support the industry to improve its performance through better self-assessment of the relative economic performance of individual businesses, more effective take-up of new technology and better management skills. We are also working with stakeholders to identify measures by which the agricultural sector can sustainably increase its resilience and productivity, strengthening food security within the UK.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the percentage of food consumed in the UK which was grown in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [291018]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2008, 53 per cent. of food consumed in the UK was produced in the UK. This figure is a provisional estimate.

Please note that this percentage should not be confused with the measure of UK self-sufficiency in all food, which in 2008 was 60 per cent. (provisional figure), since self-sufficiency shows the percentage of all UK food production, including UK exports, as a percentage of consumption. Both measures are based on the value of unprocessed food.

Incinerators

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many waste incinerators were operational in England at the latest date for which figures are available. [291090]

Dan Norris: There are 18 municipal waste incinerators operating in England, generating over 200 MW of electricity.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of waste arisings incinerated in each year since 1997. [291091]

Dan Norris: The table shows the percentage of municipal waste sent for incineration in England from 1997-98 to 2007-08. This includes both waste incinerated with, and without, energy recovery. The majority is incinerated with energy recovery.

	Percentage of municipal waste sent for incineration in England
1997-98	6.36
1998-99	8.19

	Percentage of municipal waste sent for incineration in England
1999-2000	8.41
2000-01	8.59
2001-02	8.47
2002-03	8.87
2003-04	8.95
2004-05	9.51
2005-06	9.95
2006-07	11.09
2007-08	11.12

Source:
WasteDataFlow and DEFRA's Municipal Waste Management Survey

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions there have been for offences related to poor air quality arising from incinerator use in each year since 1997. [291092]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A search of the Environment Agency's National Enforcement Database (NED) has uncovered no prosecutions for offences related to poor air quality arising from incinerator use.

All large plants are subject to the requirements of the Waste Incineration Directive which are embodied in their Environmental Permits. Conditions set in the permits require emissions of pollutants to be kept to very low levels and oblige the operators to carry out detailed emissions monitoring.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the weight of waste incinerated in each year since 1997. [291093]

Dan Norris: The table shows the tonnage of municipal waste sent for incineration in England from 1997-98 to 2007-08. This includes both waste incinerated with, and without, energy recovery. The majority is incinerated with energy recovery.

Municipal waste sent for incineration in England

	Thousand tonnes
1997-98	1,634
1998-99	2,156
1999-2000	2,310
2000-01	2,411
2001-02	2,447
2002-03	2,607
2003-04	2,604
2004-05	2,818
2005-06	2,859
2006-07	3,237
2007-08	3,169

Source:
WasteDataFlow and DEFRA's Municipal Waste Management Survey

Office of Water Services: Operating Costs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the change in *(a)* staff costs and *(b)* other costs was between the Ofwat Business Plan for (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [290622]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The changes in staff and other costs between Ofwat's Business Plans for 2007-8 and 2008-9 are detailed in the following table:

Business Plan Budget (£)

	Staff costs	Other costs	Total
2007-08	8,326,645	4,673,355	13,000,000
2008-09	10,203,867	7,696,133	17,900,000
Increase	1,877,222	3,022,778	4,900,000

Ofwat set out in its 2008 strategy document Taking a forward look' that it needed to increase its budget for 2008-09 to take account of additional resources to deliver key projects including:

delivering the 2009 price review;

reviewing how it sets price limits in 2014;

promoting competition in consumers' interests;

enforcement; and

litigation and casework.

Ofwat's actual expenditure for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are available in its Resource Accounts, which are available on the website.

Water: EC Law

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on the implementation of the EU Water Directive. [291163]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has issued two volumes of guidance to the Environment Agency on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, both titled River Basin Planning Guidance.

The first was published in August 2006 and sets out principles and key steps for the river basin planning process. The second was published in August 2008 and gives further consideration to the approach the Environment Agency should take in carrying out its river basin planning functions and the development of river basin management plans.

DEFRA has also published River Basin Management Planning in the Solway Tweed River Basin District, which sets out the expectations for the joint delivery of the Water Framework Directive in Solway Tweed, a cross border river basin district shared between England and Scotland.

All these guidance documents are published on the DEFRA website.

We expect guidance on the proposed Groundwater Regulations, implementing the Water Framework Directive groundwater daughter directive, to be published for consultation shortly.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff from his Department are based in the provincial reconstruction team base in Lashkar Gar; what proportion of such staff *(a)* have left the perimeter of the base by road

during their tour and *(b)* are performing roles which could be undertaken at Camp Bastion; and if he will make a statement. [291096]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There are over 140 UK, Danish and Estonian civilian and military staff working for the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). Over 50 staff from the FCO, DFID, MOD and Stabilisation Unit work in the Lashkar Gah Main Operating Base.

Statistics on individual moves are not kept. However, based on staff functions, over 90 per cent. of the PRT staff will leave the Lashkar Gah base by road during their tour.

The PRT works primarily with the Afghan Government, which is based in Lashkar Gah and the district centres. PRT staff could not carry out their work from Camp Bastion, which is in the desert. Furthermore, staff are co-located with Task Force Helmand HQ in Lashkar Gah and with battlegroups in the district centres, in order to co-ordinate effectively with the military.

Afghanistan: Agriculture

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the value to farmers in Afghanistan of growing *(a)* pomegranates and *(b)* poppies in the latest period for which figures are available. [291015]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are few data on returns to pomegranate farmers in Afghanistan. Estimates suggest that gross income could range from US $3,380 per hectare per year (Altai Consulting/UNDP, 2004) to $14,525 per hectare per year (Roots for Peace, 2009) after five to seven years maturation. The variation in gross income estimates depends on product quality, access to markets (including storage), price, yield and the proportion exported. However, set up costs can exceed $1,000 per hectare with the possibility of no return for the first four years following planting.

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released a report on poppy cultivation and prices in early September 2009. It contained the following assessment:

"This year, opium farmers saw their (gross) earnings per hectare shrink by one quarter, to $3,562/ha down from $4,662/ha in 2008. Falling prices and lower cultivation this year caused a 40 per cent. collapse in the total farm-gate value of opium production in Afghanistan, which is valued at $438 million."

Eritrea: International Broadcasting

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to Radio Erena to broadcast to Eritrea in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [291140]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided any support in the last three years to Radio Erena.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the monetary value of his Department's aid seized by the government of Sudan; what steps he is taking to ensure the return of that aid to the organisations to which it was directed; and if he will make a statement. [291139]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No aid was seized directly from the Department for International Development (DFID) by the Government of Sudan. It is estimated, however, that around £500,000 of British-funded goods were included in the seizures of assets from non government organisations (NGOs). The UK condemned the expulsion and closures of the 13 international NGOs and three local NGOs in unequivocal terms. We have consistently said that the best way to repair the damage was to revoke that action.

In partnership with the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), USAID, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), we have made it clear to the Sudan Government that the seizure of assets in this way was completely unacceptable. We expect it to make every effort to have the assets reassigned to other humanitarian programmes, as is common practice under closure or completion of DFID-funded humanitarian programmes.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 956W, on housing, for what reasons the Housing Reform Green Paper will not be proceeded with; and which Minister took the decision not to proceed. [291149]

John Healey: The Government have taken decisive action to ensure this country's housing needs are met. We have committed to investing £7.5 billion over two years to deliver up to 112,000 affordable homes and around 15,000 private homes, including £340 million to support local authorities in delivering new council housing. We have taken early action to provide people facing the threat of repossession with help at every stage of the process. I am also introducing a range of major reforms to the social and private rented sector. This includes the consultations I have recently published on a devolved system of responsibility and funding for council housing, a major review of the private rented sector and changes to social housing allocations to give councils more leeway on decisions to allocate housing in their area, and the initiative I have launched to clamp-down on fraud in the social sector. In addition, I will be setting out further details of the Government's plans to support housing recovery and ensure people have access to decent homes later this year. I therefore currently have no plans to pursue an additional housing reform green paper.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of suspected trafficked children who have gone missing from local authority care in each of the last five years. [291032]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Department.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families; what arrangements have been made for the full implementation within the National Referral Mechanism of the provision of Article 10.3 of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings giving children the benefit of the doubt where the age of the trafficked child is uncertain; and if he will make a statement. [291033]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the National Referral Mechanism for child victims of trafficking, where there are reasons to believe that a child is a victim of trafficking but there is uncertainty about their age, local age dispute or assessment procedures should be followed if necessary. Pending verification of their age, they will be presumed to be a child and will be referred to local authority Children's Social Care for support and a detailed assessment of their protection or welfare needs.

Children's Centres: Expenditure

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much was spent on the Sure Start Children's Centres block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant in each financial year between 2003-04 and 2007-08; [291160]

(2) how much was spent on the Childcare Sufficiency and Access Grant of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant in each financial year between 2003-04 and 2007-08; [291161]

(3) how much was spent on the Outcomes, Quality and Inclusion block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant in each financial year between 2003-04 and 2007-08. [291162]

Dawn Primarolo: Details of expenditure on the Children's Centres revenue and capital blocks in each financial year between 2003-04 and 2007-08 are shown in the table.

The Childcare, Sufficiency and Access and Outcomes, Quality and Inclusion blocks were only created in 2008-09.

Therefore it is not possible to report expenditure on these specific blocks for the same period.

For information the table does show some details of expenditure on the inclusion and childcare assessment blocks that formed part of the grant in earlier years.

Audited expenditure on individual blocks of the sure start, early years and childcare grant (formerly the general sure start grant)

	Financial year					
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
PQ 291160						
Children's centre revenue	2,197,884	11,010,927	90,008,079	188,134,163	251,848,710	543,199,763
Children's centre capital	2,053,422	12,294,561	184,354,187	202,957,222	286,352,714	688,012,106
Children's centre combined	4,251,306	23,305,488	274,362,266	391,091,385	538,201,424	1,231,211,869
PQ 291161						
Childcare assessment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	75,115,698	75,115,698
PQ 291162						
Inclusion	n/a	n/a	n/a	20,667,031	31,830,834	52,497,865

Children's Centres: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what Sure Start children's centres are open in Hendon; what services each provides; what *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding for them has been provided by (i) the Government and (ii) the London Borough of Barnet; and what steps he plans to take to ensure their future security of funding. [291057]

Dawn Primarolo: London borough of Barnet currently has 14 Sure Start Children's Centres up and running, of these three are in Hendon offering access to services to around 3,100 children under five and their families. There are no additional children's centres planned for Hendon.

The Department allocates funding to local authorities for the capital start up and revenue costs of Sure Start Children's Centres through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. It is for local authorities to determine how to allocate the funding between individual centres.

The Department does not collect information on how much is allocated and spent at centre level. Information on the services provided by individual centres is available from the local Family Information Service. London borough of Barnet's capital and revenue allocations for the delivery of Sure Start Children's Centres for 2008-11 can be found in the following table. We are committed to delivering 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres by 2010, a children's centre for every community so every family has easy access to high quality integrated services in their community and the benefits of Sure Start can be felt nationwide. Funding allocations beyond 2010-11 will be subject to future spending decisions.

Barnet—children's centres funding allocations for CSR period 2008-11

	Revenue	*Capital*
2008-09	3,651,335	781,046
2009-10	4,912,063	1,638,600
2010-11	5,983,537	959,513

Education Maintenance Allowance: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of students aged 16 to 18 years in each secondary school in Hendon were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in academic year 2008-09; what the expected equivalent figures are for 2009-10; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the allowance on numbers of pupils staying on in education in Hendon. [291038]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of students in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA) in Hendon is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the EMA for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Hendon with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

We do not have evidence to show the impact of EMA at a local level. However evaluation of the EMA pilots showed that EMA led to increases in participation nationally by 3.8 ppts for 16-year-olds and 4.1 ppts for 17-year-olds.

GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils achieved *(a)* five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C and *(b)* five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in 2009. [291129]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not yet available. The requested figures will form a central part of a Statistical First Release (SFR) planned for 15 October 2009. Those figures will also be broken down by gender, school type and local authority.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which five non-core curriculum subjects the number of GCSE entries was highest in *(a)* maintained comprehensive, *(b)* maintained selective, *(c)* maintained secondary modern and *(d)* independent schools in 2009. [291135]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested forms part of the Department's data on GCSE achievement and attainment. Data for 2009 are not yet available. Any statistics based on these data will only be available for release after the publication of a Statistical First Release planned for 15 October 2009.

Schools

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which state schools in England serve a school population aged from three to 18 years old. [290860]

Mr. Coaker: The following state schools in England serve a school population aged from three through to 18-years old.

Establishment name	*Local authority*	*Town*	*Establishment status*	*Type of establishment*
William Hulme's Grammar School	Manchester	Manchester	Open	Academy
Serlby Park A 3-18 Business and Enterprise Learning Community	Nottinghamshire	Doncaster	Open	Community School
Priory Witham Academy	Lincolnshire	Lincoln	Open	Academy
Oxfordshire Hospital School	Oxfordshire	Oxford	Open	Community Special School
Marjorie McClure School	Bromley	Chislehurst	Open	Community Special School
Manchester Hospital Schools and Home Teaching Service	Manchester	Manchester	Open	Community Special School
Lonsdale School	Hertfordshire	Stevenage	Open	Community Special School
King Solomon Academy	Westminster	London	Open	Academy
Haberdashers Askes Crayford Academy	Bexley	Bexley	Open	Academy
Globe Academy	Southwark	London	Open	Academy
Evelina Hospital School	Southwark	London	Open	Community Special School
The Business Academy Bexley	Bexley	Erith	Open	Academy
Blanche Nevile School	Haringey	London	Open	Community Special School
Billing Brook Special School	Northamptonshire	Northampton	Open	Community Special School
Bede Academy	Northumberland	Blyth	Proposed to open (please see note 4)	Academy
Ark Academy	Brent	Wembley	Open	Academy

Source:
EduBase

Schools: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the allocation for Barnet for *(a)* dedicated schools grant and *(b)* guaranteed funding per pupil is for (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011; what the change in per pupil funding was in (A) cash and (B) percentage terms between 1997 and 2009; and what (1) total and (2) per pupil funding allocation for Barnet for 2009-10 is for (aa) school development grant, (bb) school standards grant, (cc) school standards grant (personalisation), (dd) ethnic

minority achievement grant, (ee) extended schools, (ff) primary strategy, (gg) school lunch grant, (hh) music services, (ii) harnessing technology (ICT) and (jj) devolved formula capital. [291059]

Mr. Coaker: The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2008-09 to 2010-11 (indicative) for Barnet local authority is shown in table 1 as follows. This covers pupils aged three to 15.

Table 1: DSG Allocation for Barnet local authority

	£ million
2008-09 (Final)	195.074
2009-10 (Final)	202.138
2010-11 (Indicative)	213.958

The guaranteed unit of funding for 2008-09 to 2010-11 for Barnet local authority is shown in table 2 as follows:

Table 2: Guaranteed unit of funding for Barnet local authority

	£
2008-09 (Final)	4,559
2009-10 (Final)	4,723
2010-11 (Final)	4,917

Per pupil revenue funding figures for pupils aged three to 19 for Barnet local authority for years 1997-98 and 2005-06 are shown in table 3. These figures are in cash terms.

Table 3

	Barnet local authority revenue funding per pupil
1997-98 (£)	2,740
2005-06 (£)	4,680
Percentage increase between 1997-98 and 2005-06 (%)	71

Notes:
1. Price Base: Cash.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/ Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 19 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in table 4 is taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 (in table 3 above) because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending.

In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2008-09 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06 (the baseline); as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The total and per pupil revenue funding figures for 2005-06 and 2008-09 for Barnet local authority are provided in table 4 as follows. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in cash terms:

Table 4

	Barnet local authority revenue funding per pupil
2005-06 (Baseline) (£)	4,430
2008-09 (£)	5,200
Percentage increase between 2005-06 and 2008-009 (%)	17

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Cash.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The figures for Standards Funds are recorded according to allocation per authority not per pupil; the following table shows the total allocations that Barnet has been awarded in 2009-10 for grants that the hon. Member for Hendon requested.

Grant name	*2009-10 allocation*
School Development Grant	11,819,753
School Standards Grant	7,215,008
School Standards Grant (personalisation)	2,061,955
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	2,887,337
Extended Schools—Sustainability	747,190
Extended Schools—Subsidy	170,721
Extended Schools—Capital	345,093
Primary Strategy: Targeted Support	1,044,874
School Lunch Grant	488,946
Music	333,851
Harnessing Technology	903,101
Devolved Formula Capital	5,128,895

Schools: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Hendon have received central government capital funds other than devolved formula capital since 1997; how much each received in each year; for what purpose the grant was allocated in each year; and what the percentage difference was between capital expenditure on such schools in 1996-97 and 2009-10. [291060]

Mr. Cooke: The Department allocates much of its capital resources on a local authority area basis. It then relies on the local authority to prioritise resources between schools, including any further resource available locally. Accordingly, records on the schools in Hendon which have received funding since 1997, and their purposes, are not held centrally and would be held locally by Barnet local authority. Allocations to Barnet between 1996-97 and 2009-10 are set out in the following table.

	£ million
1996	3.1
1997	1.8
1998	5.6
1999	3.9
2000	12.0
2001	8.9
2002	48.7
2003	15.1
2004	22.0
2005	18.6
2006	69.7
2007	15.5
2008	26.3
2009	40.4

The allocation figures show the year the financial commitment was made by the Department. The £69.7 million in 2006-07 includes a Building Schools for the Future pathfinder allocation and an Academy, and the £40.3 million in 2009-10 includes an advance of funding brought forward from 2010-11 as part of the Government's fiscal stimulus.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when Ofsted plan to report on their review of special educational needs. [291020]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Ofsted's review of special educational needs and disabilities is planned to report in summer 2010. Further details about the review can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Ofsted-s-2009-10-review-of-the-framework-for-children-and-young-people-with-special-educational-needs-and-or-disabilities

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission research into educational provision for children in each category of special educational needs. [291021]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children Schools and Families currently has an active programme of research across the special educational needs code of practice.

Research currently under way includes a project which is exploring the apparent variation in the prevalence of children with SEN, how they are classified in terms of both condition and Code of Practice stage of support, and the provision of services to support them, with a view to understanding how a more equitable service offer can be supported. We also have a programme of research under way which aims to improve the evidence base relating to developing services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.

We are currently commissioning a formative and summative evaluation of the Achievement for All project and the approaches strategies, approaches and tools used within it, as well as an evaluation of a current programme to raise awareness of British Sign Language (BSL) and for increasing specialist work force able to provide courses in BSL being implemented in two pilot areas.

We also recently published a qualitative research study looking at parental confidence in the special educational needs assessment, statement and tribunal system.

Research projects funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families are published at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research

Teachers: Recruitment

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching appointments were made in England in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what percentage of these appointments were newly qualified teachers. [291125]

Mr. Cooke: The information is not available in the format requested.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Training College: Cwmbran

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for the former site of the Police Training College in Cwmbran. [288898]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

Consideration is being given to disposal of the former Police Training College at Cwmbran, which is currently owned by the National Offender Management Service.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and what the average hourly pay of (i) male and (ii) female employees is. [288304]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The percentage split is:

	Percentage
Women	43
Men	57

The average hourly rate of pay for male and female employees is not available.

The relatively new Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has been in existence since October 2008, and consists of posts taken from the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Since its creation, DECC has continued to use the pay provisions of its parent Departments. As a consequence, no separate DECC information on hourly pay rates is available, and could only be obtained by an exercise involving a review of the total HR systems and payrolls for both BERR and DEFRA. Therefore the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost to the Department. The effort required to administer your request would exceed the financial limit prescribed of £700, which represents the estimated cost of determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

For information on former BERR and DEFRA staffing issues, please see the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey statistics published by the Office for National Statistics. These can be found at the following website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0109.pdf

These statistics are collected from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey, but please note that the ONS collects the annual gross salary of civil servants and does not produce hourly rates of pay. The latest published statistics are for 31 March 2008, and consequently do not feature stats for DECC.

Electricity

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the level of vulnerability of the electricity supply network to malicious damage. [290927]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Electricity companies have a legal obligation to ensure their network is designed and maintained to protect the public and consumers from the dangers of electricity and provide quality and continuity of supply. These obligations are contained in the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 and enforced by DECC.

It is the responsibility of distribution companies to assess and manage the risks associated with the security of their network, including the prevention of unauthorised access to their network assets, and to put forward expenditure forecasts to Ofgem for an appropriate level of expenditure to meet their obligations. This is done on a five yearly basis as part of the price control review process. Ofgem has a role in evaluating this expenditure to ensure that the costs are efficient and is currently conducting this cost assessment process for the fifth price control review process which is due to take effect from 1 April 2010.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many incidents of malicious damage to the electricity network in the UK have been recorded in the last five years. [290930]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Since 1 April 2004 there have been nine supply interruptions reportable under the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 which were classified as an act of vandalism or unauthorised operation of equipment.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of the conditions imposed by domestic energy suppliers on customers on social tariffs on their ability to change supplier; and if he will make a statement. [290884]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* All customers are free to switch at any time provided that there is no outstanding debt on their account. There are no additional conditions for customers who are on their supplier's social tariff.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households designated as being in fuel poverty which use *(a)* heating oil, *(b)* liquefied petroleum gas, *(c)* mains gas and *(d)* other systems of heating; and if he will make a statement. [290883]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The most recently available fuel poverty statistics relate to 2006. Figures for the number of households in fuel poverty in England are produced from analysis of the English House Condition Survey.

Number of households in fuel poverty

	Thousand
Heating oil	202
Bulk LPG	36
Gas (mains)	1,669
Other	525
Total	2,432

Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the merits of extending the remit of Ofgem to include responsibility for regulation of the bottled gas market. [290656]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The Gas Act 1986 (as amended), which among other things set up the gas regulatory bodies, exempted liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from its provisions. The Gas Act principally addressed the issues of setting up a regulatory regime to ensure that the national transmission system for gas users was not exploited. In contrast, there is no natural monopoly in the transport of LPG by road. The LPG market operates with a number of distributors competing for supply using alternative supply sources. In that sense, it is broadly similar to other products such as diesel and petrol.

The Department has not therefore made an assessment of the merits of extending the remit of Ofgem to include responsibility for regulation of the market for LPG. My officials however have had meetings with

Consumer Focus to contribute to its assessment of the market in Great Britain for the supply of LPG and heating oil for domestic use.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the reported *(a)* 84 per cent. increase in helicopter hours and *(b)* 60 per cent. increase in the number of helicopters available to British forces in Afghanistan includes helicopters provided by coalition forces transporting UK armed forces. [289114]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 60 per cent. increase in the number of helicopters and the 84 per cent. increase in helicopter hours available to UK forces in Afghanistan relate to the period from November 2006 to April 2009; these increases do not include helicopters or helicopter hours provided by other coalition forces.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the journalist Michael Yon is no longer embedded with British armed forces in Afghanistan. [290966]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Opportunities to embed with Task Force Helmand are in high demand from across the media—national, regional, print, broadcast, specialist and new media. It is not possible to meet all requests and slots must be time-limited to ensure that the opportunities are shared as widely as possible. A normal embed for a national news organisation will last on average around two to three weeks, including time for travel.

Michael Yon had been embedded with British forces on a number of occasions before his recent visit—twice in Iraq in 2007, and once in Afghanistan in 2008. His latest embed had been scheduled to last for two weeks but it was extended to take account of delays to his arrival.

In all, his stay was extended twice and he was embedded for five weeks—much longer than is normally the case, and longer than had been agreed with him before he went. He was facilitated by British forces in a number of locations and given a high level of access both to the operations and to our personnel. At the end of this five-week period Task Force Helmand ended his embed as they were no longer able to support it given their other commitments, including other media visits.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* Jackal, *(b)* Panther and *(c)* Viking vehicles in Afghanistan are fully operational. [290967]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding this information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces in Afghanistan.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of food consumed by members of the armed forces in Helmand province consisted of locally-grown agricultural products in the latest period for which figures are available. [291016]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No locally produced food has been procured for British troops in Helmand Province by the MOD Food Supply Contractor.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tornado airframes deployed to Afghanistan have been unserviceable for more than 30 days since the date of deployment since 2001. [291075]

Mr. Quentin Davies: One Tornado aircraft deployed to Afghanistan has been unserviceable for more than 30 days; this has had no operational impact.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopter journeys have been made to transfer civilian staff to and from the provincial reconstruction team base in Lashkar Gar in the last 12 months; how many of these were for the transport of civilian staff *(a)* stationed at and *(b)* visiting the base; and if he will make a statement. [291097]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the budget of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom was spent in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Wales in each of the last 12 months. [290782]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Afghanistan

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received requests for UK troops to be deployed to Afghanistan from *(a)* NATO and *(b)* individual NATO member states in the last six months. [290836]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* As announced by the Prime Minister at the NATO summit on 3-4 April, the UK deployed an additional 700 troops to Afghanistan following a request from NATO earlier in the year for forces to support the Afghan presidential elections.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have served in Afghanistan since 2001. [290887]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* As at 1 August 2009, 71,560 members of the UK armed forces have been identified as having deployed to Afghanistan. This includes UK regular forces, Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel and mobilised reservists.

Armed Forces: Bullying

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of bullying in each of the armed forces have been reported in each year since 1997. [291046]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following table reflects the number of bullying complaints reported since October 2006 for each service. Some tri-service defence organisations do not record the service to which the complainant belongs. Statistical data prior to October 2006 are not held centrally.

	Royal Navy	*Army*	*RAF*	*Tri-service organisations with placed military*
Formal complaints				
October 2008 to March 2009	6	25	18	5
October 2007 to September 2008	14	18	40	1
October 2006 to September 2007	16	40	28	0
Informal complaints				
October 2008 to March 2009	29	38	23	6
October 2007 to September 2008	65	37	52	3
October 2006 to September 2007	67	51	50	0

Armed Forces: Health Services

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the budget of the Defence Medical Services was spent in Scotland in each of the last five years. [290780]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Medical policy for the Defence Medical Services (DMS) is overseen by the Surgeon General's Department (SGD). However, the organisational structure of the DMS means that comprehensive costs by location can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In Scotland, as in the rest of the UK, the majority of secondary health care is provided in NHS hospitals. The single service medical services are responsible for delivering primary health care to their respective service commanders-in-chief. This includes local medical centres (including GP surgeries), Regional Rehabilitation Units (including one in Edinburgh) and military Departments of Community Mental Health (including three in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness). Owing to the number of different internal budgets to which costs would be attributable, any detailed analysis of the budget spent in Scotland would incur disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Higher Education

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department incurred on postgraduate education for serving members of the armed forces normally based in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Ireland in each year since 1997. [291179]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was charged to occupants of Modern Housing Solutions housing for damage to that housing in each financial year since 1997. [291045]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of the total amounts charged are only available from November 2007 and represent the charges for all service family accommodation (SFA) in Great Britain (up to 31 March 2008) and the UK thereafter. The charges were as follows:

Period	*Total amount charged (£)*
1 November 2007 to 31 March 2008	[1]200,070
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	[2]1,080,394
1 April 2009 to 31 August 2009	[2]473,759

[1] GB SFA only.
[2] UK SFA only

These charges also cover SFA properties in Scotland, which are not maintained by Modern Housing Solutions.

Armed Forces: Indonesia

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future training for members of the Indonesian Kopassus Special Forces by the UK Joint Counter-Terrorist Training and Advisory Team; and if he will make a statement. [290913]

Bill Rammell: *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The MOD provides military advice and assistance to Indonesia as part of normal security cooperation and wider UK Government relations, as the Government do with many countries worldwide.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to improve the provision of mental health services to serving and former members of the armed forces. [291119]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD takes very seriously its responsibility to provide high-quality mental healthcare to its personnel, and Defence Medical Services' mental health practitioners remain in touch with the latest advances and developments in treatment in order to ensure that patients receive the most effective and efficient management, subject to proper scientific evaluation and comparison with current effective treatments. We sponsor research and epidemiological studies that address aspects of the mental health of both the in-service and veteran populations. We also maintain a close dialogue with the military medical services of our principal allies, to share understanding and best practice. Additionally,

our Academic Centre for Defence Mental Health, based at King's College London, is constantly reviewing the development of new treatments across the national and international spectrum and producing advice accordingly.

Diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders in members of the armed forces are performed by trained and accredited mental health personnel. In Afghanistan, we deploy uniformed mental health nurses to provide in-theatre care and treatment for our personnel. If personnel need to leave the operational environment, then their care continues either on an out- or in-patient basis in the UK or their permanent base overseas.

In the UK, our mental health services for military personnel are configured to provide community-based mental health care, primarily through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) across the UK (plus centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental healthcare. The DCMH mental health teams, comprising psychiatrists, mental health nurses, clinical psychologists and mental health social workers, have particular expertise in treatments for psychological injury.

For the relatively small number of military patients who need it, in-patient care is currently provided by a group of seven NHS trusts located throughout England and Scotland, led by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT) through a central MOD contract.

When personnel leave military service their healthcare becomes the responsibility of the NHS. Ex-Service personnel receive good treatment from their GPs but we recognise that many health professionals have limited experience of dealing with veterans who have mental health symptoms arising from their Service experience. The MOD, the four health departments and the Combat Stress charity have been working together with clinical experts and the Health and Social Care Advisory Service (HASCAS) to develop a new model of community based mental healthcare that will address assessment and treatment of veterans' mental health problems in the long term.

The community mental health model is NHS-led and reflects NHS best practice. Two-year pilots, tailored to local circumstances, are operating at Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Healthcare Trust, Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, Tees Esk and Wear NHS Trust, Cornwall NHS Partnership, and NHS Lothian (led by the Scottish Executive). Evaluation of the pilot areas is now underway; early results from all six are encouraging, with evidence that veterans feel able to access and use the service with confidence. Informed by the results of the evaluation the service will be rolled out across the UK. In the interim, for areas not yet involved in the pilots, veterans with operational service after 1982 who are concerned about their mental health can attend our Medical Assessment Programme based at St. Thomas' hospital, for specialist mental health assessment by a consultant psychiatrist with extensive military experience.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel normally based in Scotland were referred to the Priory Clinic as *(a)* inpatients and *(b)* outpatients in each year since 2003. [291175]

Mr. Kevan Jones: An interim arrangement for the contracting of service mental health provision was signed with the Priory Group commencing in December 2003. The full contract, whereby the Priory Group became the primary provider of in-patient mental health provision, commenced on 1 April 2004.

The available data are anonymised for reasons of patient confidentiality. Therefore, it is not possible to identify which patients from all those treated would be categorised as service personnel normally based in Scotland.

From the available information the following numbers of in-patients were treated at the Glasgow Priory Clinic since 2003 but referrals could have included patients from locations outside Scotland:

	Number of patients treated
1 December 2003-31 March 2004	[1]—
1 April 2004-31 March 2005	30
1 April 2005-31 March 2006	37
1 April 2006-31 March 2007	23
1 April 2007-31 March 2008	28
1 April 2008-7 February 2009	25

Out-patient care is usually provided by the MOD's military departments of Community Mental Health, of which there are three in Scotland located at Leuchars (Edinburgh), Faslane (Glasgow) and Kinloss (Inverness). The only specific out-patient only referrals that we contract for is the provision of psychology treatment. This element of the Priory contract commenced in 2006 and the total number of patients referred can be found in the table:

	Number of patients treated
1 April 2006-31 March 2007	[1]0
1 April 2007-31 March 2008	[1]—
1 April 2008-7 February 2009	7

[1] Indicates a number less than 5, and is used to protect patient confidentiality, in line with our standard practice for very low numbers of patients.

The contract with the Priory Group has been replaced by a new one, awarded in November 2008 following open competition, with a partnership of seven NHS trusts led by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what grounds applications to join the armed forces may be rejected. [291044]

Bill Rammell: The armed forces' aim is to recruit the required numbers of high calibre personnel, irrespective of their race, ethnic origin, religion or gender and without reference to social background or sexual orientation, into the Naval Service, Army and Royal Air Force, in order to meet operational requirements. However, applications may be rejected for the following reasons:

Age

Medical

Security vetting e.g. nationality and residency rules

Education/qualifications

Suitability at interview

Criminal convictions including drugs
Debt
Incompatible religious belief e.g. Satanists
Offensive or obscene tattoos.

Depleted Uranium: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many times and at what locations depleted uranium shells have been test-fired in Scotland in each of the last five years; [291180]

(2) how much is Department has spent on test-firing depleted uranium shells in the last five years; [291181]

(3) how many depleted uranium shells were test-fired in Scotland in each of the last five years; [291182]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Depleted uranium shells were test-fired at the MOD-owned Kirkcudbright Range in Scotland on 11 and 12 March 2008. This is the only occasion on which depleted uranium shells have been test-fired in the last five years; 20 shells were fired in total. The estimated cost of the test-firing is £60,000.

Guided Weapons

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* the Global Positioning System and *(b)* NIDAR radar for missile tracking. [291022]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There is no proposal to use the Global Positioning System (GPS) for missile tracking, although under QinetiQ's proposed changes to the operation of the MOD Hebrides Range, aerial targets would be tracked via GPS.

QinetiQ's proposals also include tracking missiles via the existing G Band Radars on South Uist, which have increasingly taken over from the I Band NIDIR Radars on St. Kilda. The primary capability of NIDIR Radars is tracking missiles at long range and low level.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many missile practice camps there were at each UK missile range in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date; what missiles were tested at each; how many camps there will be in (i) the remainder of 2009 and (ii) 2010; and what missiles will be tested at each. [291023]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Details of Missile Practice Camps[1] (MPCs) at UK Ranges since 2008, including those that are currently planned for 2009 and 2010, are set out as follows. Additional MPCs are likely to be added to the schedule in due course.

MOD Aberporth

Date	*Missile details*	*Number of MPC*
2008	Sidewinder	18
	ASRAAM[2]	(inc. above)
2009 (to date)	ASRAAM[2]	3
	Sidewinder	2
2009 (scheduled)	Sidewinder	2
2010 (scheduled)	—	0

MOD Hebrides

Date	*Missile details*	*Number of MPC*
2008	Rapier	2
	AMRAAM[3]	1
2009 (to date)	Rapier	2
	HVM	1
2009 (scheduled)	Rapier	1
2010 (scheduled)	ASRAAM[2] and AMRAAM[3]	1
	Rapier	(tbc) 2

MOD Manorbier

Date	*Missile details*	*Number of MPC*
2008	HVM[4]	6
2009 (to date)	HVM[4]	9
2009 (scheduled)	HVM[4]	2
2010 (scheduled)	HVM[4]	1

South West Approaches

Date	*Missile details*	*Number of MPC*
2009 (scheduled)	Sea Dart	1

[1] Defined as a training exercise involving air-to-air or surface-to-air missiles for UK forces.
[2] Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile.
[3] Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile.
[4] High Velocity Missile.

Helicopters: Afghanistan

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the adequacy of the provision of helicopters for use by British armed forces on operations in Afghanistan. [290663]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary about all aspects of the campaign in Afghanistan. We continually monitor the level of helicopter provision and make adjustments based on the requirements of our military commanders. For example, between November 2006 and April 2009 we increased the number of airframes by 60 per cent. and the number of flying hours by 84 per cent. As well as sharing coalition helicopters, we lease hundreds of hours each month from commercial operators for routine supplies.

Met Office: Pay

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria determine the awarding of bonuses to staff at the Met Office; and if he will make a statement. [291148]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Met Office staff are eligible to receive bonuses based on performance against specific targets agreed and monitored by the Met Office Board, which are linked to the success of the Met Office at either individual, team or organisational level. Bonus payments are non-consolidated and represent part of Met Office staff remuneration which is at risk and needs to be re-earned each year.

Military Bases

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the level of use of each British military training site was in each of the last 10 years. [291164]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Oil: Scotland

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the *(a)* environmental and *(b)* safety impact of the oil spill at Faslane on 29 July 2009; and what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of oil spillage from naval fuel depots in Scotland. [290796]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* All Royal Navy fuel depots are subject to stringent safety regulations and are inspected and licensed on an annual basis. MOD is working closely with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to investigate the oil spillage that occurred at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde on 29 July 2009 and the findings are due to be published in the next few months. As part of this work, an independent marine biologist is assessing the environmental impact of the incident and qualified departmental staff are also carrying out daily inspections of the affected area. The initial findings are that appropriate control measures were in place to contain the spillage resulting in minimal pollution to the local environment.

The initial assessments have similarly found that the oil spillage resulted in minimal impact to safety, including to the personnel employed at the naval base. Results to date also indicate that the incident was dealt with in accordance with the naval base's Oil Spill Contingency Plan by qualified departmental personnel who had access to industry standard personal protective equipment.

The Department operates stringent safety operating procedures to ensure that the risk of oil spills is kept as low as reasonably practicable. The circumstances of the spillage are unique to the fuels infrastructure at Faslane and are not replicated across the wider naval fuel depot estate in Scotland. Any lessons learned, however, regarding both the cause of the spillage and our response will be incorporated into working practices and plans as appropriate. Associated risk assessments will also be reviewed to take into account any necessary changes.

Territorial Army: Higher Education

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on each university corps in the University Officer Training Corps in each year since 1997. [291178]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are 19 University Officer Training Corps (UOTCs) in the United Kingdom. Their costs are calculated at regional brigade level not by individual unit.

The table shows the expenditure by each brigade for the last three financial years where information is available. The figures have been rounded to two decimal places and the sum of the component parts may not equal the total which is also a rounded figure.

Million

Regional brigades	*UOTCs within the brigade*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
51 Scottish Brigade	Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Strathclyde, Tayforth	6.44	5.05	5.28
15 North East Brigade	Leeds, Northumbrian, Sheffield	4.57	4.04	4.11
42 North West Brigade	Liverpool, Manchester	2.48	2.46	2.62
160 Wales Brigade	Wales	1.45	1.42	1.82
143 West Midlands Brigade	Birmingham	1.42	1.31	1.66
49 East Brigade	Cambridge, East Midlands	2.78	2.84	3.10
43 Wessex Brigade	Bristol, Exeter	2.82	2.53	2.97
145 Home Counties Brigade	Oxford, Southampton	2.68	2.56	2.73
HQ London District	London	2.00	2.03	2.32
38 Irish Brigade	Belfast	—	1.49	1.52
Total		26.64	25.72	28.13

Information on costs prior to 2006-07 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Type 42 Destroyers

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on recycling decommissioned Type 42 destroyers to date. [291173]

Mr. Quentin Davies: MOD is committed to disposing of its ships in the most environmentally sound and cost effective manner.

Four Type 42 destroyers have been recycled to date (Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow and Newcastle). The cost of recycling HMS Cardiff, Glasgow and Newcastle was approximately £1.09 million per platform. These costs included the preparation necessary to meet environmental requirements, equipment removals, overhaul, repair, transport and storage.

Records are no longer held of the costs associated with the preparation of HMS Birmingham for disposal.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where each of the Type 42 destroyers which remain to be decommissioned will be recycled. [291174]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No decisions have yet been made on the recycling of the Type 42 destroyers which remain to be decommissioned, but all commercial options will be considered for their disposal in the most environmentally sound and cost effective manner.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account his Department took of levels of taxation of air travel in *(a)* the Netherlands and *(b)*

Belgium in assessing the likely effect of changes in air passenger duty on the global competitiveness of the UK aviation industry. [291136]

Ian Pearson: Rates are set after careful deliberation by Ministers, taking into account the full range of relevant factors. The most recent impact assessment can be found here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/apd-reform-ia.pdf

Financial Services: Pay

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the UK financial services sector on the likely effects on competitiveness in the sector of an imposition of a cap on bonuses in other EU member states. [291137]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties are recorded with each *(a)* individual dwelling house code and *(b)* value significant code in the local authority areas of Shropshire, according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [290971]

Mr. Timms: The number of domestic properties with the codes requested, as at 2 September 2009, in the Billing Authorities Bridgnorth, North Shropshire, Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Atcham and South Shropshire, is as follows:

(a) Dwelling house codes (group type)

Codes	*Number of properties*
01	9,445
02	5,645
03	5,365
04	4,244
05	673
06	95
07	2,155
08	1,468
09	1,019
10	2,119
13	38
14	205
19	230
20	3,632
21	7,158
24	954
25	88
30	5,543
31	51,318
32	12,861
35	661
36	549
37	29
39	35
40	838
41	198
42	312
43	126
44	169
45	88
46	40
48	58
50	22
51	4,038
52	<5
55	12
56	2,360
60	1,850
61	418
62	638
70	774
71	1,205
72	9
80	112
81	36
82	6
90	35
91	0
92	0
94	0
95	0
96	0
97	0
98	0
99	38

(b) Value significant codes

Codes	*Number of properties*
A	50
AM	715
AO	214
AV	0
AW	97
B	23
BA	21
BB	9
BC	15
BD	62
C	0
CB	13
CH	5
CI	5
CN	81
CO	10
CP	230
CS	84
D	0
DS	346
EF	36
F	0
FC	<5
FG	<5
FO	3
FP	<5
GG	<5

(b) Value significant codes

Codes	*Number of properties*
GN	22
HO	0
I	0
L	56
LE	79
LF	185
LR	74
LS	23
LT	34
M	0
NA	50
OS	11
P	0
PL	84
PS	27
Q	6
QA	<5
QB	5
QC	<5
QD	<5
R	0
RC	119
S	0
SC	8
T	0
TM	45
TQ	28
TU	145
U	11
UC	325
UL	22
UN	309
UO	20
UP	<5
UR	14
US	8,132
V	20
VC	<5
VE	0
VH	71
VI	205
VL	8
VM	<5
VO	97
VP	14
VR	22
VS	12
WK	198
X	288
YG	11
ZH	180
ZI	92
ZJ	3,173
ZL	21,273
ZN	854

Notes:

1. For both, *(a)* and *(b)* above, where a value of '<5 is displayed', this is to prevent individual properties being identified.
2. Of the dwelling house codes, only group type has been provided. Information about the number of domestic properties recorded against other dwelling house codes is commercially confidential.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what external legal costs the Valuation Office Agency has incurred on cases relating to the new retrospective business rates being levied on firms in ports; and which legal firms and chambers have been instructed in such cases. [291024]

Mr. Timms: There are no new retrospective business rates being levied on firms in ports. The statutory provisions under which the occupiers of land and buildings in ports are being assessed to non-domestic rates was enacted by Parliament in 1988; and the principle that assessments may be back-dated to the first day of the current list in appropriate circumstances has been a feature of that legislation since its first enactment. The Valuation Office Agency has so far incurred £18,943.71 in external legal costs in cases arising out of the Valuation Office Agency's review of port hereditaments.

These costs are all Counsel's fees, and the Valuation Office Agency has instructed Counsel practising from Landmark Chambers, Wilberforce Chambers and 1 Crown Office Row.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which QCs have been hired by the Valuation Office Agency in relation to valuation hearings and tribunals relating to the new retrospective business rates being levied on firms in ports. [291025]

Mr. Timms: There are no new retrospective business rates being levied on firms in ports. The statutory provisions under which the occupiers of land and buildings in ports are being assessed to non-domestic rates was enacted by Parliament in 1988; and the principle that assessments may be back-dated to the first day of the current list in appropriate circumstances has been a feature of that legislation since its first enactment. The only Queen's Counsel who has so far been instructed on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency in relation to Valuation Tribunal hearings arising out of the Valuation Office Agency's review of port hereditaments is Jonathan Karas QC.

Valuation Office: Data Protection

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Valuation Office Agency's policy is on whether property attribute data on individual dwellings are treated as personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998. [290969]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency treats all domestic property attribute data as personal data.

In doing so it follows the guidance issued by the Information Commissioner which is available at:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/detailed_specialist_guides/personal_data_flowchart_v1_with_preface001.pdf.

Valuation Office: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's freedom of information disclosure log for December 2006, what the Agency's policy is on using information from informers. [290970]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency's policy on using information from informers is set out in Section 10 of their Customer Services Manual which is available at:

www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/chapters/customer-service-manual/frame.htm.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* contractors on its behalf have spent (i) in total and (ii) since September 2005 on the automated valuation model. [290968]

Mr. Timms: Expenditure by *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to secure the investment in its automated valuation model (AVM) technology, to support a range of its activities, has amounted to approximately

(i) £13.7 million in total; which includes

(ii) £6.7 million since September 2005.

These figures include payments made to the VOA's IT supplier, Capgemini, a proportion of which covers their expenditure with third party IT suppliers (under separate contracts). As the VOA is not party to these separate contracts, it is not possible to provide the amount spent by *(b)* contractors working on their behalf.

Valuation Office: Pay

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 30 of the Valuation Office Agency's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, HC 521, what the reasons were for the level of the increase in the salary including performance pay of the Chief Executive; and what that increase was in percentage terms. [291010]

Mr. Timms: The pay and remuneration for the chief executive is set in the context and the parameters of the overall senior civil service (SCS) pay award for each year and is determined by the pay committee of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) acting in accordance with pay award and HMRC pay policy. The SCS pay award is determined annually by the independent Senior Salaries Review Board. Comparatives of pay and remuneration for all directors of the agency to the previous year are shown in the Financial Statements, available at:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications/index.htm

VAT: Lighting

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the European VAT agreement relating to light emitting diode lightbulbs; and if he will make a statement. [291108]

Mr. Timms: No further discussions have taken place at EU level regarding reduced rates of VAT since the March 2009 ECOFIN.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 115W, on disability living allowance, how many applications for disability living allowance in respect of those aged 65 years or more were reprocessed as a claim for attendance allowance in the last 12 months. [291071]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Crisis Loans

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* each region in England and *(c)* each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales (i) applied for and (ii) received a crisis loan in each quarter of 2008-09. [290849]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The available information is in the following tables.

Information is not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Crisis loan applications received in (a) England and Wales and (b) each region in England in 2008-09 by quarter

Thousand

Area	*Quarter 1 (April 2008 to June 2008)*	*Quarter 2 (July 2008 to September 2008)*	*Quarter 3 (October 2008 to December 2008)*	*Quarter 4 (January 2009 to March 2009)*
England and Wales	534.7	586.9	615.7	744.4
East of England	45.2	48.1	51.2	68.7
East Midlands	28.1	28.4	32.9	47.1
London	57.1	61.5	67.5	84.2
North East	48.0	55.4	55.6	56.0
North West	117.2	137.5	144.6	172.6
South East	75.4	73.5	76.0	92.2
South West	29.3	33.7	31.1	37.2
West Midlands	52.6	64.4	67.1	77.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	44.4	45.6	48.5	62.2

Crisis loan initial awards made in (a) England and Wales and (b) each region in England in 2008-09 by quarter

Thousand

Area	*Quarter 1 (April 2008 to June 2008)*	*Quarter 2 (July 2008 to September 2008)*	*Quarter 3 (October 2008 to December 2008)*	*Quarter 4 (January 2009 to March 2009)*
England and Wales	356.3	392.9	420.8	524.2
East of England	28.5	30.2	34.7	49.1
East Midlands	17.1	17.5	22.2	34.1
London	38.7	39.9	41.9	54.6

Crisis loan initial awards made in (a) England and Wales and (b) each region in England in 2008-09 by quarter

Thousand

Area	Quarter 1 (April 2008 to June 2008)	Quarter 2 (July 2008 to September 2008)	Quarter 3 (October 2008 to December 2008)	Quarter 4 (January 2009 to March 2009)
North East	33.8	38.8	38.5	38.4
North West	80.7	98.9	102.6	125.3
South East	53.2	50.7	52.6	63.5
South West	19.7	23.1	22.0	25.7
West Midlands	33.3	41.7	45.9	57.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	26.2	26.2	32.1	42.5

Notes:
1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics, but in this case, we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
2. Awards are initial awards only and do not include awards made on review.
3. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application, and for initial awards made, not the number of people who received an initial award. (Some people made more than one application or received more than one initial award.)

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Employment Schemes: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what employment programmes are available for disabled people who are out of work but are *(a)* not eligible for and *(b)* not in receipt of (i) jobseeker's allowance and (ii) employment and support allowance. [290933]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Under some circumstances, some disabled people not in work and not in receipt of incapacity benefits, jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance, are eligible to access specialist disability provision, which includes Disability Employment Advisers, WORKSTEP, Work Preparation, the Job Introduction Scheme and Residential Training Colleges.

Access to Work is also available to disabled people out of work, regardless of their benefit status, to meet the needs that may arise when attending a job interview. If they are successful in securing this or any job then they become eligible for the full breadth of support the programme can offer, depending on their support needs in relation to their job.

Employment: Learning Disability

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the 400 employment opportunities to be created for people with learning disabilities by her Department as identified in the report, Valuing Employment Now, will be in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [291184]

Jonathan Shaw: The 400 employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities will be offered in departmental offices, including Jobcentres, Pension, Disability and Carers Centres and Corporate and Shared Services offices across Great Britain. We do not have expected distributions of opportunities by region or country.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not have any offices in Northern Ireland, so none of the 400 employment opportunities will be offered there.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the total monetary value of payments to recipients of incapacity benefit in each year since 1997. [290723]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The available information is shown in the table.

Incapacity benefit—Expenditure for Great Britain

£ million

	Cash	2009-10 prices
1997-98	7,412	9,726
1998-99	7,251	9,316
1999-2000	6,790	8,556
2000-01	6,766	8,415
2001-02	6,749	8,211
2002-03	6,758	7,965
2003-04	6,724	7,706
2004-05	6,662	7,432
2005-06	6,650	7,270
2006-07	6,566	6,987
2007-08	6,658	6,893
2008-09	6,535	6,601

Notes:
1. Figures to 1999-2000 include significant expenditure on people above pension age.
2. All figures are outturn expenditure, rounded to the nearest million pounds.
3. The DWP benefit expenditure tables can be viewed at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Source:
DWP accounting data, as published in the DWP benefit expenditure tables.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter of 9 July 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North, transferred from the Cabinet Office, concerning a constituent. [291084]

Helen Goodman: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 31 August 2009.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance claims have commenced in each quarter since 1 January 2007. [290725]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following tables.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance commencements in each quarter since 1 December 2006

	Number
1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007	149,500
1 March 2007 to 31 May 2007	150,800
1 June 2007 to 31 August 2007	158,000
1 September 2007 to 30 November 2007	160,400
1 December 2007 to 28 February 2008	145,300
1 March 2008 to 31 May 2008	147,500
1 June 2008 to 31 August 2008	154,100
1 September 2008 to 30 November 2008	102,400

Notes:
1. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources.
2. Severe disablement allowance has been closed to new claimants since April 2001.
3. Figures have been updated to include late notified commencements and are rounded to the nearest hundred.
4. All figures back to 1995 have been revised and may be subject to further change. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. For illustration purposes, total commencements for November 2003 increased by 14 per cent. in the year following their initial release.
5. These figures do not include employment and support allowance, which replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: 5 per cent. sample data.

Employment and support allowance commencements: quarterly time series

Quarter ending	Number
November 2008	54,150
February 2009[1]	141,320

[1] Provisional.
Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. For on flows, the benefit type is defined as the pay status at the start of the claim.
3. The figures relating to employment support allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard. However, it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence most recent data shown is provisional.
4. Employment and support allowance data can be found on the DWP tabulation tool at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

JUSTICE

Conditional Cautions: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice following the pilots that commenced on 1 September 2008, what decision the Government have made regarding the use of conditional cautions for vulnerable women; and upon what criteria this decision was made. [291101]

Mr. Straw: Early indications from these pilots show that the conditional caution scheme is a positive way to divert women offenders from the criminal justice system and into supportive services in the community. No decision has yet been made on the further development of this condition as we are awaiting the results of the full evaluation of the pilots in early 2010.

Convictions: Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences of fraud in relation to child adoption there were in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* Castle Point in each of the last 10 years. [287496]

Claire Ward: "Adoption fraud" is not an offence covered by specific legislation, and defendants may be dealt with by different fraud offences. From information held on the Court Proceedings Database, the Ministry of Justice are not able to ascertain which individual cases within these fraud offences relate to adoption fraud.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions were secured for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each local authority area in the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [288892]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act in the Hampshire police force area, 2003 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Data have been provided for Hampshire police force area as information by local authority is not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act, Hampshire police force area, 2003 to 2007[1,2]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Proceeded against	34	47	42	41	44
Found guilty	16	23	16	21	32

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Departmental Drinking Water

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on water coolers in each of the last six months. [287964]

Mr. Wills: Expenditure on water coolers can only be separately identified within two areas of the Department—headquarters and the Office of the Public Guardian.

Expenditure in the period April to September 2009 amounted to £3,420. Invoices are received quarterly and cannot be broken down by month.

Identification of expenditure on water coolers in the rest of the Ministry of Justice would involve the examination of a large number of invoices, many held locally within the courts, prison and probation systems, and would incur disproportionate cost.

The Ministry's policy is to move away from water coolers to mains-fed water filtration systems on cost and environmental grounds. Such a system is in operation in the Ministry's main headquarters building.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each of the last six months. [287965]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry's accounting records do not specifically record expenditure on bottled water. To identify relevant expenditure would require examination of thousands of individual invoices, many held locally within the courts, prison and probation systems, and would incur disproportionate cost. It has, however, been possible to identify expenditure on bottled water within the Ministry's headquarters function as stated:

April 2009-September 2009:

Ministry of Justice HQ—£1,315

Billing is on a quarterly basis so cannot be provided for each month. The expenditure relates to bottled water used for water coolers and dispensers. The cost includes sanitisation and maintenance of these devices. Water dispensers are gradually being replaced by mains-fed water filtration systems across the Ministry's estate. The Ministry no longer provides bottled water when catering for meetings or events within its headquarters buildings.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on the maintenance of his departmental website in each of the last two years. [287962]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not separately identify expenditure on website maintenance in its accounting records. However, the Ministry's Information, Communications and Technology division holds offline records on this expenditure for the following business areas for the last two financial years:

	£	
	2008-09	*2007-08*
Ministry of Justice HQ	1,410,000	1,625,160
Tribunals Service	146,256	0
Office of the Public Guardian	0	18,000
Total	1,556,256	1,643,160

It is not possible to reliably distinguish website maintenance costs from other IT expenditure for HM Courts Service and the National Offender Management Service except at disproportionate cost.

House of Lords: Reform

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish draft legislation on reform of the House of Lords; if he will take steps to promote the Government's proposals for a wholly or substantially elected second chamber; and if he will make a statement. [290757]

Mr. Straw: Following cross party talks, the Government published a White Paper last year building on the outcome of the free votes in the Commons in March 2007 in favour of an 80 per cent. or 100 per cent. elected second chamber. The statement on 20 July on the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill reiterated our commitment to comprehensive reform of the Lords. We are, therefore, working up final proposals which we hope to publish later this year.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 12 August 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North concerning a constituent; and what the reasons are for the time taken to acknowledge receipt of the letter. [291085]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) target to reply to ministerial correspondence is 20 working days from the date of receipt and the MoJ endeavours to respond to letters as promptly as possible within this deadline.

The hon. Member's letter of 12 August was not received in the MoJ Ministerial Correspondence Unit until 21 August; taking into account the bank holiday on 31 August this case was assigned a target date of 21 September.

As Duty Minister for the Department during the summer recess, I replied to the hon. Member's letter on 10 September.

National Archives

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much the annual budget for the National Archives *(a)* has been in each year since 1997 and *(b)* is for 2009-10; [288584]

(2) which organisations were consulted before the decision was taken to reduce the budget of the National Archives by £4.2 million. [288585]

Mr. Wills: The National Archives was created in April 2003. Since then it has featured in a series of machinery of government changes. The first occurred in 2006 with the transfer of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) from the Cabinet Office, and the second in 2008 when the Statutory Publications Office (SPO) moved from the Ministry of Justice both adding to the scope of the National Archives' policy and service delivery responsibilities.

The table shows the resource and capital budget out-turn for the National Archives for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09 and the current budget plans for 2009-10. In order to ensure proper comparability all the figures shown above assume that both OPSI and the SPO are part of the National Archives throughout.

			Out-turn				£ million Plan
Year	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Financial year	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Department	*TNA*	*TNA*	*TNA*	*TNA*	*TNA*	*TNA*	*TNA*
MOG (year and body merged)				*OPSI*		*SPO*	
Budgeting spending							
Resource	39.1	39.0	42.4	39.3	43.2	45.4	48.7
Capital	3.4	2.0	1.9	2.7	5.8	3.3	2.1
Total department spending (the adjusted total of resource plus capital minus depreciation)	38.2	36.3	39.7	37.2	44.3	44.3	44.2

There have been no cuts to the National Archives' budget. They have recently announced some proposals for restructuring their public services to ensure they can operate sustainably for the next few years. The Lord Chancellor and I have been fully briefed on both the rationale and details of the proposals. We are both supportive of them recognising that these were operational decisions made by the management team.

Political Parties

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he intends to use his powers under section 143(6) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to produce rules for the inclusion of imprints on election materials that take the form of websites, emails or other similar electronic means; and if he will make a statement. [291153]

Mr. Wills: The legal requirements relating to imprints on election material are set out in Section 143 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 for printed election material issued centrally by political parties, and Section 110 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 for printed election material which is intended to promote or procure the election of a candidate.

These requirements do not apply in the case of non-printed election material, although Electoral Commission guidance for parties and candidates is clear that it is considered good practice to include an imprint that complies with the legal requirements on any website that contains information about an election or candidate(s).

The Government recognise the importance of ensuring proper transparency as to the source of election material, in any form. Where practical, the Government agree that it is a matter of good practice for an imprint to be placed on non-printed material. However, the Government believe that any regulations introducing legal imprint requirements for non-printed material would need to be workable and long-lasting, in particular taking account of the fast-evolving nature of online campaigning. The Government do not propose to introduce regulations requiring imprints for non-printed material at this time but will keep the issue under review. If evidence suggests that further statutory provision is required we will consider that carefully.

Prisoners

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average daily allocation of funding is for food for a prisoner in England. [290764]

Mr. Straw: For the current financial year the National Offender Management Service introduced a maximum benchmark of £2.10 per prisoner per day. Many establishments already operate below this level and provide good quality food. Those operating above the benchmark are working towards reducing their costs with appropriate central support.

Evidence and experience has proven that acceptable healthy meals can be provided in prisons within this level of funding by carefully managing menu content and utilising key messages from the Department of Health in regard to promoting a healthy diet.

Prisoners: Transfers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoner transfer applications have been received from foreign governments since 2005; and how many such applications have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused; [290794]

(2) how many prisoner transfer applications have been made by the Government to foreign governments since 2005; and how many such applications have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused. [290795]

Mr. Straw: Prisoner transfers are initiated by prisoners who may express an interest to either of the Governments concerned or by a Government. Formal requests for transfer are made by Governments. Between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008 677 prisoners expressed an interest in being transferred from England and Wales under prisoner transfer arrangements. Of these 376 applications were approved and 102 were refused. 199 either remain under consideration or have been withdrawn. During the same period, 367 prisoners expressed an interest in being transferred to England and Wales, of which 212 were approved and 46 were refused. 109 either remain under consideration or have been withdrawn.

The transfer of prisoners to and from Scotland and to and from Northern Ireland is a matter for Scottish Ministers and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland respectively.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoner transfer agreements the Government has signed with foreign governments since 1979; and on what date each such agreement was signed. [290916]

Mr. Straw: The United Kingdom is a signatory to two multiparty prisoner transfer agreements: the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (1983) and the Commonwealth Scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders (1990). The UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on 25 August 1983 and the Commonwealth Scheme on 27 June 1991.

On 9 February 2009 the United Kingdom signed the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. It was ratified on 17 July 2009 and it will enter into force on 1 November 2009.

On 27 November 2008 the European Union adopted Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union. It will enter into force on 5 December 2011.

In addition to the multiparty arrangements to which the United Kingdom is a signatory, the following bilateral prisoner transfer agreements have been concluded:

Country	*Date of signature*
Antigua and Barbuda	23 June 2003
Barbados	3 April 2002
Brazil	20 August 1998
Cuba	13 June 2002
Dominica	2 May 2006 (not yet in force)
Dominican Republic	18 February 2003 (not yet in force)
Egypt	29 November 1993
Ghana	17 July 2008
Guyana	5 April 2002 (not yet in force)
Hong Kong	5 November 1997
India	18 February 2005
Jamaica	26 June 2007 (not yet in force)
Laos	7 May 2009
Lesotho	6 June 2007
Libya	17 November 2008
Mexico	5 November 2004
Morocco	21 February 2002
Nicaragua	6 September 2005
Pakistan	24 August 2007
Peru	7 March 2003
St. Lucia	27 April 2006
Sri Lanka	6 February 2003
Suriname	29 June 2002
Thailand	22 January 1990
Uganda	2 June 2009 (not yet in force)
Venezuela	17 June 2002
Vietnam	11 September 2008 (not yet in force)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what overwhelming United Kingdom interests he took into account in agreeing to a prisoner transfer agreement with Libya which did not exclude Mr. Abdelbaset ali Megrahi; and if he will make a statement. [290917]

Mr. Straw: The discussions over the prisoner transfer agreement between the United Kingdom and Libya were part of the wider negotiations for the normalisation of relations with Libya following its renunciation of international terrorism and its voluntary dismantling of weapons of mass destruction. I concluded that the normalisation of relations with Libya, including the fight against terrorism, cooperation in stemming the flow of illegal migration, and wider UK/Libya trade relations, were in the United Kingdom's national interest.

Under the terms of the prisoner transfer agreement prisoners could only be transferred with the consent of both Governments. It was therefore not necessary to exclude Mr. Al Megrahi from its terms. As Mr. Al Megrahi was a Scottish prisoner decisions relating to his transfer were a matter for Scottish Ministers. Scottish Ministers refused Mr. Al Megrahi's application for transfer under the prisoner transfer agreement.

Prisoners: Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners are in paid employment within prison. [291100]

Mr. Straw: The information is not available in the form requested. However, over the period April to July 2009 male prisoners were engaged in 11.9 hours of work (paid and unpaid) per week on average. For female prisoners the average was 12.7 hours per week. The data are taken from the Regimes Monitoring (Regmon) database by means of a query which only picks out the types of purposeful activity which fall under the activity group of "Works". This does not tell us whether or not this is paid work.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders released from prison were in sustained employment (i) three months, (ii) six months and (iii) one year after their release in each of the last 10 years. [291102]

Mr. Straw: Information is not available on the proportion of prisoners in sustained employment three months, six months or one year following release.

However, data are collected on the proportion of offenders entering employment on discharge. Figures since 2007-08 are set out in the following table.

Prior to 2007-08, the number entering employment were not recorded separately from those entering education or training.

	Male/ female	*Total number of prisoner discharges*	*Number on discharges with an employment outcome*	*Percentage of offenders entering employment on release*
2007-08	Female	6,033	748	12
	Male	84,281	23,592	28

	Male/female	Total number of prisoner discharges	Number on discharges with an employment outcome	Percentage of offenders entering employment on release
	Total	90,314	24,340	27
2008-09	Female	6,800	900	13
	Male	91,193	24,565	27
	Total	97,993	25,465	26
2009-10 (April to July 2009)	Female	2,246	266	12
	Male	30,064	7,878	26
	Total	32,310	8,144	25

Prisoners: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* certified normal accommodation and *(b)* total capacity to house female prisoners is. [291104]

Mr. Straw: On 31 July 2009, the total in use certified normal accommodation (CNA) of the female estate was 4,632 and the total operational capacity was 4,822.

Prisoners: Libya

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Libyan prisoners have been requested to be transferred to Libya since the ratification of the prisoner transfer agreement with the Libyan government signed in November 2008; and what transfers have taken place under the agreement. [290636]

Mr. Straw: One prisoner serving a sentence of imprisonment in England and Wales has sought transfer to a prison in Libya under the provisions of the UK/Libya prisoner transfer agreement. His request is currently under consideration. No prisoners have yet been transferred to Libya.

The transfer of prisoners to Libya from Scotland is a matter for Scottish Ministers. The transfer of prisoners from Northern Ireland to Libya is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Prisoners: Parole

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners on parole from Whitemoor Prison *(a)* breached their parole terms and *(b)* his Department has lost touch with in each of the last 15 years; and if he will make a statement. [290670]

Mr. Straw: Centrally held information on those prisoners released on licence and who are subsequently recalled cannot be broken down by the prisons from which the offenders were initially released. To provide the information requested would require a manual check of individual records and this would incur disproportionate costs.

Prisoners: Suicide

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners have been placed on suicide watch while serving a custodial sentence of each type in each of the last five years; [291111]

(2) how many prisoners have attempted suicide while serving a custodial sentence of each type in each of the last five years; [291112]

(3) how many and what proportion of prisoners have committed suicide while serving a custodial sentence of each type in each of the last five years. [291113]

Claire Ward: Information on 'suicide watches' is not collated or held by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). NOMS has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses proactively identifying prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm. At-risk prisoners are cared for using Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. Detailed data are not readily available however some 31,000 ACCT plans are opened each year. These can be opened repeatedly for the same prisoner. There are no easy answers to managing self harming behaviour but NOMS remains committed to finding ways to manage it.

Without exploring the intent behind a self-harm incident, it is difficult to establish such an incident as an attempted suicide. NOMS does not record intent, and does not hold information on attempted suicides. Table 1 shows annual totals of self-harm incidents by type of custody. Although intent is not recorded and the majority of incidents are not life threatening, analyses show that approximately 1.7 per cent. of all self-harm in prison involves hanging as a method or require resuscitation or hospitalisation on life support.

Table 1: Self harm incidents by type of custody: England and Wales

	Number of incidents[1, 2]				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All	19,579	23,806	23,423	22,897	24,944
Convicted un-sentenced	2,556	3,242	3,222	2,893	3,146
Immigration Detainee	126	129	280	198	198
Remand	3,232	4,048	4326	4351	4297
Sentenced	10,267	12,710	11,509	10,033	11,040
Sentenced - Indeterminate[3]	—	41	765	1,872	2,809
Sentenced-License recall	1,353	1,754	1,925	1,978	2,014
Not recorded[4]	2,045	1,882	1,396	1,572	1,432

[1] These figures have been drawn from the NOMS incident reporting system and exclude a small proportion on incidents using the new NOMIS system. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns but the data collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. Although the figures are shown to the last individual the figures may not be accurate to that level.

[2] In prisons, as in the community, it is not possible to count self harm incidents with absolute accuracy. In prison custody, however, such incidents are more likely to be detected and counted.

[3] A new indeterminate sentence "Imprisonment for Public Protection was introduced in 2005 and numbers of prisoners held on such sentences have been increasing. They are considered to be an existing high risk group and so the increase in this category if offset elsewhere.

[4] The apparent high number of unrecorded custody status arises from the fact that many self harm incidents occur in the early stages of custody at which time IT systems may not have had been fully updated.

Every death in prison is a tragedy, and affects families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Ministers, the Ministry of Justice and NOMS are completely committed to learning from each death and to reducing the number of such incidents. Good care and support from staff save many lives, but such instances go largely unreported. Prisons successfully keep safe in any given month approximately 1,500 prisoners assessed to be at particular risk of suicide or self harm. Deaths in prisons are among the most scrutinised of all incidents and each case is subject to a police investigation and independent investigation by the Prisons Probation Ombudsman. Robust systems are in place for monitoring deaths and learning from them.

The numbers and proportions of self-inflicted deaths by type of custodial sentence, for each of the last five years, are detailed in table 2.

Table 2: Self-inflicted deaths in prison custody[1] by type of custody: England and Wale

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All		95	78	67	92	60
Convicted unsentenced	Number of deaths	15	9	4	7	3
	Percentage of all deaths	16	12	6	8	5
Detainee	Number of deaths					1
	Percentage of all deaths	—	—	—	—	2
Judgment respited	Number of deaths	—	3	1	5	2
	Percentage of all deaths	—	4	1	5	3
Remand	Number of deaths	33	28	17	29	20
	Percentage of all deaths	35	36	25	32	33
Sentenced	Number of deaths	47	38	43	51	34
	Percentage of all deaths	49	49	67	55	57
Sentenced—Indeterminate	Number of deaths	—	—	2	4	4
	Percentage of all deaths	0	0	3	4	7
Sentenced—Licence recall	Number of deaths	9	6	10	9	6
	Percentage of all deaths	9	8	15	10	10

[1] Deaths in prison custody figures include all deaths of prisoners arising from incidents during prison custody They include deaths of prisoners while released on temporary license (ROTL) for medical reasons but exclude other types of ROTL where the state as less direct responsibility. Approximately one third of the deaths in prison custody shown here actually occur in hospitals or hospices.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* ships, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other sites in public ownership other than sites owned by the Ministry of Defence representatives of his Department have (i) visited to assess and (ii) considered for use as prison sites since 1 June 2005; and on what date each such visit took place. [286760]

Mr. Straw: Site searches are conducted both by National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and external agents on their behalf. NOMS do not hold full and complete records of those searches conducted by agents as this information is retained by them and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Some information is held centrally by NOMS, but this does not include dates of visits.

The following shows the ships and berths that have been visited and/or assessed and considered for prison use between 2006 and 2008. Information for 2005 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ship

Bibby Altona
MV Scotia Prince
Bibby Renaissance

Berth

Southampton
Portland
Harwich
Barrow-in-Furness
Birkenhead
Garston, Liverpool.

In addition, NOMS officials visited the following hospitals and other sites owned by public bodies between 2005 and 2008:

Hospitals

Bryn Y Neuadd, Llanfairfechran
Dobshill, Flint
Goodmayes, Essex
Harold Wood, Essex
Lea Castle, Kidderminster
Runwell, Essex

Sites in public ownership

Barking College Campus, Essex
Cardiff Airport, Wales
Celtic Springs Business Park, Newport
Cwmbran, Wales
Dagenham (Beam Park West)
Dynamex/Ferodo, Caernarfon
East Quay, Barry
HMP Featherstone, Wolverhampton
Felindre, Swansea
HMP Feltham, Heathrow
Firestone, Wrexham
Garth Isaf, Rhondda
Glynneath Business Park, Port Talbot
Goat Mill Road, Merthyr
Greengates Farm, St. Asaph
Gwent Europark, Magor

Hirwaun Industrial Park, Rhondda
"154", Wolverhampton
HMP Kirkham, Lancashire
Llanwern Steel Works, Llanwern
Oakdale Business Park, Caerphilly
Pyle, Bridgend
Queensway Meadows, Llanwern
Rassau, Ebbw Vale
Rhyd-Y-Car, Rhondda
Severn Crossing Distribution Park, Chepstow
South Quay, Barry
Tredegar, Gwent.

There have been several site search exercises for the London/Essex and South East carried out by NOMS since June 2005. These searches identified over 300 sites, the majority of which were dismissed from consideration at an early stage and not visited. Information relating to those sites that were visited is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether Lancaster is under consideration as a potential site for a new 1,500 place prison. [288380]

Mr. Straw: No. Apart from the two sites at Beam Park West (Dagenham) and Runwell (Essex) that I announced to Parliament on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-80, there are currently no plans to build a 1,500 place prison at any other location. We plan to start a fresh search for potential sites for the remaining new prisons in due course.

Prisons: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many abstinence-based therapeutic programmes there are for drug and alcohol addiction in women's prisons; and how many prisoners *(a)* entered and *(b)* completed such programmes in each year for which records are available. [291103]

Mr. Straw: A comprehensive drug treatment framework is available for women in prison. Interventions fall into three groups: clinical treatment (detoxification and maintenance), counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services (CARATs) and (abstinence-based) accredited drug treatment programmes.

Currently four different accredited drug treatment programmes are available to women in various establishments: 12-Step, P-ASRO (Prison—Addressing Substance-Related Offending), the Short Duration Programme (SDP) and Therapeutic Communities (TCs). The following table shows the number of prisoners starting and completing these programmes in each of the last five years.

	2004-05[1]		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Starts	Completions	Starts	Completions	Starts	Completions	Starts	Completions	Starts	Completions
12 STEP	60	36	61	38	57	37	60	31	56	39
PASRO	152	112	89	99	100	73	74	59	60	52
SDP	152	98	394	264	572	437	571	390	594	412
TC	64	37	33	19	38	23	40	25	16	11
Total	428	283	577	420	767	570	745	505	726	514

[1] 2004-05 is the first full year for which accurate starts and completions data are available.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Where alcohol is part of poly-drug misuse, CARAT services are available to all women prisoners in England and Wales. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is available in 11 women's prisons, although no participation data are collected centrally.

Racially Aggravated Offences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each ethnic group were convicted of racially aggravated offences in 2007; and for what offences they were convicted. [291185]

Claire Ward: Data on the ethnicity of persons convicted, in England and Wales, are not available for racially aggravated offences due to incomplete returns.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform is currently working with Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS), and representatives from National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to improve the level of recording in both the police and the courts.

Reoffenders: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the 954 offenders who had their licence recalled in 2008-09 and have not been returned to custody are foreign nationals. [291203]

Mr. Straw: In my written ministerial statement of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 34-38WS, on Audit of Licence Revocation, I announced that, as at 26 June 2009, 954 offenders who had their licences revoked between 1984 and 31 March 2009 were not recorded as having been returned to custody. Of the 954, there were 192 foreign nationals. Of the 192, 64 were assessed as meeting the criteria for deportation.

Over the last 10 years, more than 99 per cent. of offenders who have been recalled to prison have been successfully apprehended. We are determined to build on this creditable performance.

All agencies are working together to review and revise the end-to-end recall process, to ensure that we have the strongest grip on these individuals and can return them to custody as quickly as possible. The police have an action plan in place to deal with outstanding cases.

The Probation Service has significantly improved its enforcement of breaches. In 1997 only a third of breaches were being appropriately enforced, compared to over 95 per cent. by 2008. Before 1999 recall was rarely used because such cases had to go through the courts.

Michael Shields

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to make a final decision on a pardon in the case of Michael Shields. [291011]

Mr. Straw: Mr. Shields has been granted a free pardon. He was released from custody on 9 September.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of legal advice and representation in the concluded judicial review in the case concerning Michael Shields. [291012]

Mr. Straw: The judicial review on Michael Shields' application for a free pardon was concluded on 17 December 2008 in the Administrative Court. The total cost of legal advice and representation associated with the judicial review was £64,577 including disbursements and VAT.

Third Sector

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of *(a)* the Office of Public Sector Information logo and *(b)* other rebranding of Her Majesty's Stationery Office as the Office of Public Sector Information. [291055]

Mr. Wills: The renaming of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) as the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), which took effect from 1 July 2005, was an internal management unit change at the Cabinet Office to reflect its expanded responsibilities to be the principal focal point within Government for advising on and regulating the operation of public sector information re-use.

All work on renaming (updating the HMSO webpage, creating a new logo and issuing new business cards) was resourced and completed in house by HMSO staff as part of their day-to-day tasks. No additional costs were incurred and none of the work was contracted out to external suppliers.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 351W, on central government: public relations, which public relations firms were on the Central Office of Information's list of accredited public relations companies in each year since 1997. [291054]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 11 September 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on Public Relations Companies (251054).

A list of Public Relations companies on the Central Office of Information Framework can be found on the COI website:

http://www.coi.gov.uk

A copy of has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Information on companies from previous frameworks is not held centrally.

Civil Servants: Resignations

David Taylor: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many senior civil servants resigned from office to take up positions in the private sector in each of the last 10 years. [291123]

Angela E. Smith: All civil servants are subject to the "Rules on the Acceptance of Outside Appointments by Crown Servants" which require them to seek approval for employment they wish to take up within two years of leaving the civil service.

The independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments advises on applications under the rules from the most senior civil servants. The Committee publishes on its website and in its annual reports, information about its recommendations on appointments that have been taken up or announced. Copies of the Committee's annual reports are available in the Libraries of the House and at:

www.acoba.gov.uk

Information about other senior civil servants is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of young people aged between 18 and 24 years resident in the Chelmsford local authority area claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2009 to date. [290995]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of young people aged between 18 and 24 years resident in the Chelmsford local authority area claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2009 to date. (290995)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number and percentage of persons aged 18-24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in each month since January 2004.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1 Number of persons aged 18-24 resident in Chelmsford claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

	Number[1]	Percentage[2]
January 2004	295	2.2
February 2004	315	2.4
March 2004	325	2.5
April 2004	290	2.2
May 2004	245	1.8
June 2004	220	1.7
July 2004	235	1.8
August 2004	280	2.1
September 2004	275	2.1
October 2004	265	2.0
November 2004	240	1.8
December 2004	255	1.9
January 2005	305	2.3
February 2005	320	2.4
March 2005	300	2.2
April 2005	315	2.4
May 2005	315	2.3
June 2005	310	2.3
July 2005	325	2.4
August 2005	365	2.7
September 2005	355	2.7
October 2005	345	2.6
November 2005	340	2.5
December 2005	355	2.7
January 2006	400	3.0
February 2006	430	3.2
March 2006	410	3.0
April 2006	435	3.2
May 2006	380	2.8
June 2006	340	2.5
July 2006	400	3.0
August 2006	400	3.0
September 2006	405	3.0
October 2006	375	2.8
November 2006	385	2.8
December 2006	365	2.7
January 2007	395	2.9
February 2007	425	3.1
March 2007	425	3.1
April 2007	430	3.1
May 2007	400	2.9
June 2007	375	2.7
July 2007	380	2.8
August 2007	380	2.8
September 2007	370	2.7
October 2007	350	2.6
November 2007	335	2.4
December 2007	325	2.4
January 2008	345	2.5
February 2008	350	2.6
March 2008	325	2.4
April 2008	300	2.2
May 2008	305	2.2
June 2008	295	2.2
July 2008	340	2.5
August 2008	385	2.8
September 2008	415	3.0
October 2008	430	3.2
November 2008	515	3.8
December 2008	530	3.9
January 2009	625	4.6
February 2009	770	5.6
March 2009	785	5.7
April 2009	825	6.0
May 2009	835	6.1
June 2009	785	5.7
July 2009	830	6.1

[1] Data rounded to nearest five
[2] Percentage of 18-24 years olds claiming Jobseeker's Allowance
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Greater Manchester

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department's Performance Delivery Team has had with strategic health authorities on the response times of the Greater Manchester Ambulance Service. [291035]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to support ambulance trusts to ensure national response time standards are delivered and sustained locally.

The Department, via its Performance Delivery Team, continues to discuss ambulance performance with the NHS North West strategic health authority to receive assurance that that they are working with local organisations to address issues for the North West Ambulance Service to achieve and sustain the response time targets.

Antibiotics

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many manufacturers of generic antibiotics had operating manufacturing units at which generic antibiotics were manufactured in the UK *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [291037]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Accurate information is not readily available to give an actual number for 1997. There are four known companies manufacturing generic antibiotics in the United Kingdom in 2009.

Asthma

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people and *(b)* children underwent an emergency hospital admission following an asthma attack in 2008. [290976]

Ann Keen: The Department uses information from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) for data of this kind. HES is the national statistical data warehouse for England of the care provided by national health service hospitals and for NHS hospital patients treated elsewhere. The data are freely available from:

www.hesonline.nhs.uk

The latest data for the number of emergency asthma attack admissions to hospital are for April 2007 to April 2008, and are given in the following table. The April

2008 to April 2009 data are not yet available. Note that a patient may have more than one finished episode of asthma for each hospital admission, which explains why episode data exceed admission data in the table.

	Total patient admissions	*Total episodes*
Children (0-15 years)	19,228	24,077
Adults (16+ years)	30,427	36,219
All (total)	49,655	60,296

Carers

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding was allocated to each primary care trust from the £50 million provided for funding breaks for carers in 2009-10; [291048]

(2) how much was allocated to each local authority from the £240 million provided for carer's grant in 2009-10; [291049]

(3) how much funding was allocated to each primary care trust from the £100 million provided for funding breaks for carers in 2010-11. [291050]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The additional £150 million provided for funding breaks for carers was given to primary care trusts (PCTs) as part of their overall baseline allocations. The Department does not break down PCT revenue allocations by policies at either a national or local level and there is no weighted capitation formula specific to carers that would allow needs to be accurately identified at the local level. So it is therefore for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account their local circumstances and local priorities.

The allocations made to each local authority from the £240 million provided for the carers grant are detailed in the local authority social services letter LASSL(DH)(2007)2 which has already been placed in the Library.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations he has received on the age at which cervical cancer screening starts; and if he will make a statement; [290993]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of the evidence his Department used in making its recent decision on the age at which cervical screening should begin. [291040]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since the beginning of the 2008-09 parliamentary year, the Department has received 209 items of correspondence, and 43 parliamentary questions on a variety of subjects relating to cervical cancer, including the age at which cervical cancer screening starts.

There was an adjournment debate on 17 December 2008, and two Early Day Motions in December 2008 and April 2009 regarding the age at which cervical screening starts.

There were also two ministerial meetings in March 2009 and one in June 2009.

The evidence presented to the Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening at its review meeting on 19 May 2009 was published by the British Medical Journal (BMJ) on 28 July 2009. The study titled "Effectiveness of cervical screening with age: population based case-control study of prospectively recorded data" by Sasieni et al, can be viewed at:

www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/339/jul28_2/b2968

A copy of the summary document published in August 2009 has now been placed in the Library.

Clinical Physiologists: Regulation

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to publish a summary of the responses received in the consultation on The Future of the Healthcare Science Workforce: Modernising Scientific Careers: The Next Steps; and if he will make a statement. [290979]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A summary of the consultation results will be published alongside our policy response in the autumn.

Doctors: Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust takes to establish the qualifications of doctors contracted to MK Doc. [291076]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National health service organisations should carry out the necessary checks in accordance with the relevant regulations to ensure doctors are appropriately qualified. Strategic health authorities are responsible for the performance management of primary care trusts (PCT) in their region.

PCT have a legal obligation to provide a high quality, sustainable out-of-hours service for their local population. All out-of-hours services must be delivered to the National Quality Requirements, ensuring patients have access to consistently high quality and responsive care, regardless of where they live. In order to provide primary medical services a doctor, including a locum, must be on a PCT's performers list. To get on a list, doctors must provide information about their medical qualifications and where they were obtained. The PCT must check, as far as reasonably practicable, the information provided.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors *(a)* of each nationality and *(b)* qualified in each country (i) are and (ii) have been contracted by MK Doc out-of-hours service since the service was established. [291077]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Health Professions: Working Hours

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hours of *(a)* general practitioners', *(b)* nursing, *(c)* dentists' and *(d)* surgeons' time was available in the NHS per head of population in (i) Bradford and (ii) England in (A) 1982, (B) 1997 and (C) 2009. [291074]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Information on the total number of staff and full-time equivalent staff within the national health service, dating back to 1995 is available on the Information Centre for health and social care website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-numbers

2009 figures will not be available until March 2010.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much revenue was generated by charges on *(a)* staff, *(b)* patients and *(c)* others for the use of car parks at (i) Broomfield and (ii) St John's Hospital in Chelmsford in each of the last five years. [291039]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The revenue generated by car parking charges for staff, patients and other users at Mid Essex hospitals NHS trust Broomfield and St. John's for the last five years are shown in the following table.

Mid Essex hospital services NHS trust—car parking charges by staff and visitors

£

	Broomfield hospital		St. John's hospital	
	Income from staff	Income from visitors	Income from staff	Income from visitors
2003-04	31,851	295,075	13,650	126,461
2004-05	51,366	503,418	12,916	120,645

Mid Essex hospital services NHS trust—car parking charges by staff and visitors

£

	Broomfield hospital		St. John's hospital	
	Income from staff	Income from visitors	Income from staff	Income from visitors
2005-06	62,383	598,525	12,569	128,913
2006-07	89,000	689,740	2,247	162,214
2007-08	235,443	496,745	4,315	203,449

Learning Disability: Housing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of adults with learning disabilities were in settled accommodation *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [291187]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Recent figures show that around 65 per cent. of adults (18 to 64) with learning disabilities known to services were in settled accommodation at the time of their latest assessment or review in England from April 2008 to March 2009.

The information presented in the following table is provisional data published by the NHS Information Centre and shows both England and council level information relating geographical areas from April 2008 to March 2009. This information was collected for the first time in 2008-09 and is therefore not available for previous years.

Number and percentage of working age (18-64) learning disabled clients known to Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review, England. Based on data for NI 145 from the National Indicator Set

NIS Indicator NI 145	Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities in settled accommodation			
	NI 145	NI 145	NI 145	NI145 (VSC05)
	Numerator	Capped numerator	Denominator	Indicator
	Number of working age learning disabled clients known to CASSRs who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review. Aged 18-64		Number of working age learning disabled clients known to CASSRs who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review. Aged 18-64	The percentage of adults with learning disabilities aged 18-64 known to (CASSRs) in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review
Cumbria	395	395	1,285	61.1
Northumberland	810	625	1,250	100.0
Gateshead	180	180	480	74.0
Newcastle Upon Tyne	410	410	915	89.3
North Tyneside	170	170	505	68.1
South Tyneside	95	95	425	45.5
Sunderland	365	355	705	100.0
Hartlepool Unitary Authority (UA)	205	170	345	100.0
Middlesbrough UA	230	230	665	69.5
Redcar and Cleveland UA	150	150	440	67.9
Stockton-on-Tees UA	170	170	525	65.4
Durham	560	560	1,430	78.4
Darlington UA	145	130	260	100.0
Barnsley	540	270	540	100.0
Doncaster	230	230	725	62.8
Rotherham	425	340	675	100.0
Sheffield	410	410	1,455	56.6
Bradford	565	565	1,520	74.5
Calderdale	150	150	545	54.4

Number and percentage of working age (18-64) learning disabled clients known to Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review, England. Based on data for NI 145 from the National Indicator Set

NIS Indicator NI 145	Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities in settled accommodation			
	NI 145	NI 145	NI 145	NI145 (VSC05)
	Numerator	Capped numerator	Denominator	Indicator
	Number of working age learning disabled clients known to CASSRs who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review. Aged 18-64		Number of working age learning disabled clients known to CASSRs who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review. Aged 18-64	The percentage of adults with learning disabilities aged 18-64 known to (CASSRs) in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review
Kirklees	435	435	1,345	64.8
Leeds	285	285	1,595	35.8
Wakefield	480	480	985	97.2
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	375	375	840	89.2
Kingston Upon Hull UA	150	150	445	68.2
North East Lincolnshire UA	155	155	490	64.2
North Lincolnshire UA	155	155	415	74.7
North Yorkshire	420	420	1,060	79.2
York UA	185	185	485	76.2
Bolton	395	330	655	100.0
Bury	280	215	435	100.0
Manchester	480	480	1,550	61.6
Oldham	135	135	535	50.4
Rochdale	185	185	620	59.7
Salford	300	300	665	89.8
Stockport	200	200	655	61.0
Tameside	320	320	765	84.0
Trafford	365	230	455	100.0
Wigan	225	225	785	56.8
Knowsley	250	250	610	81.9
Liverpool	1,205	685	1,375	100.0
Sefton	275	275	735	75.5
St. Helens	100	100	385	50.8
Wirral	275	275	1,065	51.8
Cheshire	380	380	1,565	48.6
Halton UA	185	185	425	86.7
Warrington UA	185	185	440	84.6
Lancashire	750	750	3,195	47.0
Blackburn with Darwen UA	115	115	350	64.8
Blackpool UA	170	170	410	83.2
Warwickshire	295	295	1,190	49.5
Birmingham	750	750	3,220	46.5
Coventry	255	255	790	64.7
Dudley	555	420	840	100.0
Sandwell	285	285	765	75.0
Solihull	110	110	520	41.8
Walsall	180	180	550	64.7
Wolverhampton	110	110	560	39.9
Staffordshire	495	495	1,760	56.5
Stoke-on-Trent UA	170	170	735	45.7
Herefordshire UA	185	185	550	66.9
Worcestershire	285	285	1,460	39.3
Shropshire	390	390	800	97.3
Telford and the Wrekin UA	155	155	445	68.5
Lincolnshire	690	690	1,655	83.1
Northamptonshire	515	515	1,420	72.8
Derbyshire	565	565	2,120	53.4
Derby UA	150	150	505	60.3
Leicestershire	435	435	1,305	66.4
Leicester UA	335	335	835	79.6
Rutland UA	55	35	70	100.0

Number and percentage of working age (18-64) learning disabled clients known to Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review, England. Based on data for NI 145 from the National Indicator Set

NIS Indicator NI 145	Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities in settled accommodation			
	NI 145 Numerator: Number of working age learning disabled clients known to CASSRs who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review. Aged 18-64	NI 145 Capped numerator	NI 145 Denominator: Number of working age learning disabled clients known to CASSRs who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review. Aged 18-64	NI145 (VSC05) Indicator: The percentage of adults with learning disabilities aged 18-64 known to (CASSRs) in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review
Nottinghamshire	900	900	2,165	83.0
Nottingham UA	285	285	660	85.9
Hertfordshire	645	645	3,100	41.5
Norfolk	430	430	2,215	39.0
Oxfordshire	605	605	1,315	92.3
Suffolk	970	810	1,620	100.0
Bedfordshire	630	315	1,075	58.6
Luton UA	180	180	400	89.2
Buckinghamshire	500	500	1,265	78.9
Milton Keynes UA	155	155	475	65.8
Bracknell Forest UA	100	100	270	73.1
West Berkshire UA	115	115	375	61.1
Reading UA	150	150	415	72.2
Slough UA	175	170	340	100.0
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	195	155	310	100.0
Wokingham UA	170	170	415	80.6
Essex	1,060	1,060	3,435	61.7
Southend-on-Sea UA	355	250	495	100.0
Thurrock UA	75	75	200	73.3
Cambridgeshire	495	495	1,365	72.7
Peterborough UA	210	210	600	70.7
Camden	155	155	320	97.5
Greenwich	270	270	655	82.4
Hackney	230	230	655	70.7
Hammersmith and Fulham	120	120	410	59.2
Islington	130	130	450	57.2
Kensington and Chelsea	165	135	270	100.0
Lambeth	115	115	500	46.2
Lewisham	240	240	690	69.6
Southwark	195	195	615	63.9
Tower Hamlets	235	235	600	77.4
Wandsworth	70	70	665	21.7
Westminster	195	195	510	76.6
City of London	10	5	15	100.0
Barking and Dagenham	190	135	270	100.0
Barnet	145	145	735	39.6
Bexley	275	235	475	100.0
Brent	425	420	840	100.0
Bromley	80	80	795	20.6
Croydon	255	255	1,100	46.3
Ealing	255	255	905	56.3
Enfield	300	300	730	82.7
Haringey	245	245	580	84.8
Harrow	165	165	465	70.1
Havering	80	80	470	34.3
Hillingdon	160	160	570	56.5
Hounslow	220	220	545	80.1
Kingston upon Thames	115	115	315	71.5
Merton	125	125	450	54.8
Newham	290	290	710	82.0
Redbridge	495	325	650	100.0

Number and percentage of working age (18-64) learning disabled clients known to Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review, England. Based on data for NI 145 from the National Indicator Set

NIS Indicator NI 145	Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities in settled accommodation			
	NI 145	NI 145	NI 145	NI145 (VSC05)
	Numerator	Capped numerator	Denominator	Indicator
	Number of working age learning disabled clients known to CASSRs who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review. Aged 18-64		Number of working age learning disabled clients known to CASSRs who are in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review. Aged 18-64	The percentage of adults with learning disabilities aged 18-64 known to (CASSRs) in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or latest review
Richmond upon Thames	65	65	365	35.5
Sutton	130	130	520	50.6
Waltham Forest	100	100	370	52.8
Isle of Wight UA	110	110	555	40.1
Surrey	645	645	3,055	42.4
West Sussex	530	530	1,565	67.8
Dorset	290	290	950	61.3
Bournemouth UA	175	175	435	81.0
Poole UA	200	200	400	99.3
Hampshire	905	905	2,975	61.0
Portsmouth UA	45	45	590	14.9
Southampton UA	125	125	350	71.2
East Sussex	390	390	1,345	58.1
Brighton and Hove UA	190	190	710	54.0
Wiltshire	380	380	845	89.9
Swindon UA	90	90	530	33.5
Kent	700	700	3,820	36.8
Medway Towns UA	350	345	690	100.0
Cornwall	600	600	1,825	65.8
Gloucestershire	270	270	1,565	34.4
Somerset	330	330	1,430	45.9
Isles of Scilly	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Bath and Somerset UA	55	55	375	30.4
Bristol UA	245	245	1,220	39.8
North Somerset UA	100	100	375	52.0
South Gloucestershire UA	230	230	695	65.7
Devon	900	900	2,100	85.9
Plymouth UA	385	385	825	93.7
Torbay UA	140	100	205	100.0
England total: complete data	45,610	43,095	132,285	65.2

[1] Constituent values less than 5 are suppressed, where elements of an indicator are suppressed the indicator itself is also suppressed.
Note:
Values are rounded to the nearest 5.

Mental Health: Employment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of adults receiving secondary mental health services were in employment *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [291188]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The data requested for previous years were not collected, however information for 2008-09 is due to be published later this year.

Motor Neurone Disease: Wheelchairs

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when officials from his Department last met representatives of the Motor Neurone Disease Association to discuss wheelchair services; and if he will make a statement. [290965]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Departmental officials last met representatives of the Motor Neurone Disease Association to discuss wheelchair services on 23 April 2009.

The provision of wheelchair services is the responsibility of primary care trusts. However, we recognise the importance of people—including those with Motor Neurone Disease and other rapidly progressing conditions—receiving the services and support they need, which is why we commissioned the Care Services Efficiency Programme in June 2006 to develop a new model for the delivery of community equipment and wheelchair services.

NHS: Manpower

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the recent report on NHS staffing by McKinsey and Company was commissioned by his Department; and at what cost. [291121]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The report on achieving world class productivity was commissioned in February 2009. Publishing the cost would raise issues of commercial confidentiality.

Olympic Games 2012: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent members of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to legacy planning for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and what plans he has for such staffing levels in 2010-11 and 2011-12. [291154]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a key priority across Government. An Olympic and Paralympic Health Programme has been established in the Department to support delivery of all health related bid commitments. In particular, the Department recognises the unique potential of the Games to inspire individuals to make a commitment to be more physically active and leave a lasting health legacy for the nation. The Department will contribute to the cross-Government delivery of the Legacy Action Plan (LAP), "Before, During and After: Making the most of the 2012 Games", target to make two million more adults active by 2012 and ensure a health legacy for the Games.

There are nine full-time equivalents working on the programme within the Department.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of staff who are exclusively working on legacy planning roles as every project in the programme in the Department has been asked to consider legacy issues to ensure that there is a lasting benefit to the nation. Information on staff working on legacy planning in associated public bodies is not held centrally.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will exempt from the payment of prescription charges those with coeliac disease. [290992]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have asked the President of the Royal College of Physicians (Professor Ian Gilmore) to carry out a review of prescription charges that will consider how to implement the commitment to exempt patients with long-term conditions from prescription charges. Professor Gilmore is due to report on his review of prescription charges to departmental Ministers in the autumn.

Smoking: Motor Vehicles

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to enforce legislation on smoking in vehicles used for business purposes; and if he will make a statement. [291130]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The enforcement of these regulations is the responsibility of local authorities. Prior to the law coming into effect in July 2007 the Department and local authorities went to great lengths to inform all those responsible that vehicles used for business purposes by more than one person should be smokefree at all times. These efforts have successfully resulted in very high compliance rates. Across England in the first two years since July 2007, the overall compliance rates for vehicles were 93.3 per cent. (signage) and 98.2 per cent. (vehicles smokefree).

The Department has supported the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) in their work to provide enforcement advice and support to local authorities.

A copy of the latest data, "Smokefree Legislation Compliance Data January to June 2009" will be placed in the Library. These data are also available on the Smokefree England website:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/thefacts/national-compliance-data.html

Smoking: Public Places

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* fines, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there have been against managers or occupants of smoke-free premises for (i) failure to display no-smoking signs and (ii) failure to prevent smoking in a smoke-free place; and if he will make a statement. [291063]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: These data are not collected in the form requested. The Department does however publish regular summaries of Smokefree Legislation Compliance Data. These are available on the website:

http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/thefacts/national-compliance-data.html

A copy of the last data," Smokefree Legislation Compliance Data January to June 2009" has been placed in the Library.

The Smokefree Law in England has been a success since it began on 1 July 2007 requiring only a relatively small number of fines or court cases. The law has had very widespread support from the public and has greatly improved the working conditions of those who were formerly exposed to the dangers of secondhand smoke.

In the first two years across the whole of England overall compliance rates have been very high, with the numbers of premises recorded as being no-smoking above 98 per cent.

In the first two years across the whole of England only 73 court hearings have been necessary.

Swimming

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the health benefits of the free swimming initiative for children and pensioners. [291120]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Swimming exercises most of the main muscle groups, strengthens the lungs and is suitable for those requiring low impact exercise, for example, women during pregnancy, people who have mobility problems or those who need to protect their joints.

These considerations informed several bi-lateral conversations between the then Secretary of State for Culture and the former Secretary of State for Health on the scope of the overall free swimming programme, and ongoing discussions between policy officials at the quarterly free swimming programme board.

Swine Flu: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to assist Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust to cope with increases in cases of swine flu; and if he will make a statement. [291026]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The national health service has been preparing for a pandemic for several years. In 2007 we published "Pandemic flu: a national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic", which set out the Government's strategic approach for responding to an influenza pandemic and gave guidance to public and private organisations developing response plans. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The national framework was supported by a range of guidance for healthcare and social care organisations.

The NHS operating framework for 2008 required all NHS organisations to have robust plans in place to respond to a pandemic by the end of 2008. Ian Dalton, National Director of NHS Flu Resilience wrote to NHS Chief Executives on 2 July 2009 setting out resilience actions for NHS Boards to test their plans.

During 2009, the Department of Health has continued to support NHS organisations. In July the National Pandemic Flu Service was launched which has been successful in reducing the pressure on general practitioners and primary care services and enabling patients to access anti-virals rapidly according to local needs.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doses of *(a)* Tamiflu and *(b)* Relenza (i) have been and (ii) are planned to be made available to Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust; how many doses of swine flu vaccine are planned to be made available to the Trust; and if he will make a statement. [291027]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As of 9 September 2009 just over 100,000 packs of Tamiflu capsules, around 800 bottles of solution/suspension for use by children under one and nearly 3,500 courses of Relenza have been issued to Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust (PCT). The PCTs future requirements will depend on the take up of the antiviral stocks as the pandemic progresses.

Once the swine flu vaccine has been licensed, the intention is that initial supplies will be sent out to all PCTs. They will then be able to place regular orders for the amount of vaccine they need to vaccinate their clinical at risk groups, taking account of local storage capacity and implementation arrangements.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of swine flu were registered by Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust in each week of the last six months; and if he will make a statement; [291028]

(2) how many people in the Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust area contacted their GP with symptoms of swine flu in each week of the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [291029]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of people who contact their general practitioner (GP) each week is not collected. At the start of the outbreak, cases of swine flu were confirmed by laboratory testing and recorded by region not primary care trust (PCT). This information is available until 2 July 2009 and is given in the following table.

On 2 July we moved to the treatment phase of the response to swine flu and we are now using clinical diagnosis instead of laboratory confirmation to identify cases of swine flu. This means we can no longer give detailed data about the precise number of cases. However, we have well-established seasonal influenza surveillance systems to monitor the spread, activity and impact of swine flu.

3,300 GP surgeries provide reports on symptoms of flu in patients as part of the Q-Surveillance scheme and a further 100 surgeries across the country collect information on flu symptoms as part of the Royal College of General Practitioners surveillance scheme. This information is used to calculate the levels of influenza-like illness in England. This information is published on a weekly basis by PCT on the Health Protection Agency website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/infections/primarycare.htm

East of England Strategic Health Authority Pandemic H1N1 Influenza A cases, by week to 2 July 2009

Date	*Number of cases*
Up to 3 May 2009	0
Week ending 10 May 2009	5
Week ending 17 May 2009	6
Week ending 24 May 2009	1
Week ending 31 May 2009	8
Week ending 7 June 2009	23
Week ending 14 June 2009	7
Week ending 21 June 2009	43
Week ending 28 June 2009	219
Week up to 2 July 2009	152

Tobacco: Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of the prohibition of tobacco point of sale displays on public health. [291143]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not commissioned specific academic research on the removal of tobacco displays, but has considered a wide range of published evidence and information from stakeholders received through the 2008 "Consultation on the future of tobacco control".

The impact assesment that accompanies the Health Bill 2009, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, and the report on the 2008 "Consultation on the future of tobacco control", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, provides an overview of the range of evidence that has been considered by the Department. Both documents are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_091382

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Management Consultants

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much West Sussex Primary Care Trust estimates it will spend on management consultancy in 2009-10. [291972]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for using their resources to plan, commission and develop services to meet the health needs of their local community.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arctic Sea

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he received on the seizure through piracy of the vessel Arctic Sea and its passage through the English Channel; what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on piracy in UK waters; and if he will make a statement. [290837]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following the disappearance of the Arctic Sea, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Transport (DFT) and other Government Departments kept a close watching brief, focusing on any issues that may affect the UK. The DFT ensured the police were also kept involved. Our embassy in Moscow reported after the ship was located and seized on the actions taken by the Russian authorities.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on maritime security specifically in UK waters.

Eritrea: British Nationality

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have been held for questioning in Eritrea by the Eritrean secret police in each of the last five years; what support his Department provides to such citizens; and if he will make a statement. [291142]

Chris Bryant: From our consular records we are aware of four British nationals who have been arrested or detained in Eritrea since 2004, but we do not have sufficient information as to which Eritrean Government agency detained or questioned these four individuals.

In one case we were informed of the detention only after the individual had been released. In the other three cases we contacted the authorities to clarify the situation and requested consular access.

Of those three cases, two were subsequently released. We have been unable to confirm the release of the other individual, as the Eritrean authorities do not acknowledge the UK's interest in the person concerned (a dual British-Eritrean national resident in Eritrea) as a British national, and will not discuss the case with consular staff, despite representations.

Holidays Abroad

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on each of its campaigns aimed at Britons travelling abroad in each year since 2001; what research his Department has commissioned into the effectiveness of each such campaign; and if he will make a statement. [290994]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 612W.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Know Before You Go campaign is evaluated on a six monthly basis to ensure targets are being met and that it effectively reaches the population. For example, in 2008-09 the campaign reached an estimated 64 per cent. of UK adults, in some cases up to 28.5 times. Our evaluation confirmed that the audience's response was highly favourable. The report also evaluates value for money, such as number of people reached per £1 spent, and the advertising value equivalent of the campaign. In addition, we commission qualitative and quantitative surveys to monitor changes in traveller's behaviour and attitudes as well as providing guidance for the future direction of the campaign.

Horn of Africa: United Nations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to support the establishment of an EU Special Representative to the Horn of Africa region; when he expects an appointment to this post to be made; and if he will make a statement. [291141]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council, which took place in Brussels on 27 July 2009, agreed conclusions on Somalia which stated that the Council:

"views positively the possibility of appointing an EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa in order to further enhance the EU's ongoing strategic policy formulation and the coordination of EU activities."

The Government believe that a high-calibre candidate with a clear mandate could add value to the role of the international community in the Horn of Africa, provided any such appointment complemented the role of the UN Special Representative for Somalia. This issue is due for further EU discussion in September 2009.

Israel: Entry Clearances

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department submitted a further request for an explanation from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the treatment of the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak and her travelling companions when they were refused entry into Israel at Ben Gurion Airport in 2006 following its receipt of the MFA letter of 15 January 2007; what steps were taken by his Department following receipt of a copy of relevant file papers from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak in June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [291104]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Entry into and exit from Israel is a matter for the Israeli Government. We have raised this case with the Israeli Government a number of times, most recently in October 2008. Their position then was that there was no possibility of investigating the incident further and that they considered the matter closed. We regret that we have not been able to elicit a response further to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs letter of 15 January 2007. The Israeli authorities are not obliged to provide us with a reason why the hon. Member and her constituents were denied entry.

Libya: Terrorism

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are working full-time on assisting the victims of IRA terrorism to seek compensation from Libya; how many other officials will be employed full-time on this work as a consequence of the implementation of the proposals in the Prime Minister's announcement in Germany on 6 September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [291169]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Three officials have been redeployed within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to provide support for the families and their representative—two in London full-time and one at our embassy in Tripoli part-time. The team will also be supported by FCO legal advisers.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects his Department's unit dedicated to helping those affected by Irish Republican Army terrorism and their families seeking compensation from Libya to be operational; and if he will make a statement. [291196]

David Miliband: The new Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Libya IRA Compensation Unit was set up on 7 September 2009. Representatives of the families met No. 10 and FCO officials at No. 10 in a 45 minute meeting on 8 September 2009. The new head of the unit attended. The unit is comprised of three officials—two in London full-time and one at our embassy in Tripoli part-time. The team will also be supported by FCO legal advisers.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the team being established in his Department to provide assistance to those affected by Irish Republican Army terrorism and their families will offer legal advice on seeking compensation from Libya; and if he will make a statement. [291197]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will not be providing the families with legal advice. We understand that those affected by IRA terrorism and their families have access to their own legal advice.

The new FCO Libya IRA Compensation Unit will support the victims' families and their representatives by serving as a central point of contact within the FCO, arranging meetings with the Libyan authorities, providing logistical assistance and supporting the representatives of the victims in Libya.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to prevent UK nationals being taken hostage off the coast of Somalia. [290980]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK takes a leading role in the maritime operations of the coast of Somalia which seek to deter and disrupt pirate attacks and therefore help prevent hostage situations occurring. The UK provides the Operation Commander and the Operational Headquarters of the EU Operation Atalanta; the Deputy Commander of Combined Maritime Forces and the at sea commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Operation Ocean Shield. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently advises against all travel to Somalia and provides specific advice on sea travel in the region.

The Government endorse the advice, prepared by the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and the International Maritime Organization, on how to prevent, deter and delay acts of piracy off the Horn of Africa. The Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) website contains general advice to shipping companies and ships are encouraged to register with MSCHOA and transit through the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC). In addition, British registered ships receive advice from the Department for Transport, drawing attention to the latest Maritime Advisories in force throughout the piracy threat region. The UK's Maritime Trade Operation based in Dubai advises mariners on planning their passage through the Gulf of Aden.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of its projects Advantage West Midlands has *(a)* reviewed and *(b)* cancelled in the last 12 months. [286678]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows:

(a) The agency reviewed its Corporate Plan in the first quarter of the 2009-10 financial year, to take account of the changing priorities resulting from the recession (in particular, the need to prioritise support for business) and the reduction in its budget. As part of this exercise the agency reviewed its investment plans and project portfolio. The aim was to ensure that investments were targeted on those activities that would deliver the greatest benefits for the region. From the outset, Advantage West Midlands undertook to continue to fund all legally committed projects that were being delivered in accordance with contractual conditions. This meant that 600 projects, to which it was legally-committed, were unaffected by the review process. The 306 project proposals to which the agency was not yet legally committed were systematically reviewed against the following criteria:

Impact

Spatial focus

Response to recession

Deliverability.

All agency-funded projects, once contracted and being delivered, are subject to continuing review through regular monitoring visits by agency project and contract managers. This is standard

procedure—the aim being to ensure that projects meet contractually-agreed objectives and fulfil the agreed terms and conditions. Where this has not been the case, the agency has reduced or clawed-back funding on a pro-rata basis.

(b) No legally-committed projects have been cancelled in the past 12 months. As a result of its project review, the agency announced at the end of June 2009 that, of the 306 non-legally committed project proposals reviewed, 184 had been allocated agency funding. The total investment in these projects and the 600 existing projects over their lifetimes will be c£1.1 billion. Since June the agency has continued to work with applicants to explore alternative funding and delivery arrangements for those projects that were not supported.

Business

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment of the merits of funding research on the effects on the economy of downsizing by companies. [285816]

Ian Lucas: Company downsizing is one of a number of industrial issues which my Department has an interest in the context of our work on globalisation and industrial restructuring.

It has produced research related to this issue in the past, but there were no plans to initiate further research into this topic this year. Decisions about the allocation of next year's research budget will begin in April 2010. There are no current plans to fund further research on the effects on the economy of downsizing.

Recent departmental publications relevant to the issue of company downsizing are:

BERR (2009) "The Globalisation of Value Chains and Industrial Transformation in the UK", at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file50584.pdf

BERR (2008) "Globalisation and the changing UK economy", at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44332.pdf

BERR (2007) "Competitiveness in the UK Electronics Sector", at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/sectors/electronicsitservices/publications/competitiveness/page20100.html

BERR (2007) "Analysis of firm structures and outsourcing in Great Britain", at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file40272.pdf

BERR (2007) "Competitiveness in the UK Electronics Sector", at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/about/economics-statistics/economics-directorate/page21976.html

DTI (2003) "Services and Offshoring: The Impact of Increasing International Competition in Services, December".

Business Links

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints have been received by his Department in the last 12 months in relation to the health check offered to businesses by Business Link. [291191]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's Ministerial Correspondence Unit handles all complaints about the Health Check delivered by Business Link. Unfortunately, because of the large volume of departmental correspondence, we are unable to provide details of how many complaints have been received in relation to the Health Check without incurring disproportionate costs.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the take-up rate among businesses of Business Link's health check service. [291192]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has devolved responsibility for marketing Business Link services to the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to enable them to co-ordinate campaigns in their area.

Officials in the Department's Enterprise Directorate work with the RDAs to ensure consistent messages are used in campaigns and, wherever possible, support regional activities with national marketing campaigns. The recent "Real Help" campaign, which ran in February this year, featured Health Checks as one of the measures to help business through the current economic downturn.

In addition to press and media advertising, the Government have actively promoted Health Checks (both on-line and face-to-face) through the national Business Link website

www.businesslink.gov.uk/healthcheck

Activities to increase take up of Business Link Health Checks are ongoing.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of complaints received by Business Link were answered in *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11 to 15, *(c)* 16 to 20 and *(d)* more than 21 days in each of the last four years. [291193]

Mr. Lammy: The Business Link service is delivered by fifteen different providers operating under contract to the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in England. Complaints are either handled directly by the provider or, if unresolved at that level, are dealt with through the RDAs own complaints handling process.

There is no central monitoring of complaints received by Business Link. Therefore, to gather information about the response times for handling these complaints over the last four years would incur disproportionate costs.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what targets exist for the time within which Business Link responds to complaints received; and what the equivalent targets were in each of the last three years. [291194]

Mr. Lammy: The Business Link service is delivered by 15 different providers operating under contract to the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in England. Complaints are either handled directly by the provider or, if unresolved at that level, are dealt with through the RDAs own complaints handling process.

The Regional Development Agencies impose targets on their service providers for responding to complaints. The targets for producing a response range between 10 and 15 working days from receipt.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints were received by Business Link in each of the last four years. [291195]

Mr. Lammy: The Business Link service is delivered by 15 different providers operating under contract to the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in England. Complaints are either handled directly by the provider or, if unresolved at that level, are dealt with through the RDAs own complaints handling process.

There is no central monitoring of complaints received by Business. Therefore, to gather information about the total number of complaints received by Business Link over the last four years would incur disproportionate costs.

Business: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department and its predecessors allocated to the development of small businesses in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [282146]

Mr. Lammy: EEDA's business support services are funded and operate at a regional level. It is, therefore, not possible to break down funding to the requested level in every instance.

The following information identifies funding during the past five years for these services and, where possible, in Essex and Castle Point. Please note that not all of these schemes were in place five years ago, therefore details provided go back as far back as possible.

Business Link East (BLE)—Since 1 April 2007, EEDA has given £32 million of funding to the Business Link Provider in the region to deliver a wide range of business support. During this time, BLE has supported 41,790 businesses in Essex, including 1,612 in Castle Point.

MAS-East—EEDA has funded MAS-East to the value of £3.4 million for the period 2005-08 and has awarded a further £3.3 million for the period 2008-11. Since November 2005 MAS has supported 362 Essex businesses, carrying out in-depth projects with 38 businesses generating £2,553,100 of Gross Value Added. This has included six businesses supported in Castle Point, working intensively with one company.

Business finance schemes—Since April 2005, EEDA has awarded 16 Essex businesses £1,328,282 in funding through the Grant for Research and Development scheme, with a further six at approval stage with a value of £481,870.

Additionally, since April 2006 19 Essex businesses have been awarded £384,712 in Proof of Concept grants, with a further one approved with the value of £8,000. Since April 2004, 19 Essex businesses have received funding Grant for Business Investment (GBI) to the value of £1,242,035[1].

TakeItOn—49 grants to Essex businesses since December 2007 have totalled £135,596.

[1] Some of the above are grants to businesses under either the Grants for Business Investment (GBI) or Grant for Research and Development (GRaD) programmes. GBI, previously known as Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE), transferred to EEDA from the Small Business Service (SBS) in April 2002. GRaD transferred to EEDA from SBS in April 2005.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department and its predecessors allocated to the development of information technology businesses in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [282147]

Mr. Lammy: EEDA funds a range of regional services to support businesses from all sectors across the region. This includes the regional Business Link service, specialised support schemes and Business Finance grants for eligible businesses.

While all of these services are available to support IT businesses across the region, EEDA does not specifically allocate money by sector or area.

Where possible, direct grants to IT businesses in Essex and Castle Point have been identified:

EEDA business finance grants—Grants to help businesses prove their market or expand their business and a range of loans to support business growth. Since April 2007, EEDA has provided £151,483 to IT businesses in Essex[1].

TakeITon—Campaign to assist businesses to improve their use of IT, focused on helping SMEs save costs through IT. This EEDA programme started in November 2007. Since then, it has provided £750,678 to help businesses make better use of IT in the region. Within this, £76,561 was provided to IT businesses in the region. Of this, £4,572 was directly to IT businesses in Essex[2].

Business Link East—EEDA has funded the regional Business Link service since 1 April 2007 which supports businesses from all sectors. Since assuming management of the service, Business Link East has interacted with 41,790 businesses in Essex, of which 1,612 are in Castle Point.

[1] Some of the above are grants to businesses Grant for Research and Development (GRaD) programmes. GRaD transferred to EEDA from SBS in April 2005.

[2] This programme is aimed at increasing use of IT in businesses and therefore we would expect take-up from the IT sector to be low given their area of expertise.

Business: Insurance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many applications have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved under the trade credit insurance top-up scheme in each month since the scheme was introduced; [290841]

(2) how much cover has been *(a)* requested and *(b)* approved under the trade credit insurance top-up scheme in each month since the scheme was introduced. [290844]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* As of 28 August there have been 59 approved applications to a value of £8,429,865 broken down as follows:

	Number of policies accepted	*Value of policies (£)*
May	11	633,000
June	8	1,155,000
July	26	4,476,000
To 28 August	14	2,165,365

31 applications to a value of £1,915,210 have been rejected by the Trade Credit Insurers as being ineligible under the scheme rules. It is not possible to analyse these by month.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications made under the trade credit insurance top up scheme from businesses with an annual turnover of *(a)* less than £5 million, *(b)* between £5 and £10 million, *(c)* between £10 million and £25 million, *(d)* between £25 and £50 million, *(e)* between £50 and £100 million and *(f)* more than £100 million have been (i) accepted and (ii) rejected since the establishment of the scheme. [290842]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The scheme is administered by four trade credit insurance companies, who collect a range of information on the Department's behalf. The information on acceptances and rejections does not disaggregate applicants by turnover.

As of 28 August, 59 applications have been accepted and 31 rejected.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications made under the trade credit insurance top up scheme have been rejected because applicants were seeking *(a)* cover in excess of the scheme's value criteria, *(b)* to replace withdrawn insurance rather than top up existing insurance arrangements, *(c)* to insure export business and *(d)* to replace cover reduced prior to October 2008. [290843]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The scheme is administered by the four trade credit insurers, who determine whether applications meet the eligibility criteria in accordance with scheme rules. As of 28 August, 31 applications have been rejected. Of these: *(a)* none was seeking cover in excess of the scheme's value criteria, *(b)* four were seeking to replace withdrawn insurance rather than top up existing insurance arrangements, *(c)* none was seeking to cover export business and *(d)* none was seeking to replace cover reduced prior to October 2008.

Business: Kent

Mr. Howard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* percentage of business failure in Folkestone and Hythe constituency has been in each quarter since January 2005. [290871]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* When a failed incorporated business enters into an insolvency procedure it is counted in the official insolvency statistics. However, corporate insolvency figures are not currently available at a sub-national level.

Table 1 gives the numbers of corporate insolvencies, by type of procedure, in England and Wales as a whole for the period requested.

Bankruptcies among self-employed individuals are not routinely collated at constituency level, and the population figures from which a bankruptcy rate may be calculated are not readily available below local authority level.

Table 2 gives the number of bankruptcies among traders in England and Wales as a whole for the period requested.

Table 1

	Compulsory liquidations	*Creditors' voluntary liquidations*[1]	*Receivership appointments*[2]	*Administration*[3]	*Company voluntary arrangements*
2005					
Q1	1,101	1,909	114	489	179
Q2	1,422	1,985	167	572	183
Q3	1,454	1,852	170	620	130
Q4	1,256	1,914	139	580	112
2006					
Q1	1,473	2,091	180	753	124
Q2	1,263	1,972	153	653	147
Q3	1,286	1,886	93	675	157
Q4	1,396	1,770	162	1,479	106
2007					
Q1	1,384	1,890	88	684	96
Q2	1,399	1,792	77	585	102
Q3	1,234	1,879	80	668	129
Q4	1,148	1,781	92	575	91
2008					
Q1	1,080	2,182	159	839	140
Q2	1,410	2,279	177	938	131
Q3	1,467	2,592	270	1,007	167
Q4	1,537	2,988	261	2,018	149

Table 1

	Compulsory liquidations	*Creditors' voluntary liquidations*[1]	*Receivership appointments*[2]	*Administration*[3]	*Company voluntary arrangements*
2009					
Q1	1,555	3,555	316	1,311	156
Q2[4]	1,520	3,539	345	1,027	157

[1] Excludes creditors' voluntary liquidations which follow administration.
[2] Includes Law of Property Act receiverships. Receivership figures between Q1 2007 and Q1 2008 were previously revised to remove duplication, and are not consistent with those for the earlier period.
[3] Includes administrator appointments and administrations under the Enterprise Act 2002.
[4] Provisional.
Note:
It should be noted that it is possible for a company to enter into more than one procedure during the course of its insolvency. Apart from for the creditors' voluntary liquidation figures (following administration) shown, these procedures will be double counted. Therefore it is not valid to sum all insolvency procedures together and calculate a percentage of insolvent businesses, as to do this would count some companies more than once.

Table 2

	Bankruptcies among traders[1]
2005	
Q1	2,446
Q2	2,835
Q3	2,850
Q4	2,708
2006	
Q1	3,150
Q2	2,898
Q3	2,990
Q4	1,856
2007	
Q1	1,981
Q2	1,767
Q3	1,660
Q4	1,650
2008	
Q1	1,915
Q2	1,828
Q3	2,115
Q4	2,325
2009	
Q1	2,798
Q2	n/a

n/a = Not yet available.
[1] The Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify trading-related bankruptcies (and company liquidations) until end September 2006. From October 2006 the Standard Industry Classification 2003 has been in use and there have been associated changes to the method used to identify traders among bankrupts. The period covered should not, therefore, be treated as a consistent time series.

Conditions of Employment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answers of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1148W, and of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2011W, on conditions of employment, what provisions of the Warwick Agreement *(a)* have been implemented to date and *(b)* will be implemented over the course of this Parliament. [291105]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the right hon. Member to my response to his questions on the 10 September 2007 and 17 October 2007, whereby I explained that the final report of Labour's National Policy Forum in July 2004 formed part of the May 2005 general election manifesto. The Government remain committed to fulfilling their manifesto over the course of this Parliament.

Debts: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist those with high levels of personal debt; what steps Ministers in his Department *(a)* have taken during the last two years and *(b)* plan to take during the next year to raise awareness of his Department's services in their region; what (i) primary and (ii) secondary legislation regulates the activities of debt advisers; what amendments have been made to each such enactment; what changes to such legislation are planned in the next 12 months; how much his Department (A) has spent on debt advice in each of the last three years and (B) plans to spend in the next two years; what recent representations he has received on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [290630]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The Department provides a broad package of support to individuals with high levels of personal debt. As set out in the Government's White Paper "A Better Deal for Consumers: Delivering Real Help Now and Change for the Future" published on 2 July, the Government are focusing efforts to ensure that:

creditors across the board offer some relief to customers who find themselves in financial difficulty;

free, independent debt advice and support is available for those who need it;

industry and the advice community both follow best practice guidance in handling clients with problem debt;

the most appropriate debt remedies are in place to support the over-indebted; and

there is better legal protection for debtors' property.

In particular, the Department is funding a new self-help debt advice toolkit being developed by the Money Advice Trust, which will enable debtors to negotiate debt repayments with creditors themselves with more targeted advice agency support. This assisted self-help approach should allow over-indebted consumers to reach agreement more speedily and start making regular payments to reduce their debt. Use of the toolkit will

also reduce pressure on the debt advice agencies and allow many more debtors in need of advice to be assisted.

Debt advisers are regulated by the Consumer Credit Act, last revised in 2006, and are required to have a consumer credit licence. There are no plans to amend the legislation in this latter area.

From 2006-07 to 2008-09 the Department provided:

£1 million each year to National Debtline; and

approximately £15 million in the first year, and £28 million in the next two, to the Face-to-Face Debt Advice Project.

In 2009-10 and 2010-11 the Department intend to provide:

£3.5 million each year to National Debtline; and

approximately £28 million in the first year, and £29 million in the second, to the Face-to-Face Debt Advice Project.

The Department receives frequent representations from stakeholders on our assistance programmes.

Departmental Recruitment

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of applications for jobs relating to contracts let by his Department from those *(a)* with and *(b)* without security clearance were rejected prior to interview in (i) April, (ii) May and (iii) June 2009. [285673]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vetting

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many advertisements for contracts with his Department have included reference to the need for security clearance as a pre-requisite for award of a contract in the last 12 months. [285670]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applicants for contracts with his Department who were previously security cleared but whose clearance had expired have had their applications rejected on the basis that their clearance has expired in the latest period for which figures are available. [285674]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dorneywood

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what occasions the Secretary of State has visited Dorneywood since his appointment. [291107]

Mr. McFadden: None.

Electoral Commission: Codes of Practice

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1443W, on Electoral Commission: codes of practice, for what reasons the Code of Practice on Guidance is not intended to apply to guidance issued to political parties by the Electoral Commission. [288854]

Ian Lucas: The Code of Practice is intended to help businesses and third sector organisations comply with their regulatory obligations. The Cabinet Office is of the view that any formal (or informal) definition would not include political parties. The Ministry of Justice is of the view that Electoral Commission guidance to political parties is not within the scope of the Code.

Employment Schemes: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to assist young people in Coventry to secure employment. [290981]

Mr. Lammy: The global recession has hit the west midlands hard and young people are feeling the impact of this. Government are clear that Britain cannot afford a wasted generation of young people, lost to unemployment and although, under this Government opportunities for young people have improved (at the end of 2008 we had the highest ever rate of 16 to 18-year-olds in education and training in England), a number of measures are already in place that will provide further help to school leavers, graduates and young unemployed people, including those in Coventry.

For example this year across England we expect there to be 250,000 young people starting an apprenticeship and we have recently announced an extra 47,000 youth jobs supported by the Future Jobs Fund for young people who are unable to find work or training within a year. Through this fund Coventry city council will provide 50 job starts during October 2009 and a further 100 job starts in January 2010.

We recently launched a national campaign Backing Young Britain to ensure we do everything possible to give every young person help to find a job or training or work skills and experience. This will provide £40 million to fund over 20,000 additional internships so that graduates and non graduates can get higher quality work experience; a new mentoring network to help young people find their feet in a tough jobs market; more help for young people from day one of unemployment through job clubs and one to one support in jobcentres for those leaving education this summer.

In the west midlands regional partners have responded with their own initiatives to help unemployed young people. For example, the West Midlands Graduate Internship Programme will create 250 graduate internships and, uniquely, graduates who are unemployed may be eligible for job seekers allowance through Job Centre Plus. Also there is a new £2.5 million programme funded by Advantage West Midlands called Grad Central online service,

www.grad-central.co.uk,

which will place at least 2,000 more people into jobs over the next four years. In addition, Graduate Advantage, led by Aston University, has funding from Advantage West Midlands to provide a further 400 placements by 2011. Partners are also providing specific help for redundant apprentices.

Jobcentre Plus in Coventry has a range of measures to help young people in the city secure employment. It is supporting Backing Young Britain by encouraging key local employers, partners and stakeholders to give their personal commitment to offering jobs, apprenticeships, work trials, work experience, internships and mentoring advice. This has been met with a positive response from both the public and private sector, including BUPA Home Care, TUI UK and west midlands police—Coventry division. In addition, Jobcentre Plus advisers have referred 114 18 to 24-year-olds to the extensive job search and confidence building support that is available on the first day of unemployment. Further job search support for groups of 18 to 24-year-old customers is due to start in the near future in partnership with Coventry Connexions.

Coventry city council and its Local Strategic Partnership has prioritised support to assist young people into employment via its Local Area Agreement. The Local Public Service Board has recently approved the use of £550,000 Area Based Grant funding to support a six-month employment placement scheme, which will provide 100 placements for new unemployed graduates, redundant managers and those in the NEET category that fall outside the Future Jobs Fund and other provision provided by ESF and Connexions programmes.

Further Education: Manpower

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the net change in the number of teaching staff in further education colleges was over the academic year 2008-09. [291073]

Mr. Lammy: The number of teaching staff in further education colleges for 2008/09 is not available.

The latest available information is for 2007/08 when there were some 75,755 full-time equivalent teaching staff in post. This is an increase of 2,988 (4.1 per cent.) on the 2006/07 figures when there were 72,767 full-time equivalent teaching staff in post.

Graduates: Employment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to assist graduates to secure employment. [290982]

Mr. Lammy: While these are tough times for graduates we should not forget that a degree remains a strong investment. Businesses are continuing to recruit through the downturn and are Backing Young Britain by offering internships.

For those who cannot find work immediately, the government is offering graduates real help to build the skills needed for successful careers longer term:

The Graduate Talent Pool went live for graduates on 29 July and graduates can now match themselves to internships from a range of employers. Over 12,000 graduate internships are available, most of which will be advertised via the Graduate Talent Pool.

A low carbon future leaders scheme offering 1,500 places will be created across six Low Carbon Economic areas.

There are more postgraduate study options (around 24,000 additional places expected) with support available through Professional and Career Development Loans;

There are around 3,000 extra opportunities to develop enterprise and entrepreneurship skills through the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Economic Challenge Investment Fund;

Up to 4,000 full-time, and in excess of 50,000 part-time and short-term volunteering places which are available to graduates.

Graduates: Work Experience

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many graduates have obtained a place on the National Internship Scheme *(a)* in England and *(b)* in Coventry. [290983]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not yet available. Monitoring information on the numbers of graduates in England obtaining places through Graduate Talent Pool will be available later this year.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for how long the National Internship Scheme is planned to operate. [290984]

Mr. Lammy: Current contracts for the administration of the Graduate Talent Pool website run to July 2010. We will review the impact and performance of the Graduate Talent Pool later this year and take a decision on how long the service should be offered.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Gale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of funded, full-time university places that will be available for students seeking to commence studies in *(a)* autumn 2009 and *(b)* autumn 2010 in each region. [283098]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* Our grant letter to HEFCE this year confirmed additional teaching grant funding for the equivalent of an extra 10,000 full-time-equivalent places in 2009-10. We did not specify whether these additional student numbers should be full or part time, undergraduate or postgraduate, but HEFCE estimate that this will result in around 3,000 additional full-time first year entrants. Further to this, we announced on 20 July that we would be providing financial support for an additional 10,000 students in science, technology, engineering and maths over the duration of their course in higher education. We will not receive outturn data on the 2009-10 student population until early 2011.

Innovation Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Building Britain's Future document, what mechanisms will be used to ensure that the new Innovation Fund levers in up to £1 billion of private sector funding. [284955]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committing £150 million of tax payer's investment to build a fund of up to £1 billion over its 10-year life. The Government expects that its investment of £150 million will leverage significant investment from the private sector.

Prior to the launch of the UK Innovation Investment Fund a number of institutional investors expressed an interest in investing in the fund and we would anticipate that the Fund of Funds manager will be able to secure additional private investment from within the UK and overseas.

On 3 August the Government and Capital for Enterprise Limited issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) from prospective Fund of Funds manager(s) for the UK Innovation Investment Fund. Prospective managers are asked to set out their investment strategies and to demonstrate how they will raise money from private sector investors. We aim to make an appointment in December.

London Metropolitan University

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with London Metropolitan University on *(a)* job losses and *(b)* reductions in student numbers there; and if he will make a statement. [281472]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* An important principle set out in legislation (sections 65(1) and 68(2b) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992) is that Ministers cannot intervene in the funding decisions of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). As is the case with other universities, London Metropolitan University receives grant from HEFCE under a Financial Memorandum which sets out how it should properly account for its public funding. It is for the Funding Council to keep the financial health of the institutions it funds under review to protect the public interest, including ensuring that public funds are properly spent. This month I have met with the UCU representative and a number of staff from the institution.

I know that the process of restructuring can be very difficult and unsettling for both staff and students, but am pleased that the Council's chief executive has met with the new interim vice-chancellor to further discuss the way forward. The final decision must though rest with the university and I remain confident that higher education provision in general across London will be sufficient to meet the diversity of demand. No Government though can give a commitment to protect every course or department at any particular institution.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of payments made under the Vehicle Scrappage Scheme to date relate to vehicles written off for insurance purposes. [290745]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The Department does not hold this information.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on the vehicle scrappage scheme; and if he will make a statement. [290964]

Mr. Lammy: £79,540,000 has been claimed and paid under the vehicle scrappage scheme. This information was correct as at 8 September.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars have been scrapped under his Department's scheme for vehicles over 10 years old; and how many of those were registered as historic vehicles for vehicle excise duty purposes. [291145]

Mr. Lammy: 195,009 orders for new vehicles have been taken since the scrappage scheme was announced in the Budget. This figure covers the period from 23 April up to 30 August 2009.

We do not hold information on how many of those were registered as historic vehicles for Vehicle Excise Duty Purposes.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many individuals have claimed the £2,000 allowance for scrapped vehicles over 10 years old in respect of more than one vehicle. [291146]

Mr. Lammy: There have been 112 occurrences of more than one vehicle being scrapped by the same individual or business entity.

Overseas Trade: Afghanistan

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken with the government of Afghanistan to encourage the export from Afghanistan to Britain of *(a)* food products and *(b)* other products; and if he will make a statement. [291014]

Ian Lucas: The role of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is to assist UK companies seeking to do business overseas and overseas companies seeking to invest in the UK. Assisting overseas companies to export to the UK does not fall within its remit. No steps have therefore been taken by UK Trade and Investment to encourage the export of goods from Afghanistan.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is working to improve the business environment in Afghanistan and to help Afghanistan economic development.

Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding each regional development agency has granted to trade union bodies since each such agency was established. [284173]

Ms Rosie Winterton: RDAs fund initiatives through a variety of third party organisations to deliver projects to increase economic growth, such as on workforce development and economic inclusion. The specific focus

and priorities of such activities are set out in each region's Regional Economic Strategy and will differ according to the needs, opportunities and priorities for economic growth in each region.

The following table shows RDA funding to trade unions for 2003 to 2009. The RDAs retain records of the last six years. To provide records before this period will incur disproportionate costs.

RDA	*Total amount of RDA funding to trade unions 2003 to 2009 (£)*
Advantage West Midlands	1,151,116
East of England Development Agency	189,000
East Midlands Development Agency	744,000
London Development Agency	911,000
North West Development Agency	801,957
One North East	472,569
South East Development Agency	97,303
South West Development Agency	2,112,592
Yorkshire Forward	446,816

Response With Responsibility

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to respond to the recommendations contained in the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council's May 2009 report, Response with responsibility: policy making for public risk in the 21st century. [278055]

Ian Lucas: The Government expect to publish in autumn 2009 its response to the recommendations contained in the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council's May 2009 report, response with responsibility: policy making for public risk in the 21st century.

Risk and Regulation Advisory Council: Finance

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget of the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council is for 2009-10; and how much the Council spent on *(a)* secretarial and administrative support, *(b)* advertising and marketing, *(c)* forum events and *(d)* publications in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [278056]

Ian Lucas: For 2009-10, the budget of the unit responsible for raising awareness of the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council work and tools, covers both work connected to the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council and work unrelated to the Council. It is not possible to give a figure just for the work relating to the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council. However a provisional sum of £70,000 from a separate budget has been made available to this unit to use to raise awareness of the work of the RRAC and encourage the use of the tools it developed.

The following expenditure figures are in respect of the 2008-09 financial years:

(a) secretarial and administrative support: £251,000 (includes staff salaries and associated costs. This figure is different to that given in a previous answer as it represents expenditure rather than budget)

(b) and *(c)* advertising and marketing (including Public Relations) and forum events: £114,000

(d) publications:£28,000.

Safety: Window Blinds

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 324W, on domestic appliances: safety, what assessment he has made of the recommendations of Sheriff Mackie on looped cords for blinds and curtains. [290891]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Officials have now met with representatives from the British Blind and Shutter Association (BBSA) to discuss what actions the industry can take to alert those who already have internal blinds with looped cords installed in their homes. The industry-has produced a leaflet and poster called "Make it safe" which offers practical advice on how to deal with looped cords installed in the home. This advice can be viewed at:

www.bbsa.org.uk

My officials are now considering with the BBSA and others how this message can be used and if necessary further developed to reach the widest possible audience.

As a result of the discussions with the BBSA, we are also looking at possible revisions to the relevant technical product standard.

Students: Radicalism

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 507W, on students: radicalism, which institutions will receive further targeted support in academic year 2009-10. [290879]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* In academic year 2009-10 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will be giving targeted advice and support to institutions in priority Prevent-funded local authority areas.

A full list of these priority areas can be found on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism/lafunding/

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Tuesday 15 September and Wednesday 16 September 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Billing

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government are taking to help small and medium-sized enterprises whose customers do not pay in accordance with agreed contractual terms. [285671]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The UK was one of the world's first countries to introduce late payment legislation in November 1998. It provides all businesses with the right to claim interest for the late payment of commercial debt, and where there are no pre-agreed payment terms, the legislation provides that the payment period is 30 days from the later of either delivery of goods or receipt of invoice.

Over half of UK business transactions are not covered by pre agreed payment terms so we are also equipping business to better manage customer relationships and cash flow management through a series of guides developed in partnership with the Institute of Credit Management, the CBI, IoD, FSB, FPB and BCC.

Further advice on this legislation and claiming interest for late payments can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file37581.pdf.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government have taken to encourage *(a)* private sector companies and *(b)* public sector organisations to sign up to the prompt payment code. [285672]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My noble Friend the Secretary of State and for Business, Innovation and Skills has written to over 1,500 UK businesses and the Minister for Economic Competitiveness, Small Business has hosted prompt payment events with businesses, supported by the Confederation of British Industry, Institute of Directors, Federation of Small Businesses, Forum of Private Business and the British Chamber of Commerce.

All central Government departments have signed the prompt payment code and my officials are working with the regions to promote the code to the wider public sector and to businesses.

Regional Ministers are taking a strong lead in driving prompt payment. For example, the Minister for the West Midlands acted in March 2009 to encourage public sector organisations in the region to sign up to a 10 day payment pledge; 44 have done so thus far and further action is now being taken to encourage more to do so.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of further education colleges on the Building Colleges for the Future programme. [288229]

Kevin Brennan: With regards to the Building Colleges for the Future programme, I have met and discussed the current issues with the sector body—the Association of Colleges and the 157 Group. In terms of the programme's implementation, this is the responsibility of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC, in its work to resolve the current funding pressures with the programme, has consulted widely. This consultation has been in-line with the recommendations of Sir Andrew Foster, and has included the Association of College's capital reference panel. I have subsequently been kept informed of progress.

My predecessor and I have held meetings to discuss the positions of individual colleges. Importantly, such meetings must be without prejudice to the statutory responsibility of the LSC for determining capital approvals.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1341W, on business: Government assistance, what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of borrowing by small businesses in the next 12 months of the operation of the Working Capital scheme. [261653]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have taken steps to help improve cash flow, to increase the availability of the credit businesses need, and to encourage investment so that businesses come through the recession ready to grow.

In particular, we obtained bank lending commitments from RBS and Lloyds to lend £27 billion additional lending to businesses this year. This includes lending guaranteed under the Working Capital scheme.

In addition, we introduced a Trade Credit Insurance top-up scheme which provides protections for firms suffering a reduction in cover.

We have also taken steps to assist small businesses to overcome short-term cash-flow problems—for example the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and also measures to ensure prompt payment by both public and private sectors.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department is providing to small and medium-sized businesses in Milton Keynes. [280879]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Department for Business, Innovation and Skills support to small and medium-sized businesses in Milton Keynes is provided through South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

SEEDA provides a full range of support mechanisms to small and medium-sized businesses operating in Milton Keynes. The support falls into two broad categories:

1. Strategic Business Development and Engagement—comprising the Sub Regional Partnership and Employment and Skills Board (MKELP) and Milton Keynes Science and Innovation, for example.

2. Business support—primarily through Business Link, Manufacturing Advisory Service, Continuous Employment Support Service, and Financial Assistance.

More detailed information can be found in the attached SEEDA-produced background information.

1. SEEDA Specific Milton Keynes Strategic Business Development and Engagement

Sub Regional Partnership and Employment and Skills Board (MKELP)

SEEDA funds the Milton Keynes Economic and Learning Partnership (MKELP) with the purpose of bringing together business and the public sector in Milton Keynes to agree and align priorities and investment at local and sub regional level. MKELP is also financially supported by Milton Keynes Council and the Homes and Communities Agency.

MKELP specifically:

Works to align regional and local economic strategy to benefit businesses and local stakeholders in Milton Keynes.

Understands employer issues in Milton Keynes and makes regional partners aware of these issues and challenges.

Identifies key growth/economically important sectors and works closely with Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) to help them raise employer demand and investment in skills and encourage employers to engage with and drive the work of their SSC.

Development of the Partnership's approach to the knowledge economy and the Science and Innovation agenda, encompassing, for example, the Innovation Growth Team, Electric Vehicle infrastructure for the city and inward investment, as well as supporting the bid for Milton Keynes to be a host city in the 2018 Football World Cup and developing a strong higher education offer for local businesses.

Milton Keynes Science and Innovation (MKSI)

Local partners in Milton Keynes are developing a vision to "create the most exciting habitat in the UK for knowledge intensive business" in Milton Keynes. SEEDA is a key stakeholder in this steering group, drawing on its 'know how' and expertise in developing and implementing science and innovation activity elsewhere in the region. SEEDA is also funding a full time project manager to drive the initiative forward.

Milton Keynes South Midlands (mksm) Growth Area

SEEDA (with East of England Development Agency and East Midland Development Agency) has been working with Local Authorities and stakeholders to support the mksm growth area. An Economic Development Plan is being produced focusing on supporting key growth business sectors across mksm with an underpinning skills strategy. The aim is to ensure the jobs target for mksm and Milton Keynes is achieved and includes high quality jobs in the knowledge economy and growth sectors.

Progress has been presented to the mksm local authority Leaders group and mksm is aiming to have a final Economic Development Plan by October 2009. This plan will feed into a developing Multi Area Agreement which will include Transport objectives and actions.

2. Direct Support to Businesses in Milton Keynes which is also available to all businesses in South East

Business Link and Enterprise Gateway

MK Businesses support interventions[1]

	Number
2006-09	12,857
2006-07	4,118
2007-08	4,442
2008-09	4,297

[1] Companies are able to receive the Business Link service as often as they need and are counted once per annum

MK intensive assists[1]

	Number
2006-09	1,550
2006-07	409
2007-08	530
2008-09	611

[1] Action plan agreed

MK Business healthchecks since October 2008: 384

MK, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire businesses helped in 2008/09 through Enterprise Gateway scheme: 163

Business Link provides business support and advice for all individuals and businesses already trading or thinking of starting. Benefits include:

Free Business Health Checks, including maximising cash flow, marketing and business planning, debt management, new market and product development.

Access to finance advice, credit crunch presentations and finance clinics.

Guidance and events on how to survive and thrive in difficult times, including advice on reducing energy consumption and costs.

Access to the SEEDA funded Resource Efficiency programme.

Access to advice and signposting to skills and training opportunities through the 'Train to Gain' service.

Analysis and information on new business opportunities and markets.

In addition the Enterprise Gateway service (delivered through Business Link) offers impartial, professional advice to individuals from under-represented communities facing barriers to enterprise. Business Link also delivers sustainable business advice.

Investor Development Manager (IDM)

The SEEDA IDM is currently working with seven companies who are making redundancies, five companies linking to train to gain and a further 10 companies on a variety of other support needs.

SEEDA funds an Investor Development Manager (IDM), Guy Hawking, who works with strategically important companies in Milton Keynes.

Innovation and Growth Teams

Operational from summer 2009

On 1 June 2009 a new support service started in Milton Keynes aimed at providing tailored, specialist and technical business expertise to high growth businesses. This sendee will be delivered by an Innovation and Growth Team directed by a consortium of local partners and managed by the Open University. The aim of this service is to create communities of innovation and growth ultimately generating substantial local and regional economic benefits that improve the global competitiveness of the South East.

Continuous Employment Support Service

In the last nine months 12 companies were supported in Milton Keynes, 761 people were helped.

Companies thinking about making staff redundant or undertaking a redundancy programme can access the free 'Continuing Employment Support Service' run by Jobcentre Plus in partnership with SEEDA. CESS offers a free in-house package of support to all affected workers before they leave their employment, offering tailored advice on future options.

Inward Investment

In 2008/09 SEEDA referred 34 inquiries to Invest MK.

SEEDA has an inward investment team who aim to attract business from other countries to locate in the South East.

Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)

Between 2006/09 40 companies were assisted through MAS

MAS South East aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of manufacturers in the region to create sustainable improvements. Businesses can access hands-on advice and tailored support from experts to suit the individual requirements of their business to produce real results.

Grants for Business Investment (GBI)

There has been one grant offered

The GBI scheme has recently been extended to be available to all South East eligible SMEs with long-term viability whose investment plans are being held up by current economic conditions. The scheme aims to assist businesses to increase productivity by funding capital investment in equipment and technology. It is for businesses looking to expand, modernise, rationalise, diversify and increase productivity in order to maintain or establish sustainable growth and provide skilled jobs.

Grant for Research and Development

There have been and grants for R&D in MK between 2006-09 (totalling £951,000)

The SEEDA managed grants for R&D are focused on encouraging businesses to carry out projects that they would not necessarily undertake without the grant and lever in to these projects finance from reluctant private investment sources.

Finance South East (FSE) Accelerator Fund

One company in Milton Keynes has been offered the accelerator fund

The accelerator fund is a loan fund which supports small and medium sized companies in the South East with the potential for significant growth (early stage or established companies). It is a response to the needs of entrepreneurial businesses who require the level of growth investment provided by risk capital, but which are reluctant to relinquish an equity stake in the company at an early stage.

Commercialisation Fund

One company has been offered the commercialisation fund (worth £29,000)

This new fund of up to £3 million supports businesses with high growth potential to bring new products and services to market.

Transition Loan Fund

The fund has not yet been allocated to any MK businesses

SEEDA is providing up to £3 million in a new Regional Transition Fund known as the Bridging Mezzanine Debt Fund to be directed at fully established, viable and growing businesses that are currently facing difficulties in obtaining credit through banks and other traditional routes.

Funding is provided at commercial rates for these unsecured loans, and interest is rolled up and paid at maturity, thereby making the Fund attractive to some businesses urgently needing to address liquidity problems.

Milton Keynes Area Programme

There were 87 businesses supported between 2006-09

The overall emphasis of interventions within Milton Keynes was capacity building, particularly in line with skills, learning and employability with a focus on NEET young people (not in employment, education or training). The largest project was 'Routes to Success' which was based on the development of transparent progression routes for residents, including outreach links, IAG in local communities, then leading to open days, short skills sessions and courses, finally moving to specialist training.

Rural

There were two Farm Diversification Grants between 2006-09

There were three businesses supported within the European Rural Development programme (ERDP) between 2006-08

£2.4 million has been allocated to the Leader area, however, projects are not yet operational

SEEDA funds rural programmes in Milton Keynes including Farm Diversification and Rural Redundant Building schemes. In addition SEEDA manages £60 million Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) EU Programme (previously termed ERDP).

The rural Leader programme for Milton Keynes is within the North Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes area. This wholly EU funded programme is aimed at farmers and forestry diversification with a strong element of community projects.

"Immerse" Initiative

Businesses not yet supported as a new programme

SEEDA is introducing and funding a new programme, Immerse, which provides intensive, extended design support to selected larger businesses. Immerse is part of the 'Designing Demand' programmes.

UKTI International Trade Sector Specialists

These are senior executives seconded to UK Trade and Investment from industry spearheading the Government's export drive, helping small and medium-sized enterprises and larger companies to win business around the world. They are available for free consultations and can offer practical exporting advice, information on specific opportunities in markets and sectors.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Perth and North Perthshire constituency *(a)* have sought access to funds under and *(b)* are receiving assistance from the Working Capital Scheme. [284202]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None. The working capital scheme provides guarantees to banks on portfolios of short-term loans: businesses cannot apply for guarantees under this scheme.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Perth and North Perthshire constituency *(a)* have sought access to funds under and *(b)* are receiving assistance from the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme. [284203]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee was launched on 14 January. Set out in the following table is the information for the constituency of Perth and North Perthshire as of 19 August.

Perth and North Perthshire

Number of loans offered	5
Number of loans drawn	4
Value of loans offered (£ million)	0.85
Value of loans drawn (£ million)	0.42

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire (i) have sought access to funding under and (ii) are receiving assistance from the Working Capital Scheme. [284562]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None. The Working Capital Scheme provides guarantees to banks on portfolios of short-term loans: businesses cannot apply for guarantees under this scheme.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps the Government have taken to assist small businesses to pay their business rates. [291299]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

On 31 July 2009 the Non-Domestic Rating (Deferred Payments) (England) Regulations 2009 came into force to enable businesses to defer until 2010-11 and 2011-12 payment of 3 per cent. their total 2009-10 business rate bills and, additionally, 60 per cent. of the increase in bills caused by the ending of the transitional relief scheme for the 2005 revaluation period.

Billing authorities sent all ratepayers a flyer about these regulations. This also contained information about the Small Business Rate Relief scheme which allows eligible businesses to claim up to 50 per cent. relief on their rates bills.

Corporate Hospitality

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Secretary of State has received hospitality from representatives of the *(a)* automotive, *(b)* aerospace, *(c)* financial services, *(d)* fast moving consumer goods, *(e)* digital media, *(f)* mail service, *(g)* cleantech and *(h)* the music industries since his appointment to post; on what dates such hospitality was received; and who attended each such event. [291358]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State notifies his permanent secretary of any hospitality he receives and as necessary declares it in the Register of Peers' Interests, in accordance with the provisions of the ministerial code.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275263]

Mr. McFadden: Performance-related pay is designed to help drive high performance and support better public service delivery. Performance awards reward high performance sustained throughout the year, and are non-pensionable and non-consolidated.

Based on the information available, the number of staff receiving these awards is shown in the following table.

	Performance awards SCS[1]		*Performance awards below SCS*[1]	
Financial year[2]	*Number of staff receiving*	*Total value (£)*	*Number of staff receiving*	*Total value (£)*
2008-09	141	1,210,000	2,930	[3]1,114,592

[1] The annual performance awards are paid on a non-consolidated, non-pensionable basis and do not increase the Department's pay-bill costs each year. For the SCS, the Senior Salaries Review Body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.
[2] Financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.
[3] Includes staff who were transferred from BERR to DECC as part of the October 2008 machinery of government changes as these staff received a BERR pay award in 2008.

Performance awards make up 1.8 per cent. of the Department's pay bill of £127,434,847

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's Executive agencies and they will respond to you directly.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans the Government has to implement the provisions of the EU Agency Workers Directive in the UK; and what timetable has been set for implementation of those provisions. [290707]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The recent Consultation, which closed on 31 July, invited views on proposals for implementing the Agency Workers Directive in a way which meets the Government's twin objective of ensuring appropriate protection for agency workers while maintaining a flexible labour market. The Consultation also invited views on when the implementing legislation should come into effect, and why. Following the Consultation, we will publish the Government's response setting out how we intend to proceed, and invite views as appropriate, as well as consult on the draft regulations.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with trade union representatives on the EU Agency Workers Directive since October 2008; which trade unions were represented in each such discussion; and on what date each such discussion took place. [290708]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* I have had no meetings with trade unions on the specific topic of the EU Agency Workers Directive since October 2008, however, officials have spoken to both the TUC and business organisations in the development of our consultation document on this issue.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Government plans to announce its decisions following its consultation on the EU Agency Workers Directive. [291236]

Mr. McFadden: Following the consultation which closed on 31 July, we are evaluating all the responses before any key decisions are taken. We will shortly publish the Government's response to the consultation and seek views on draft implementing legislation.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications have been made to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme; and how many of these have met the eligibility criteria. [290804]

Kevin Brennan: As of 12 August, of the over 6,600 cases which have been logged on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee web portal, more than 6,000 firms have been granted, being processed, or assessed, over £680 million. So far, over 4,500 businesses have been offered loans totalling over £450 million.

Businesses may apply for a loan from one of the participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG), is most appropriate. EFG is open to small and medium enterprises with a turnover of less than £25 million and is designed to operate at the margins of banks' normal lending activity to SMEs, allowing lenders to provide additional loans to viable companies that are at the margins of commercial lending, because they have insufficient security or their proposal involves a higher risk of loss at default.

We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

Meetings

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many discussions the Secretary of State has had with representatives of the *(a)* automotive, *(b)* aerospace, *(c)* engineering, *(d)* fast moving consumer goods, *(e)* cleantech, *(f)* mail service and *(g)* music industries since his appointment to post; on what dates such discussions took place; and who the industry representatives were on each such occasion. [291356]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has frequent discussions with representatives of all kinds of business sectors.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the Secretary of State's engagements are for the period 14 to 20 September 2009. [291357]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has various internal and external engagements in this period.

Overseas Trade: Libya

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate UK Trade and Investment has made of the number of occasions on which representatives or agents of UK business have had discussions with *(a)* the government of Libya and *(b)* Libyan businesses and their representatives in the last two years. [290820]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The information requested is as follows:

(a) UKTI estimates such contacts with the Government of Libya would be in the region of 500 to 1,000.

(b) UKTI's estimate is that such contacts in the last two years would be in the thousands. The British Business Group in Libya now numbers some 100 members, about half of which are resident in Libya. There have been a series of trade missions by UK business associations over the past two years.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions employees or representatives of UK Trade and Investment have had discussions with representatives or agents of *(a)* the Libyan Government and *(b)* Libyan businesses in the last two years. [290821]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The information requested is as follows:

(a) There were UKTI organised visits to Libya by the Duke of York as Special Representative for International Trade and Investment in November 2007, the then Lord Mayor of the City of London in March 2008 and the then Minister of State for Trade and Investment in May 2008, all involved various contacts with the Libyan Government. Mr Shokri Ghanem, Chairman of the Libyan NOC was hosted by UKTI during his visit to the UK in November 2008. UKTI arranged an event in London on 20 July 2009 where Dr Bashir Saleh Bashir, Chairman of the Libyan Africa Investment Portfolio and delegation addressed and met a range of British companies.

There have been regular UKTI visits to Libya, as well as meetings with representatives of the Libyan Government visiting the UK. There have been very regular contacts with the Libyan Government by the UKTI team in Tripoli. It is not possible to place a figure on the number of times there have been such contacts without a very detailed analysis, the costs of which would exceed the limit for answering parliamentary questions.

(b) The UKTI team in Tripoli have several contacts daily with Libyan businesses in the course of their work to support British companies seeking business in Libya. Contacts by other members of UKTI would number around 50 to 100.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution UK Trade and Investment has made to each ministerial visit to Libya in the last two years. [290822]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The then Minister of State for Trade and Investment visited Libya in May 2008. UKTI arranged his programme,

briefing and the follow up. For other ministerial visits the UKTI team in Tripoli assisted with arrangements for relevant parts of the programme and UKTI HQ in London provided standard written background briefing on trade and investment.

Polly Toynbee

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments his Department and its predecessors have made to Ms Polly Toynbee in the last five years; and for what purposes. [290997]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* A payment was made to Polly Toynbee in July 2007 in the sum of £587.50 for chairing the women's Entrepreneur Ambassadors Event at Lancaster House in London.

There are no other recorded payments to her in the last five years.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments regional development agencies have made to Ms Polly Toynbee in the last five years; and for what purposes. [290999]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Ms Toynbee chaired the EEDA annual meeting in September 2006. The meeting is an open annual public meeting to report on the activities of the agency. The focus of the event was growth through successful partnerships. A payment of £2,500 was made to an agency.

She was a speaker at the 2007 Prowess Conference at Brighton Racecourse 7-8 February 2007, which was part sponsored by SEEDA. No direct payment was made to her by SEEDA.

Public Sector: Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report on Accelerating the SME economic engine in its procurement processes. [287132]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is working closely with the Office of Government Commerce, who are leading on implementation of the Glover recommendations, to ensure that all 12 are delivered on time and in a way that is effective for SMEs. We expect to deliver the majority of the measures later this year. The recommendation of a free, single, easy-to-search portal is on course to be delivered by 2010.

Regeneration: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each regional development agency spent on land reclamation projects in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [265242]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows RDAs expenditure on land reclamation projects in each year since 2000. Figures are not yet available for 2008-09.

The figures provided include funds allocated to the 'Land Reclamation Programmes' inherited by RDAs from English Partnerships and, following their conclusion, any new environmental improvement programmes which have succeeded them.

£ million

RDA	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
AWM	40	50	44	102	80	56	59	46
EEDA	1		13	21	24	37	25	11
EMDA	5	13	13	3	7	2	4	5
LDA	103	149	140	108	129	122	131	144
NWDA	20	23	20	18	15	6	17	39
ONE	22	20	14	3	2	5	2	0.6
SEEDA	6	1	21	11	40	17	11	5
SWRDA	[1]	[1]	32	21	17	27	22	32
YF	12	5	6	4	1	0.5	0.7	0.2

[1] Due to a change in management recording system during 2002-03, producing figures before 2002-03 would incur disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many land reclamation projects regional development agencies *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each year since 2000. [265278]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following tables shows land reclamation projects started and completed by RDAs in each year since 2000 to 2008. Figures are not yet available for 2008-2009.

The figures provided include funds allocated to the 'Land Reclamation programmes' inherited by RDAs from English Partnerships and, following their conclusion, any new environmental improvement programmes which have succeeded them.

Projects started

RDA	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
AWM	6	9	37	8	5	4	8	4
EEDA	5	2	16	15	4	8	13	2
EMDA	30	71	28	9	4	5	15	42

Projects started

RDA	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
LDA	50	8	4	4	10	1	2	0
NWDA	56	49	52	43	20	12	28	33
ONE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEEDA	5	9	13	12	13	0	0	0
SWRDA	A	A	1	0	4	2	4	7
YF	B	28	13	6	4	0	1	0

Projects completed

RDA	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
AWM	0	0	3	11	12	18	9	16
EEDA	2	4	9	9	6	6	7	12
EMDA	22	61	71	60	48	52	38	32
LDA	10	12	13	10	8	12	9	5
NWDA	9	15	27	36	36	30	28	36
ONE	23	27	21	21	0	2	0	6
SEEDA	3	2	6	10	0	3	4	6
SWRDA	A	A	2	0	5	3	1	1
YF	B	25	21	21	13	1	2	0

Notes:
1. A new programme management recording system was introduced. To separate out this data would incur disproportionate cost.
2. To separate out this data would incur disproportionate cost.

Support for Business: Finance

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the proposed budget is for each programme within the Support for Business portfolio in each year up to 2011. [291365]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Solutions for Business is the Government's portfolio of support to business. 2009/10 is the transitional year during which all Government funded business support schemes must migrate to the Solutions for Business portfolio or be under notice of closure by 31 March 2010.

The amount of money spent on Solutions for Business products varies according to local and regional need for particular forms of business support and the wider economic context. The total spend on business support within the Solutions for Business portfolio in 2008/09 is estimated to be £2.3 billion.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on the Train to Gain advertising campaign in 2009-10. [288844]

Kevin Brennan: Figures for Train to Gain advertising spend are shown in the following table. These comprise national and regional spend, and include VAT. Figures for the current financial year are not yet available.

	Media spend £ million
2006-07	2.24
2007-08	5.02
2008-09	5.01

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information: Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information spent on *(a)* office parties and *(b)* staff bonuses in the last 12 months. [291385]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 14 September 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on how much the COI has spent on (a) office parties and (b) staff bonuses in the last 12 months (291385).

(a) The Central Office of Information (COI) does not hold office parties funded by the organisation, other than those listed below.

An event in the summer is held to coincide with the publication of the Annual Report and Accounts to review the year's activity and to acknowledge any outstanding contributions from staff during the year.

An all staff event is also held at Christmas. This event is seen as an efficient way for the organisation to acknowledge the festive season.

The cost of these events is in line with guidance issued by the HMRC. This guidance states that no more than £150 per person, per year should be spent on such events. In the last 12 months COI spent £42.82 per person.

(b) The COI do not pay a corporate bonus to its employees.

COI paid eligible staff a non-consolidated performance pay award for the 2008/9. This amounted to 5.36% of the regular monthly salary.

This recognised that COI achieved its Ministerial targets for 2008/9 and COI also secured record savings for our government and public sector clients.

Its payment, together with the achievement against the targets, is audited by the National Audit Office.

Charities Act 2006

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Charity Commission plans to undertake a review of the implementation of the provisions of the Charities Act 2006. [291332]

Angela E. Smith: Section 73 of the Charities Act 2006 requires the Minister for the Cabinet Office to appoint a person to review the operation of the Act within five years of Royal Assent, and for a report of the review to be laid before Parliament. The review will take place in 2011.

Charities: Fraud

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment the Charity Commission has made of the effectiveness of the distribution of the Give With Care leaflet in reducing donations to bogus charities. [291333]

Angela E. Smith: The "Give with Care" campaign was an initiative of the Office of the Third Sector which the Charity Commission supported, along with other key stakeholders. 500,000 leaflets were printed for distribution to households. Neither the Office of the Third Sector nor the Charity Commission plans to formally assess the effectiveness of the distribution of the leaflet.

Death: Hypothermia

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate her Department has made of the number of people over 65 years who have died of hypothermia in their homes in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [291372]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people over 65 years who have died of hypothermia in their homes in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. (291372)

Although hypothermia may be mentioned on a death certificate as contributing to the death, according to International Classification of Diseases rules it cannot be recorded as the underlying cause. An event that led to the death such as 'Exposure to excessive cold', or 'Accidental fall' may be recorded as the underlying cause, with hypothermia recorded as a contributory factor. If hypothermia were considered to be the main contributory factor, it would be reported as the 'secondary cause'.

The table attached provides the number of deaths where (a) hypothermia was the secondary cause of death, and (b) hypothermia was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, for persons aged over 65 years dying at home, in England and Wales, from 1999 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths of persons aged over 65 years who died at home, where (a) hypothermia was the secondary cause of death, and (b) where hypothermia was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate[1, 2], England and Wales, 1999 to 2008[3]

		Deaths (Persons)
	(a) Secondary cause	*(b) Any mention*
1999	26	36
2000	15	21
2001	16	27
2002	17	21
2003	18	22
2004	18	26
2005	17	27
2006	15	20
2007	14	21
2008	21	23

[1] Hypothermia was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 991.6 for the years 1999 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T68, for the years 2001 to 2008.
[2] Deaths reported as (a) secondary cause are included in those reported as (b) any mention.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Employment: West Sussex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* people and *(b)* young people were unemployed in (i) East Worthing and Shoreham and (ii) West Worthing constituency in (A) 2007 and (B) at the latest date for which information is available; and what estimate has been made of the number of employees in each of those constituencies who have moved from full-time to short-time working in the last 12 months. [291340]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) people and (b) young people were unemployed in (i) East Worthing and Shoreham and (ii) West Worthing constituency in (A) 2007 and (B) at the latest date for which information is available; and what estimate has been made of the number of employees in each of those constituencies who have moved from full-time to short-time working in the last 12 months. (291340)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, estimates of unemployment for the requested geographies are not available. As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number and percentage of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in July 2007 and July 2009. Table 2 contains the number and percentage of persons aged 18-24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the requested geographies.

Estimates of the number of employees who have moved from full-time to short-time working are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons resident in East Worthing and Shoreham and Worthing West claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

	East Worthing and Shoreham		*Worthing West*	
Date	*Number[1]*	*Percentage[2]*	*Number[1]*	*Percentage[2]*
July 2007	670	1.2	630	1.3

Table 1: Number of persons resident in East Worthing and Shoreham and Worthing West claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

	East Worthing and Shoreham		Worthing West	
Date	Number[1]	Percentage[2]	Number[1]	Percentage[2]
July 2009	1,950	3.6	1,890	3.9

[1] Data rounded to nearest five.
[2] Percentage of working age (males 16-64, females 16-59) claiming Jobseeker's Allowance.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 2: Number of persons aged 18-24 resident in East Worthing and Shoreham and Worthing West claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

	East Worthing and Shoreham		Worthing West	
Date	Number[1]	Percentage[2]	Number[1]	Percentage[2]
July 2007	190	3.2	155	2.8
July 2009	590	9.8	505	9.1

[1] Data rounded to nearest five.
[2] Percentage of 18-24 year-olds claiming Jobseeker's Allowance.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Government Departments: Consultants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance her Department provides to government departments on the appointment of non-party political policy advisers to Ministers who are not special advisers. [291334]

Angela E. Smith: Recruitment into the civil service is based on the principle of selection on merit on the basis of fair and open competition, as outlined in the civil service recruitment principles (known previously as the civil service recruitment code).

Government Departments: Standards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 475W, on Government departments: standards, if she will place in the Library a copy of the handouts and presentations produced for the participants in the avoidable contact workshops. [258670]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The workshop meetings in question were part of a process of dialogue between Cabinet Office officials, representatives of central Government. It is judged that publication of these materials would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs. It is the intention of the Cabinet Office to publish baseline figures for the four Departments present at this meeting before the end of summer 2009 along with a statement relating to progress in meeting the Service Transformation Agreement commitment of a 50 per cent. reduction in avoidable contact.

Government Departments: Telephone Services

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will meet representatives of mobile telephone companies to discuss reducing the cost of calling Government services from a mobile telephone. [283824]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognise that the issue of fair and easy access to public services is a very important one, and the Cabinet Office has already worked with Ofcom to establish the 0300 telephone number range which offers a fairer tariff regardless of the line from which citizens call (including mobiles).

The Cabinet Office, through the Contact Council, is currently conducting a comprehensive survey of the different number types, such as 0845, 0870 or 0800, used by central Government Departments and agencies, including consideration of their mobile telephone access. The Council intends to use the results of its survey to steer a future cross-Government approach to the use of phone numbers that ensures fair and easy access to public services for all, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Officials leading this work are already engaging with mobile telephone providers. A meeting with Ministers may be appropriate once the Council's research is complete.

Ministers: Visits Abroad

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons *(a)* paragraph 10.7 and *(b)* paragraph 10.8 of the 2005 Ministerial Code, on overseas visits, were removed when the Ministerial Code was revised in 2007. [291056]

Tessa Jowell: The Ministerial Code published in July 2007 focuses on the key principles that should govern Ministerial conduct so that Ministers and others can be clear about the standards required.

Polly Toynbee

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments Ms Polly Toynbee has received from her Department in the last five years; and for what purposes. [291215]

Angela E. Smith: There is no record in the Department's accounting system of any payments made to Ms Toynbee over the last five years.

Origin Marking: Israel

Martin Linton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if her Department will publish the voluntary guidance issued by her Department on the labelling of goods produced in Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [291395]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have been exploring the possibility of improving the clarity of labelling of produce from the West Bank. Earlier this year, the Cabinet Office held a meeting with a group of interested parties to discuss the possibility of introducing some voluntary guidance, so that consumers could better understand which products came from occupied Palestinian territories. The Government are carefully considering the next steps following that discussion.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Conservatories

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings in England have a conservatory. [291274]

John Healey: The latest data available is from the 2006 English House Condition Survey, which estimates there are 3.4 million dwellings (16 per cent. of the total stock) in England with a conservatory.

To count as a conservatory in the survey, the roof must be at least 75 per cent. glass or plastic and the walls must be at least 50 per cent. glass or plastic.

Council Housing: Fire Prevention

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance has been provided to local authorities for expenditure on fire safety measures in council housing following the Lakanal House fire in Camberwell. [291159]

John Healey: The resources local authorities receive for management and maintenance and major repairs should enable them to implement necessary fire safety measures in council housing.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of people on local authority housing waiting lists had been born outside the UK in each year since 1994. [291207]

John Healey: This information is not collected centrally.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances the Valuation Office Agency classifies a garden shed as an outbuilding for the purposes of its value significant and dwellinghouse coding system for council tax valuations. [291052]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The Valuation Office Agency does not classify a garden shed as an outbuilding for the purposes of its value significant and dwellinghouse coding system.

Energy Performance Certificates

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1837-8W, on housing: energy, how many energy performance certificates in respect of properties *(a)* of each tenure type and *(b)* in each region have been issued to date. [291114]

John Healey: The number of energy performance certificates (EPCs) registered for all homes in England and Wales up to and including 9 September 2009 (the latest date for which figures are available) and broken down by tenure type and region is as set out in the following table.

Transaction type	*Eastern region*	*East midlands*	*London*	*North-east*	*North-west*	*South-east*	*South-west*	*West midlands*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*Wales*
Marketed sale	88,562	65,951	86,443	37,573	99,442	130,358	90,312	73,427	73,155	44,606
New dwelling	5,514	4,901	4,521	1,782	5,168	7,711	6,054	3,856	3,703	2,945
Not recorded	2,156	1,868	2,460	1,009	3,064	4,841	1,946	1,206	1,598	610
Non-marketed sale	2,851	2,736	3,697	3,125	7,313	4,384	2,960	2,953	3,508	1,108
Not recorded	116,707	85,393	137,289	56,746	149,493	179,032	124,020	90,837	102,404	47,043
Not sale or rental	346	355	1,407	136	653	1,103	254	269	384	144
Rental (private)	75,217	57,340	142,702	27,946	75,997	123,075	72,038	53,772	62,049	26,092
Rental (social)	30,604	26,471	45,213	26,669	54,783	37,023	22,296	38,475	34,746	15,037

Note:
These figures exclude a small number of homes for which no postcode information was included at the time that the EPC was lodged on the register.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 41 of his Department's proposed recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, how many individual energy performance certificates have been checked and verified for accuracy to date; and how many and what proportion of such checks identified an inaccuracy in the certificate. [291152]

John Healey: Accreditation schemes are responsible for conducting quality audits of the energy performance certificates (EPCs) produced by the energy assessors (EAs) they accredit in accordance with CLG requirements—we recommend that a minimum sample of 2 per cent. of all EPCs should be assessed. Accreditation schemes are required to report on the outcome of their quality audit procedures in the annual reports they submit to CLG and which can be viewed online at the following address:

https://www.ndepcregister.com/schemeAnnualReports.html

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 64 on page 41 of his Department's publication on Recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, what procedures are used to verify the accuracy of energy performance certificates. [291266]

John Healey: Accreditation Schemes are responsible for conducting quality audits of the energy performance certificates (EPCs) produced by the energy assessors (EAs) they accredit in accordance with CLG requirements as set out in the guidance document which can be viewed online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/doc/newlyconstructeddwellings.doc

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the response sent by the Energy Saving Trust to his Department's consultation The Next Steps: EPCs and the establishment of the Green Homes Service. [291273]

John Healey: A copy of the Energy Savings Trust's response to the Consultation Paper "The Next Steps: EPCs and the establishment of the Green Homes Service" has been placed in the Library of the House.

Energy Performance Certificates: East Midlands

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many energy performance certificates have been issued in relation to buildings in the East Midlands; how many accredited energy assessors there are in the East Midlands; and how many properties in the East Midlands do not meet required energy performance standards. [291051]

John Healey: Up to and including 9 September, the latest date for which figures are available, the number of:

Energy performance certificates (EPCs) lodged in relation to buildings in the east midlands region is 250,707; and

Accredited energy assessors whose primary postcode information is listed on the EPC Register as being in the east midlands region is 1,214.

The Government have not set minimum energy performance standards other than for new buildings, all of which are required to meet the requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations.

Housing: Disabled People

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to increase the number of newly-built, disability-adapted properties; and if he will make a statement. [291373]

John Healey: The National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society last year stated that all new publicly funded homes will be built to Lifetime Homes Standards from 2011. We will be reviewing the take-up of accessible housing standards, such as Lifetime Homes Standards, across all sectors in 2010. We will decide at that time whether further measures may be required to increase the supply of accessible and adaptable properties in new build housing. In the meantime, we continue to promote the Lifetime Homes Standards as a part of the Code for Sustainable Homes where they are currently mandatory at Code level 6.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homebuyers have received assistance under the HomeBuy Direct Scheme. [291235]

John Healey: Provisional estimates put completed sales under the HomeBuy direct scheme at over 600 sales.

Housing: Public Participation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the hon. Member for Meriden of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1662W, on LLM Communications, in which *(a)* regions and *(b)* localities the regional housing debates were held. [291272]

John Healey: The regional housing debates were held in the following regions and locations:

An East of England debate took place in Cambridge on 26 October 2006;

A South East of England debate took place in Reading on 22 February 2007;

A South West of England debate took place in Bristol on 29 March 2007;

And the final debate took place in London on 24 July 2007.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties with each *(a)* dwellinghouse and *(b)* value significant code in the local authority area of Solihull are recorded on the Valuation Office Agency's electronic records. [291087]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The number of domestic properties with the codes requested, as at 2 September 2009, in the local authority area of Solihull is as follows:

(a) Dwellinghouse codes (group type)

Dwellinghouse code	*Number of properties*
01	291
02	313
03	266
04	701
05	61
06	36
07	110
08	236
09	362
10	31
13	<5
14	14
19	186
20	1,435
21	12,260
24	1,659
25	131
30	4,391
31	37,677
32	8,957
35	325

(a) Dwellinghouse codes (group type)

Dwellinghouse code	*Number of properties*
36	846
37	93
39	5
40	54
41	91
42	40
43	13
44	41
45	<5
46	38
48	41
50	<5
51	5,754
52	0
55	<5
56	8,016
60	714
61	16
62	662
70	<5
71	165
72	<5
80	43
81	20
82	24
90	0
91	0
92	0
94	0
95	0
96	0
97	0
98	0
99	37

(b) Value significant codes

Value significant code	*Number of properties*
A	9
AM	12
AO	6
AV	0
AW	<5
B	91
BA	11
BB	19
BC	16
BD	31
C	0
CB	<5
CH	<5
CI	0
CN	0
CO	<5
CP	18
CS	38
D	0
DS	5
EF	0
F	0
FC	0
FG	<5
FO	41
FP	0

(b) Value significant codes

Value significant code	*Number of properties*
GG	<5
GN	0
HO	<5
I	0
L	86
LE	<5
LF	14
LR	38
LS	11
LT	27
M	0
NA	0
OS	<5
P	0
PL	21
PS	<5
Q	<5
QA	0
QB	0
QC	0
QD	<5
R	0
RC	<5
S	0
SC	0
T	0
TM	5
TQ	146
TU	<5
U	0
UC	78
UL	<5
UN	0
UO	<5
UP	<5
UR	7
US	58
V	0
VC	0
VE	0
VH	0
VI	0
VL	<5
VM	0
VO	17
VP	16
VR	0
VS	<5
WK	6
X	14
YG	96
ZH	107
ZI	36
ZJ	1,373
ZL	21,278
ZN	35

For both *(a)* and *(b)* above, where a value of '<5' is displayed, this is to prevent individual properties being identified.

Of the dwelling house codes, only group type has been provided. Information about the number of domestic properties recorded against other dwellinghouse codes is commercially confidential.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties with each *(a)* dwellinghouse and *(b)* value significant code in the local authority area of Welwyn Hatfield are recorded in the Valuation Office Agency's electronic records. [291150]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The number of domestic properties with the codes requested, as at 2 September 2009, in the local authority area of Welwyn Hatfield is as follows:

(a) Dwellinghouse Codes (Group Type)

Dwelling Codes	*Number of properties*
01	110
02	206
03	379
04	369
05	16
06	41
07	34
08	29
09	17
10	93
13	0
14	12
19	29
20	463
21	5,162
24	1,098
25	30
30	52
31	22,061
32	3,336
35	150
36	964
37	140
39	<5
40	20
41	0
42	27
43	<5
44	19
45	0
46	37
48	<5
50	28
51	2,606
52	0
55	70
56	6,460
60	557
61	25
62	91
70	20
71	140
2	0
80	14
81	6
82	99
90	0
91	0
92	0
94	0
95	0
96	0
97	0
98	0
99	12

(a) Dwellinghouse Codes (Group Type)

Dwelling Codes	*Number of properties*

(b) Value Significant Codes

Value significant codes	*Number of properties*
A	0
AM	<5
AO	<5
AV	0
AW	0
B	56
BA	74
BB	241
BC	14
BD	6
C	0
CB	<5
CH	<5
CI	<5
CN	126
CO	<5
CP	50
CS	27
D	0
DS	6
EF	0
F	0
FC	0
FG	<5
FO	0
FP	0
GG	<5
GN	0
HO	0
I	0
L	74
LE	0
LF	<5
LR	18
LS	6
LT	<5
M	0
NA	0
OS	0
P	0
PL	<5
PS	0
Q	0
QA	0
QB	0
QC	0
QD	<5
R	0
RC	0
S	0
SC	0
T	0
TM	<5
TQ	24
TU	0
U	0
UC	14
UL	0

(b) Value Significant Codes

Value significant codes	*Number of properties*
UN	<5
UO	<5
UP	<5
UR	<5
US	<5
V	0
VC	0
VE	0
VH	0
VI	0
VL	0
VM	0
VO	<5
VP	<5
VR	0
VS	0
WK	171
X	0
YG	7
ZH	439
ZI	108
ZJ	2,399
ZL	21,722
ZN	5

For both *(a)* and *(b)* above, where a value of '<5 is displayed', this is to prevent individual properties being identified.

Of the dwellinghouse codes, only Group Type has been provided. Information about the number of domestic properties recorded against other dwellinghouse codes is commercially confidential.

London City Airport: Public Consultation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will undertake an investigation into whether Newham Council followed appropriate procedures for consulting residents affected by proposals to increase the number of flights using London City Airport. [291367]

John Healey: It is for Newham council, as local planning authority, to decide the extent to which local residents are consulted about planning applications. This is set out in their Statement of Community Involvement.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households are participating in the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme; and how many households have used the scheme since 3 December 2008. [291224]

John Healey: Homeowners Mortgage Support was launched in April 2009 as part of the range of support available at every stage for households struggling with their mortgage. We aim to publish information on households who have been helped through Homeowners Mortgage Support later this year.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have received assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [291234]

John Healey: The Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across England since January 2009. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government Office Region, are available on the Department's website. The figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will undertake a cumulative impact assessment on business rates in 2010-11 of the 2010 rates revaluation in empty property rates threshold changes supplementary rates in respect of Crossrail with post-revaluation rateable values and deferred increases from 2009-10. [291086]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* There are no plans to undertake a cumulative impact assessment. Impact assessments relating to individual policy changes to the business rates system will be published alongside the implementing regulations.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish instructions given by Ministers to the Valuation Office Agency since 1999 on the separate business rating of port businesses; and in cases where separate rating was introduced, on what date *(a)* that separate rating took effect and *(b)* the existing system of paying business rates for those businesses was stopped. [291226]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 824W. Ministers at Communities and Local Government or its predecessor departments have not given any instructions to the Valuation Office Agency on the separate rating of properties within or outside of Ports.

The principles concerning separate rateability of properties where there is "exclusive occupation" and "paramount control" are long established and have not been recently introduced by the Government. The leading case on the subject is a House of Lords decision from 1936—Westminster Council v. Southern Railway Company and W.H. Smith and Son.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on retrospective payments of business rates by port businesses from *(a)* foreign governments, *(b)* ferry operators, *(c)* car importers, *(d)* port businesses, *(e)* hon. Members with ports in their constituencies and *(f)* local authorities with ports in their areas. [291227]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Communities and Local Government has received correspondence from:

(a) no foreign governments;

(b) no ferry operators;

(c) one car importer;

(d) four port businesses;

(e) 12 hon. Members; and

(f) no local authorities with ports in their areas,

concerning the issues arising from the rating review of ports since 1 July 2009.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications have been made by port businesses for a fast-track review of their new business rating assessments; how many reviews have *(a)* been begun and *(b)* completed; and what changes have been made as a result of each completed review. [291228]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 9 September 2009, the Valuation Office Agency has applied the fast track arrangements to 703 appeals made by port businesses, 355 of which relate to new business rating assessments with an effective date of 1 April 2005.

Of the 355 appeals, 154 have now been settled, 48 by agreement and 106 withdrawn. Where agreement has been reached this has resulted in a reduction in the rateable value. The outstanding appeals are in various stages of discussion depending on the facts of each case.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many port businesses have *(a)* made and *(b)* not made payments towards (i) their new rating assessments and (ii) their retrospective payments back to 2005; and how many in each case have applied to use the scheme for staging retrospective payments. [291229]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government do not hold information on individual payments of ongoing business rates liabilities. With regard to the backdated business rates liabilities for the port properties affected by the Valuation Office Agency review of rating, local authorities have reported that businesses occupying 209 properties within ports have fully paid their backdated liabilities and that businesses occupying a further 201 properties have been granted a schedule of payments.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to complete his review of retrospective payments of business rates from port businesses newly assessed for business rates. [291230]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No time frame has been set for completion of a review.

Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what analysis of his Department's expenditure by parliamentary constituency has been commissioned in the last 12 months. [291151]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* No analysis of the Department's expenditure by parliamentary constituency has been commissioned in the last 12 months.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Betting: Internet

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department takes to inform consumers of the jurisdiction in which individual betting websites are licensed. [291341]

Mr. Bradshaw: Remote gambling operators licensed by the Gambling Commission are subject to strict operating conditions, including the requirement to display on their website their licensed status, licence number and a link to the Gambling Commission's website. Operators are also required to clearly distinguish which parts of their website or link from their website are regulated by the Commission from those which are not.

The Secretary of State currently has limited power to require websites run by operators licensed overseas to state the jurisdiction in which they are licensed.

My Department is currently conducting a review of the existing system of remote gambling regulation in Great Britain, and the review's findings will be announced to Parliament before the end of the year.

English Folk Dance and Song Society

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with the English Folk Dance and Song Society on inclusion of England's traditional folk dances as an option within the dance programme to be promoted by the recently-appointed Dance Tsar; and if he will make a statement. [291287]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

We have recently announced the establishment of the Dance Champions Group as set out in Physical Activity Plan, "Be active, be healthy" published earlier in the year. We are also planning to launch the group in the autumn.

The English Folk Dance and Song Society is represented by the Central Council for Physical and Recreational on the Dance Champions Group.

Horse Racing: Betting

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the effects on the Horserace Betting Levy Board 49th Levy scheme of the location by betting operators of parts of their operations overseas. [291240]

Mr. Bradshaw: No formal assessment has been made by my Department. The Levy Board's own assessment of the impact is in the region of a potential loss of £4.2 million to the 49th Levy scheme.

We support the Levy Board's aim of securing contributions from gambling operators to ensure the continued health of racing. The Department's Review of remote gaming, which is examining this issue along with many others, will report to Ministers by the end of the year who will report the findings to Parliament.

Swimming

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many local authorities are providing free swimming for over 60 year-olds; [291390]

(2) how many local authorities in England are seeking to introduce free swimming for under 16 year-olds. [291391]

Mr. Simon: 259 local authorities in England have opted into the Free Swimming programme for those aged 60 and over; 190 local authorities have agreed to take part in both the aged 60 and over and 16 and under elements of the Free Swimming programme.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 743W, on armed forces: training, what the percentage shortfall of each type of armoured vehicle used for pre-deployment training was in the latest period for which figures are available. [289097]

Bill Rammell: Our priority is to get new equipment to the front line as quickly as possible for use by personnel facing the greatest danger. However, we look to ensure that whenever possible new equipment is also provided for troops during pre-deployment training so that they can use it safely and effectively on arrival in theatre. In practice, where shortfalls occur due to prioritising equipment to the front line, sufficient equipment is still made available for training to ensure personnel meet the minimum safety and operating standards. We have recently introduced measures to reinforce this, and all Urgent Operational Business cases now include a clear requirement that sufficient numbers of pre-deployment vehicles are procured and delivered for training before they are deployed operationally.

The last period for which figures are available was the Mission Rehearsal Exercise for 11 (Light) Brigade in July 2009. The availability of armoured vehicles for this period was as follows:

Snatch-Vixen: 100 per cent.
Ridgback: 34 per cent.
Mastiff: 54 per cent.
Vector: 53 per cent.
Warrior: 100 per cent.
Viking: 18 per cent.
CVR(T): 100 per cent.
Panther: 100 per cent.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures were used to establish the requirement for the future army dress; what the estimated cost of its introduction and procurement is; whether he has received any representations about the quality of tailoring of the dress; and if he will make a statement. [291412]

Bill Rammell: In 2003, the Army Board directed that the Army's orders of dress were to be reviewed with a view to updating the current suite of uniforms which had been designed in the 1960s. In 2005, the Army Board accepted the recommendations of the review and directed that the uniforms were to be produced.

Future Army Dress is funded from within the existing clothing budget and will cost approximately £9.7 million.

The uniform is produced in the UK, using modern manufacturing processes, and we have received no defect reports to date.

Guided Weapons: Testing

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times UK forces undertook missile firing tests in the Falkland Islands in each of the last 10 years; and what missiles were fired on each occasion. [291292]

Bill Rammell: The MOD does not test missiles in the Falkland Islands. However, training exercises are conducted which include firing live missiles against aerial targets.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is responsible for deciding where missile testing is carried out. [291293]

Bill Rammell: Missile testing is conducted on behalf of individual project teams who have the opportunity to select the trial venue based on criteria such as suitability for the trial in questions, availability, and cost.

However, in order to secure value-for-money, projects are expected to use one of the facilities provided under the Long Term Partnering Agreement between MOD and QinetiQ and look elsewhere only if these are unable to meet their requirements.

NIDAR Radar System

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions the NIDAR radar system on St. Kilda has been used in each of the last seven years. [290694]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Details for NIDIR Radar usage on the island of St. Kilda during the past seven years are as follows:

Date	*NIDIR radar runs*
2003	69
2004	13
2005	32
2006	67
2007	50
2008	17
2009	[1]14

[1] To date

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1400W, to the hon. Member for Moray, on nuclear submarines, on what nuclear submarines the 21 medium scale fires were reported; what the location was of each such submarine at the time of the fire; and when each fire occurred. [290794]

Bill Rammell: Royal Navy submarines are operated to the highest possible safety standards. Personnel are rigorously trained to deal efficiently and effectively with all safety incidents.

Three fires requiring both ship and external resources are recorded as occurring on Royal Navy submarines since 1 January 1987. Details of these are provided in the following table:

Vessel	*Location where fire took place*	*Date of fire*
HMS Renown	Clyde	17 February 1992
HMS Turbulent	Devonport	30 April 1992
HMS Trafalgar	Devonport	24 October 2003

In the same time period, there were 20 medium scale fires and details of these are provided in the following table.

Vessel	*Location where fire took place, if known*	*Date of fire*
HMS Courageous	Alongside	10 December 1984
HMS Sceptre	Not recorded	29 July 1987
HMS Conqueror	Alongside	26 August 1987
HMS Renown	Not recorded	15 November 1987
HMS Renown	Clyde	10 October 1988
HMS Valiant	Clyde	5 August 1989
HMS Valiant	Alongside	22 December 1989
HMS Trenchant	At sea	21 November 1991
HMS Spartan	At sea	3 November 1992
HMS Tireless	At sea	11 January 1993
HMS Revenge	At sea	29 July 1993
HMS Tireless	Alongside	22 October 1993
HMS Sovereign	Rosyth	7 April 1994
HMS Sovereign	Rosyth	22 August 1995
HMS Victorious	Alongside	16 October 1995
HMS Talent	Devonport	18 January 1999
HMS Sovereign	Clyde	17 June 2001
HMS Victorious	At sea	22 April 2002
HMS Vigilant	Clyde	11 October 2006
HMS Tireless	At sea	21 March 2007

For those incidents where the vessel was either 'alongside' or 'at sea', the exact location of the vessel is not recorded centrally.

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Defence, I have written to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) to correct the previous statement made on this subject—2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1400W.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reactor design has been selected by the Strategic Deterrent Programme Board for the successor submarine; what other decisions have been made by the Board in 2009; and what further decisions are scheduled to be made by the Board prior to May 2010. [291178]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* A decision on reactor design for the future deterrent has not yet been taken. Like other key decisions on the future deterrent, this decision will ultimately be taken by Ministers. The Defence Board will consider the work required during the Concept Phase later this year.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the programme to build the successor to the Vanguard class submarine is on schedule; and when the initial gateway decision for the programme will be made. [291177]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The In Service Date is planned for 2024, as set out in the 2006 White Paper. The Defence Board will consider the work required during the Concept Phase later this year.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what additional unmanned air systems his Department plans to purchase with funds from the Urgent Operational Requirement budget for 2009-10. [290786]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* We have no current plans to purchase further unmanned air systems under the Urgent Operational Requirement mechanism in the current financial year.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Trust: Stoke-on-Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Carbon Trust has provided to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* NHS organisations and *(c)* higher and further education institutions in Stoke-on-Trent North constituency since its establishment. [290817]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The Carbon Trust has worked with a range of public sector organisations in Stoke-on-Trent including schools, local authorities and NHS organisations to provide carbon management and energy efficiency advice.

The Carbon Trust has advised me that it is not possible to provide a funding breakdown at a constituency level.

Energy: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations the Energy Saving Trust made for *(a)* an increase in council tax in respect of and *(b)* a prohibition upon the sale or rent of homes with an F to G energy efficiency rating. [291210]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust have made no representations for an increase in council tax in respect of, or a prohibition upon, the sale or rent of homes with an F to G energy efficiency rating.

From autumn, the Energy Saving Trust will be able to contact people moving into homes rated F and G on the Energy Performance Certificate to give free, impartial energy efficiency advice. EST's research shows home owners can move EPC grade by doing non-major energy saving improvements starting for less than £1,000. There are schemes such as council tax discounts already available to encourage householders to undertake energy efficiency

improvements to their homes, a number of which are motivated by energy suppliers in support of their Government obligated carbon emissions reduction target.

Fuel Oil: Prices

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the potential effects of a petrol embargo on Iran on the UK economy, with particular reference to oil prices. [291269]

Mr. Kidney: As part of DECC's responsibility for the security of energy supplies, we assess a range of supply disruption scenarios, including disruptions to Iranian petroleum exports. However, the content of this analysis is market sensitive and cannot therefore be made public.

Fuel Poverty: Pensioners

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of pensioners living in fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [291374]

Mr. Kidney: The Department's latest estimates for fuel poverty are for 2006, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/fuel_poverty/strategy/annual_report/annual_report.aspx

These show that in 2006, there were around 2.4 million households in fuel poverty in England. Of those, around 1.3 million contained somebody over the age of 60, around 17 per cent. of all households containing somebody over 60.

Fuel poverty statistics are published at the household level and are not calculated at an individual person level. Figures on the number and percentage of individual pensioners in fuel poverty are therefore unavailable.

Nuclear Power

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of high burn-up fuel used in nuclear power plants. [291346]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has not assessed the efficiency of different burn-up[1] levels for nuclear fuels.

The fuel and its burn-up efficiency is a matter for the commercial operators to address, whilst ensuring that regulatory requirements are met.

[1] Burn-up is measured by the amount of energy extracted for a given mass of uranium-units GWd/tU.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria are used under the Warm Front scheme to determine whether households are in fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [291264]

Mr. Kidney: To be eligible for Warm Front the applicant or their spouse must be a homeowner or tenant in the private sector and in receipt of a qualifying disability or income related benefit.

These qualification criteria were selected because they were considered to provide an effective proxy for assessing the likelihood of an applicant being at risk of fuel poverty.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Calor Gas: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with Calor Gas on the designation and provision of a receiving tank as an overfill receiver for its Canvey Island liquefied natural gas terminals; and if he will make a statement. [290857]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* DEFRA has not had any discussions with Calor Gas on the designation and provision of a receiving tank as an overfill receiver for its Canvey Island LNG terminals.

The Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are the joint competent authorities for regulation of the Canvey Island Calor Gas site under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH). I understand the hon. Member has had a number of recent discussions with the HSE about the safe operation of this site.

Cattle: Animal Welfare

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of dairy cows which are kept in zero-grazing conditions. [291386]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No official estimates are available, though previous industry estimates indicate about 5 per cent. of herds have some cattle that are housed all year round.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the *(a)* Committee of Investigation for Great Britain, *(b)* Expert Group on Cryptosporidium in Water Supplies, *(c)* Family Food Committee, *(d)* Financial Management and Policy Review of the Commons Commissioners, *(e)* Hill Farming Advisory Committee, *(f)* National Expert Group on Transboundary Air Pollution, *(g)* National Rural Development Forum, *(h)* National Statistics Quality Review on Sustainable Farming and Food Regulation Task Force, *(i)* Review of Fishing Vessel Licensing, *(j)* Review of Funding Mechanisms for Food and Coastal Defence, *(k)* Review of Marine Nature Conservation Working Group Science Advisory Group, *(l)* Sustainable Consumption and Production Business

Taskforce, *(m)* Sustainable Development Taskforce, *(n)* Sustainable Farming and Food Implementation Group and *(o)* Sustainable Farming and Food Research Priorities Group in each of the last five years. [291099]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: The following table sets out the costs of a number of the bodies listed. Officials are currently preparing figures covering the remaining bodies and I will write to the hon. Member with this information when it is available.

£000

Body	2004-05	2005-06	Actual 2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
(a) Committee of Investigation for Great Britain[1]	0	0	0	0	0
(d) Financial Management and Policy Review of the Commons Commissioners[2]	0	0	0	0	0
(e) Hill Farming Advisory Committee[3]	0	0	0	0	0
(f) National Expert Group on Transboundary Air Pollution[4]	0	0	0	0	0
(k) National Statistics Quality Review on Sustainable Farming and Food Regulation Task Force[5]	0	0	0	0	0
(l) Review of Fishing Vessel Licensing[6]	0	0	0	0	0
(j) Review of Funding Mechanisms for Flood and Coastal Defence[7]	0	0	0	0	0
(k) Review of Marine Nature Conservation Working Group Science Advisory Group[8]	0	0	0	0	0
(l) Sustainable Consumption and Production Business Taskforce[9]	0	0	275	339	0

[1] The committee was dormant before the start of the period covered by this table and was disbanded in 2006.
[2] All costs were incurred prior to the period covered by this table.
[3] The committee was dormant before the start of the period covered by this table and was disbanded in 2006.
[4] The Group published its final report in 2001 and disbanded.
[5] All costs were incurred prior to the period covered by this table.
[6] The Fishing Vessel Licence Review Working Group (LRWG) published one report in the period covered by the table, in 2006. Costs to the Department were minimal.
[7] All costs were incurred prior to the period covered by this table.
[8] The final report of this Group was published in July 2004. Costs were minimal.
[9] The Taskforce was established in February 2006. It completed its work and was disbanded in March 2008.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 98W, on domestic waste, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document provided by Chelgate for the Waste and Resources Action Programme as part of its contract. [291306]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1880W.

The requested data concerns the detailed operational activities of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and is not therefore held by DEFRA.

Flood Control: Sheerness

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the effectiveness of the sea defences at Sheerness was last assessed. [291239]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency carried out its annual inspection of the sea defences at Sheerness in late February. The rock groyne and rock face of the sea wall were found to be in good repair. The defences are designed to provide those living and working in the area with a 1 in 200 year standard of protection, a 0.5 per cent. chance of flooding in a year. This is the standard level of protection to which new sea defences are constructed.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011 of each non-departmental body it sponsors. [291098]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: The following table sets out the budgets—comprising administration, programme and capital spend—of the Executive and Tribunal Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), Public Corporations and other bodies sponsored by the Department in the years *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11.

Officials are currently preparing a set of figures covering the remaining NDPBs sponsored by the Department, including Advisory NDPBs. I will write to the hon. Member with this information when it is available.

£ million

Body	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	2010-11 Budget
Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies			
Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales	0.16	0.20	0.20
Agricultural Wages Committee	0.01	0.01	0.01
Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board[1]	0.00	0.00	0.00

Body	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	£ million 2010-11 Budget
Commission for Rural Communities	6.30	6.40	6.08
Consumer Council for Water[2]	0.00	0.00	0.00
Environment Agency[3]	715.70	762.60	799.90
Food From Britain[4]	10.70	0.00	0.00
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	3.12	4.29	4.02
Joint Nature Conservation Committee[5]	1.90	1.90	1.87
National Forest Company	3.60	3.60	3.51
Natural England[6]	223.74	213.46	168.23
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	26.60	28.50	25.50
Sea Fish Industry Authority	0.30	0.28	0.27
Sustainable Development Commission	2.88	3.06	2.00
Tribunal Non-Departmental Public Bodies			
Agricultural Land Tribunal (England)	0.04	0.28	0.28
Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal[7]	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Corporations			
British Waterways[8]	62.65	58.34	48.55
Covent Garden Market Authority[9]	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Bodies			
British Wool Marketing Board[10]	0.00	0.00	0.00
National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority	46.72	47.58	48.89

[1] The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board is industry-funded.
[2] The Consumer Council for Water (CCW) is funded by water consumers through a charge to water and sewerage companies in England and Wales by Ofwat. The amount is then passed to DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government (joint sponsor) to fund CCW's operations.
[3] Excludes Closed Pension Fund. £20 million of capital grant was brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 for flood risk management work as part of the Government's fiscal stimulus initiative.
[4] The body was closed on 31 March 2009.
[5] Represents costs only of DEFRA-funded JNCC work on reserved matters such as marine work beyond territorial waters, overseas territories and international conventions. Further funding is received from the Devolved Administrations.
[6] Represents DEFRA core funding including (other than for 2010-11 where these are not yet due to be addressed) annually agreed elements for cost neutral recharges for common services such as IT and HR support.
[7] The Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal is not currently active.
[8] £5 million of capital grant was brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 for infrastructure projects under the Government's fiscal stimulus initiative.
[9] The Covent Garden Market Authority is industry-funded.
[10] The British Wool Marketing Board is self-funded through the sale of graded wool.

Origin Marking: Israel

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable he has set for consultation on the labelling of goods originating in Israeli settlements. [291396]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government have been exploring the possibility of improving the clarity of labelling of produce from the West Bank. Earlier this year, the Cabinet Office held a meeting with a group of interested parties to discuss the possibility of introducing some voluntary guidance, so that consumers could better understand which products came from occupied Palestinian territories. The Government are carefully considering the next steps following that discussion.

Water Charges

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the proposed charge allowed by Ofwat for water companies in the 2009 Price Review is for *(a)* staff costs and *(b)* other costs. [291352]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The table sets out what Ofwat has assumed in its draft determinations for water companies' employment costs and other operating expenditure for all water companies in England and Wales for the period 2010 to 2015.

	Costs (£ million)
Employment costs	2,194.9
Other operating expenditure	16,268.3
Total	18,463.2

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Elections

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the recent elections in Afghanistan were free and fair. [291267]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 20 August 2009 Presidential and Provincial Council elections in Afghanistan were the first Afghan-run elections for over 30 years. That the insurgents were unable to disrupt this important day is a tribute to the Afghan National Security Forces and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's International Security Assistance Force. The Afghan people want and deserve the right to decide the future of their country and we and the international community are committed to helping them achieve this. Credible elections, that represent the will of the people, demonstrate that the Afghan Government have the authority to rule.

We and the rest of the international community are following the elections result process closely. There have been allegations of fraud but it is important that we wait for the Election Complaints Commission to complete their investigation processes into allegations of fraud, and for the election observation missions to report their conclusive findings. In this intervening period, we call on all parties to exercise patience and respect the process for which so many Afghans made their support clear on polling day.

The UN, the relevant Afghan authorities and international observation missions have taken every possible measure to prevent fraud. The Afghan Independent Election Commission, the UN and the international community worked hard to ensure that there was a level playing field for candidates, and that these elections could be as credible and inclusive as possible. Multiple safeguards such as photographs and fingerprints were in place to minimise fraudulent registration and voting.

There were over 400 international observers on the ground, including 100 from the EU. 7,000 independent monitors were also registered with the Independent Electoral Commission by the Afghan Free and Fair Elections Association. The UK has helped fund election observation missions and 23 of our staff participated in the EU observation mission.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions on the subject of Mr. Al-Megrahi he has had with the Scottish Executive Justice Minister in 2009. [291327]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with the Scottish Executive Justice Minister on the subject of Mr. Al-Megrahi.

Africa: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the activities of the Lords Resistance Army in *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* the Democratic Republic of Congo and *(c)* the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement [291403]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On 28 August, the UN reported that an estimated 125,000 people had been displaced by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) in the Haut Uele district of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the last three weeks. The LRA has also forced an estimated 8,000 Congolese to flee to neighbouring Southern Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR).

There has also been a recent increase in LRA attacks in Southern Sudan, close to the DRC border, which have displaced thousands of Sudanese, adding to the severe humanitarian situation in the region. Since March 2008, mere have been reports of periodic LRA incursions into the South East of CAR.

UN teams are monitoring the situation and assisting the refugees and internally displaced people. The UN peacekeeping mission in DRC, MONUC, has increased its presence in the DRC region where the LRA is active and is helping the Congolese army with logistics. Regional cooperation on this issue is ongoing.

British Nationality: Torture

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department follows in response to reports of British nationals having been tortured abroad. [291421]

David Miliband: Consular staff are specifically trained on what action to take in response to any allegation of mistreatment, and there is clear guidance for such cases.

This guidance includes the identification of possible signs of torture and mistreatment, as well as the procedures to be adopted in such circumstances. The first step when a British national is detained overseas is to seek and secure access by our consular staff. Our staff are instructed to ask our nationals whether they have suffered abuse or mistreatment, and to look out for signs of mistreatment even where an individual does not raise it. They are required to follow up all reports of mistreatment whether they come from the individual themselves, from their friends, family or representatives, or from other sources. What form this follow up action will take will depend on the individual circumstances of the case. Most obviously, we can raise our concerns with the relevant authorities. Whatever action we take the objective remains the same: to end the mistreatment, and have the incident investigated and the perpetrators of any abuse brought to justice.

In many countries we also raise more general concerns around the mistreatment and abuse of detainees as part of our wider human rights dialogue.

Consular Posts

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to monitor the response of consular posts to reports of British nationals abroad since 2004. [291419]

David Miliband: There are a number of ways in which cases of British nationals alleging mistreatment are monitored. Since the rollout of an effective electronic case management system between 2002 and 2005, Consular Directorate in London has been able to monitor cases in real-time.

Posts have been required since 1 April 2005 to collate statistics on the number of cases where we have raised concerns with the detaining authorities over allegations of torture or abuse.

Finally, we are currently in the process of deploying Consular Regional Directors around the world, whose responsibilities include monitoring the performance of posts in their regions, including on the response of these posts to allegations of mistreatment.

G20: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what external *(a)* public relations and *(b)* public affairs firm were contracted to provide support for the London G20 Summit; and at what cost to the public purse. [289084]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No external public relations or public affairs firms were contracted to provide support for the London G20 Summit.

However, a temporary unit was created within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to support posts in their engagement with overseas media, help organise local events during the run up to the summit, as well as providing information for the London summit website.

This was staffed by FCO and externally contracted staff who acted as project co-ordinators and content developers, rather than in a public affairs capacity.

Indonesia

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the Indonesian Government taking steps against former members of the Indonesian Kopassus Special Forces named in 2007 by the Coroner of New South Wales in her findings in relation to the deaths of British citizens Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters in 1975 in East Timor; and if he will make a statement. [291435]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Australian Federal Police have announced their intention to launch an investigation on the basis of the findings of the 2007 inquiry by the Coroner of New South Wales. We shall consider our position carefully in the light of the results of the Australian Federal Police investigation. The British Government hopes that the investigation may succeed

in shedding light on the circumstances in which Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters died, thereby bringing some comfort and greater certainty to their families. We do not intend at this stage to raise the issue with the Indonesian authorities.

Israel

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli Prime Minister on issuing building permits for new housing in Gush Etzion, Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev and other Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in advance of a settlement freeze. [291194]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are extremely concerned by the recent approval by the Israeli Government of new illegal settlement construction permits. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear in a recent telephone conversation with Ehud Barak.

The Government's position on Israeli settlements has been consistent and robust: they are illegal, a clear violation of international law, and an obstacle to peace. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made this clear during his 25 August 2009 meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister.

Libya

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many official visits to Libya were made by officials from his Department in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; and what the purpose of each such visit was. [291199]

David Miliband: There is no central record of the number of official overseas visits made by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials to Libya. However officials from various parts of the FCO, both in the UK and overseas, visit Libya regularly in the course of their official duties.

Senior officials hold an annual meeting with Libyan government officials which alternates between Tripoli and London. No senior officials meeting has taken place in 2009.

During the course of their visits officials work to deliver Government objectives in the fields of security, trade, co-operation in the UN and African Union, visas, consular matters and the safety, security and wellbeing of FCO officials and their families living and working in Tripoli.

Lockerbie: Bombings

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times he has discussed the case of Mr. Al-Megrahi with his US counterpart since Mr. Al-Megrahi's conviction. [291198]

David Miliband: I hold regular discussions with my US counterpart, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, on a range of issues, such as the case of Mr. Al-Megrahi. The content of these discussions remains confidential as is normal practice.

UK and US officials worked closely together following the Lockerbie bombing to bring Mr. Al-Megrahi to justice. My officials have remained in close contact with US colleagues both before and since Mr. Al-Megrahi's conviction.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions Ministers and officials from his Department have had with their Libyan counterparts since March 2004. [291251]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since 2004 there have been a number of ministerial visits to Libya made by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers: two in 2004, one in 2005, two in 2006, one in 2007, one in 2008 and two in 2009. During the same period, Ministers from Libya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs have visited the UK for meetings with their UK counterparts on a number of occasions: one in 2004, three in 2008 and six in 2009.

Ministerial discussions since 2004 have covered the full range of UK-Libyan bilateral relations, including co-operation in the fields of security, trade, at UN and with the African Union: as well as, visas, consular matters and the safety, security and wellbeing of FCO officials and their families living and working in Tripoli.

There is no central record of the number of official overseas visits made by FCO officials to Libya. However officials from various parts of the FCO, both in the UK and overseas, visit Libya regularly in the course of their official duties. Senior officials hold an annual meeting with Libyan Government officials which alternates between Tripoli and London. No senior officials meeting has taken place in 2009. Issues discussed since 2004 covered the full range of UK-Libyan bilateral relations.

Naheem Hussain: Rehan Zaman

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the reasons were for the time taken for his Department to respond to reports of Naheem Hussain and Rehan Zaman being tortured in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [291418]

David Miliband: When consular staff from our High Commission in Islamabad first visited them in prison on 29 July 2004, Mr Naheem Hussain and Mr Rehan Zaman raised allegations that they had been mistreated while in initial police custody. This was reported back to London. We failed to seek an explicit view at the time from them as to whether they wanted us to raise their concerns with the local authorities.

Staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London subsequently advised the High Commission in Islamabad to seek such a view on their next visit to Mr Hussain and Mr Zaman. However, once it was realised that this would not be until October 2004—prison visits to British nationals in Pakistan are usually done on a three monthly cycle—a decision was taken to seek their view via their lawyer which we did in early September 2004. As the right hon. Member will be aware, their lawyer subsequently confirmed that they did not want the matter raised with the local authorities.

It should not have taken five weeks from our first visit to Mr Hussain and Mr Zaman to obtain their view. Our consular guidance has developed since 2004 and we have taken steps to ensure such a delay would not happen now. This has included giving clear guidance to our consular staff both overseas and in London that where we have reason to believe a British national has been mistreated in detention overseas, this should be raised urgently with the relevant authorities. Our immediate objective in these cases is to have the allegations investigated and, if there is a possibility that mistreatment is continuing, to ensure that it is stopped. By reacting promptly in this way we also hope to deter abuse in future cases.

Pakistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether guidelines were in place in British posts in Pakistan in July 2004 which set out procedures to respond to allegations of the torture of British nationals. [291420]

David Miliband: In 2004, guidance for consular staff made clear the importance of responding to such allegations, including the need to report such cases to the Consular Directorate in London, and to ask the individuals concerned whether they wished us to raise them with the relevant authorities.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* progress in relation to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan and *(b)* the long-term outlook for Sudan, with particular reference to recent reports of resources from sharing oil revenues. [291402]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK welcomes progress that has been made in recent months towards implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). This includes acceptance by both the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the National Congress Party (NCP) of the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in relation to the Abyei area and both parties' commitment to implement the decision.

The UK also welcomes the signing by the SPLM and NCP, under the facilitation of US Envoy General Gration, of the "Points of Agreement" document on the outstanding CPA milestones. We are concerned however that further progress is required on several critical issues, including agreement of the census results, preparations for the elections in April 2010 and for the referendum on self-determination for South Sudan in 2011. The UK is working closely with both parties and with international partners to press for implementation of the outstanding issues.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the alcohol industry on reducing the availability of cheap alcohol. [291375]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No such recent discussions have taken place.

However, Government have just finished a consultation on a mandatory code for alcohol retailers. This proposed restrictions on very cheap alcohol sold below cost, and on irresponsible promotions such as "all you can drink" type offers.

The Government announced in May its decision not to proceed with any measures concerning a minimum unit price at a national or local level.

While there is good evidence that cheap alcohol is linked to people drinking more and the subsequent harm to their health, it is important that any Government interventions reduce harm without impacting unduly on the majority of adults who do drink responsibly.

Government will look to develop further the evidence base in this area with a view to identifying concrete proposals for action, which reduce irresponsible, harmful and/or binge drinking without impacting unduly on the majority of responsible drinkers.

Allergies

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 965W, on allergies: consultants, what steps he plans to take to inform primary care staff of the National Occupational Standards on Allergy developed by Skills for Health. [291337]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Occupational Standards on Allergy developed by Skills for Health are available on the Skills for Health website at:

www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Guidance setting out their use is also freely available to employers organisations and staff across the sector.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 685W, on allergies, whether his Department has taken steps to increase the number of posts advertised in open recruitment for entry into allergy. [291338]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Pursuant to the answer given on 7 July 2009, no additional posts have been established by the Department for open recruitment into allergy. The Department created an additional five centrally funded allergy training posts and five immunology posts in 2007. The national health service and deaneries are responsible for establishing whether there is a local need to commission more local training posts.

Cancer: Prescriptions

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of cancer patients in *(a)* Leicestershire, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* England have obtained the exemption from prescription charges since April 2009. [291344]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Cancer patients were able to apply for Medical Exemption (MEDEX) certificates (which entitle them to exemption from prescription charges) from 25 January 2009, although these certificates were not valid until 1 April 2009. From this date until

9 September 2009, the total number of valid prescription charge certificate applications processed by NHS Help with Health Costs in England, for cancer patients resident in England, where cancer was the only medical condition ticked on the FP92A application form, was 59,900. The Department is unable to provide the proportionate analysis requested in the question because data on the total number of cancer patients in England who could benefit from the exemption are not available. Nor is it possible to provide a sub-national breakdown of the number of MEDEX issued for cancer, as these data are not held.

Embryos: Storage

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority on cases where parents wish to store embryos for their infertile offspring under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009; and what guidance his Department has provided on this matter. [291431]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not issued guidance on cases where parents wish to store embryos for their infertile offspring. The individual factors of each case would be taken into account by a registered medical practitioner when deciding if the criteria for extending storage periods for embryos or gametes on the grounds of premature infertility are met.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has produced guidance, including through workshops, on the various changes that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 and its related regulations introduce.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has provided on whether a couple whose gametes were used to bring about the creation of an embryo may extend storage of the embryo for 10 years as referred to in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009, where one of the couple is eligible for the extension on the basis of premature infertility, but the other person whose gametes were used to bring about the creation of the embryo is beyond natural childbearing age; [291432]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority on the age at which infertility would no longer been deemed premature in *(a)* men and *(b)* women for the purposes of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009; [291433]

(3) with reference to Parts 2 and 3 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009, what guidance his Department has provided on whether a person who was prematurely infertile on the day of examination, but whose infertility would no longer be premature for the whole of the subsequent 10 years would be eligible for a full 10 year extension of storage of embryos and gametes, with the exception of the final extension to 55 years. [291434]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As far as guidance issued by the Department and discussion it has had with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority are concerned, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate (Mr. Burrowes) on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1984W.

The purpose of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009 is to provide more scope for people who are prematurely infertile to have children. Decisions to provide treatment using any such stored gametes or embryos will be subject to the normal welfare of the child considerations.

Gender Identity Disorder

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that all primary care trusts provide accessible, timely and high quality gender identity services. [291225]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is committed to the delivery of high quality national health service gender identity services. Primary care trust commissioning of gender identity services remains a matter for local prioritisation, with access to services determined by clinical need and local decision-making.

The Department is in the process of writing out to all NHS chief executives and their teams, via the weekly NHS leadership team bulletin the week, to reiterate this commitment to high quality gender identity services and the importance of considering such cases individually, according to clinical need.

Health Services: Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is being provided to friends, families and Travellers for its work on access to healthcare for Travellers. [291305]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: £55,355 funding was provided to Friends, Families and Travellers to support access to healthcare for Travellers. The grant has been made through the Third Sector Investment programme and supports our wider aim of reducing health inequalities and paying particular attention to groups or sections of society where improvements in health and life expectancy are not keeping pace with the rest of the population.

Hospitals

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days on average an in-patient in a hospital in England received treatment in each year since 1997; and how many such patients waited 183 days or more to receive treatment in each such year. [291315]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data on the average (mean) in-patient length of stay is shown in the following table.

Average length of stay[1] in days for in-patients in England, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Average length of stay (Days)
1997-98	8.8
1998-99	8.4
1999-2000	7.8
2000-01	8.2
2001-02	8.1
2002-03	7.9

Average length of stay[1] in days for in-patients in England, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Average length of stay (Days)
2003-04	7.4
2004-05	7.1
2005-06	6.6
2006-07	6.3
2007-08	5.7

[1] Length of stay (LOS) is calculated as the difference in days between the admission date and the episode end date (duration of episode) or discharge date (duration of spell), where both dates are given. LOS is based on hospital stays and only applies to ordinary admissions, i.e. day cases are excluded (unless otherwise stated). Information relating to LOS figures, including discharge method/destination, diagnoses and any operative procedures, is based only on the final episode of the spell.

Notes:

1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and Social Care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
2. Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.
3. This is the total number of eligible admissions from which the mean and median time waited are derived. Admissions contributing towards this total are waiting list and booked admissions, with planned admissions being excluded. A waiting list admission is one in which a patient has been admitted electively into hospital from a waiting list, having been given no date of admission at the time a decision to admit was made. Alternatively, booked admissions are those in which the patient was admitted electively having been given a date at the time it was decided to admit, determined on the grounds of resource availability. Planned admissions are excluded as they are usually part of a planned sequence of clinical care determined mainly on clinical criteria, which, for example, could require a series of events, perhaps taking place every three months, six months or annually.

Source:

Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Data on the number of in-patient admissions where time waited was 183 days or longer is shown in the following table.

Total admissions with eligible time waited information[1] with a time waited of 183 days or longer in England, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Total admissions with a time waited of 183 days or more
1997-98	603,777
1998-99	727,812
1999-2000	596,906
2000-01	591,287
2001-02	606,601
2002-03	673,649
2003-04	681,753
2004-05	512,758
2005-06	381,912
2006-07	261,534
2007-08	147,522

[1] A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Notes:

1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and Social Care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
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Source:

Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Human-Animal Hybrid Embryos

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the statutory authority is for the granting of a licence to examine human admixed embryos which have been stored in licensed premises for the purposes of investigating a suspected offence under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; and whether regulations will be required to be made. [291430]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Human admixed embryos must be held at a centre licensed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority if they are being kept or used in connection with the investigation of, or proceedings for, an offence under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008). This requirement is provided for in section 4A(2)(c) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended). Using human admixed embryos includes examination of embryos.

There is no intention to make regulations concerning the keeping, examination or storage of human admixed embryos in connection with the investigation of, or proceedings for an offence under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended).

IVF

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the number of in vitro fertilisation treatment cycles available on the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leeds. [291265]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are working with the national health service and the patient support group Infertility Network UK to encourage primary care trusts (PCTs) in the provision of three full cycles of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment, as recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines.

In 2008, we set up an expert group on commissioning NHS infertility provision. Their interim report identified barriers to the commissioning of IVF by PCTs and the final report of the expert group will be published in the autumn.

In June this year, the expert group produced a commissioning aid to help commissioners understand the particular sensitivities and complexities of infertility and its treatment. Alongside the commissioning aid, we

also published access criteria, which were developed by Infertility Network UK in discussion with the expert group. To launch both the commissioning aid and the access criteria we ran a conference for commissioners, to help raise awareness.

We are monitoring IVF treatment provision across the country to help identify where further work is required to assist PCTs in assessing the needs of fertility patients and helping them to deliver those services in an equitable way.

The Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority (SHA) has advised that the Yorkshire and the Humber Specialised Commissioning Group is currently consulting on a region wide policy for fertility treatment. Further information is on their website:

www.yhscg.nhs.uk/consultation/fertility.htm

The SHA has advised that one of the issues being considered is the number of cycles of in vitro fertilisation treatment and it is expected that the policy will be in place by April 2010.

Learning Disability: Supported Housing

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department has put in place for monitoring and inspection of the quality of care in supported living accommodation for adults with learning difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [291371]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Everyone living in supported living has a community care plan and increasingly a person-centred plan. The resources allocated to support them are based on these plans and are monitored through the care management assessment, and review process. These reviews take place at least once a year and ensure that arrangements set out in the plans are in place and that the person is receiving high quality support as agreed.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulates health and adult social care services, whether provided by the national health service, local authorities, private companies or voluntary organisations. CQC ensures that essential common quality standards are being met where care is provided and work towards the improvement of care services.

Domiciliary Care Agencies, who provide care support for people in supported living, must be registered with the CQC and they inspect them. Local authority commissioners of these care services will have contract management arrangements in place to monitor individual Agencies.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department made of expenditure from the public purse on the NHS in England in respect of each of the last 10 years expressed *(a)* in cash terms, *(b)* as a percentage of gross domestic production and *(c)* as a percentage of all public expenditure. [291316]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Table 1 shows total net national health service expenditure in England in cash terms in each year since 1998.

Table 2 shows United Kingdom health expenditure as a proportion of (i) gross domestic product (GDP) and (ii) total managed expenditure.

Table 1: NHS total expenditure: England—1998-99 to 2010-11

		Net NHS expenditure nominal[1] (£ billion)
Cash[2]		
1998-99	Outturn	36.6
1999-2000	Outturn	39.9
Resource Budgeting Stage 1[3]		
1999-2000	Outturn	40.2
2000-01	Outturn	43.9
2001-02	Outturn	49.0
2002-03	Outturn	54.0
Resource Budgeting Stage 2[4,5]		
2003-04	Outturn	64.2
2004-05	Outturn	69.1
2005-06	Outturn	75.8
2006-07	Outturn	80.6
2007-08	Outturn	89.3
2008-09	Estimated outturn	94.5
2009-10	Plan	102.7
2010-11	Plan	105.8

[1] Figures are not consistent over the period (1998-99 to 2010-11), therefore it is difficult to make comparisons across different periods.
[2] Expenditure pre 1999-2000 is on a cash basis.
[3] Expenditure figures from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are on a Stage 1 Resource Budgeting basis.
[4] Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2010-11 are on a Stage 2 Resource Budgeting basis.
[5] Figures from 2003-04 include a technical adjustment for trust depreciation.
Notes:
1. Expenditure excludes NHS (AME).
2. GDP deflator 30 June 2009.
3. Total Expenditure is calculated as the sum of revenue and capital expenditure net of non-Trust Depreciation and impairments. This is in line with HMT Guidance.

Table 2: UK health expenditure as a proportion of (i) gross domestic product, and (ii) total managed expenditure

		UK public spending on health as a percentage of GDP	*UK public spending on health as a percentage of total managed expenditure*
1998-99	Outturn	5.3	14.2
1999-2000	Outturn	5.2	14.4
2000-01	Outturn	5.5	14.9
2001-02	Outturn	5.8	15.4
2002-03	Outturn	6.1	15.7
2003-04	Outturn	6.5	16.5
2004-05	Outturn	6.8	16.8
2005-06	Outturn	7.1	17.1
2006-07	Outturn	7.0	17.2
2007-08	Outturn	7.2	17.5
2008-09	Estimated outturn	7.7	17.8

Sources:
Calculated percentages use information on:
1. Health Public Spending—Table 4.2/Table 4.4 HM Treasury PESA 2009
2. ONS data for money GDP (not seasonally adjusted, BKTL)
3. Total Managed Expenditure: Budget 2009 Table C17

GDP and Public Expenditure are reported on a UK basis by HM Treasury. In order to avoid a misleading calculation, UK based figures for health expenditure have been used in the calculation and not England figures as shown in Table 1. This method is use in response to similar questions posed as part of the Health Select Committee's Public Expenditure Inquiry.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been *(a)* agreed to be spent and *(b)* spent in each primary care trust under the national capitation formula in each year since its inception. [291317]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Revenue allocations under the national capitation formula were first made to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2003-04. Tables showing the Revenue Resource Limit (RRL) and Net Operating Costs for PCTs for each year between 2003-04 and 2008-09 have been placed in the Library.

The Revenue Resource Limit sets the level of agreed revenue expenditure a PCT can incur in a financial year. The Net Operating Costs represent the net revenue expenditure actually incurred in a financial year.

Revenue allocations made under the national capitation formula constitute the majority of the Revenue Resource Limit, with the balance of that limit comprising central programme allocations and agreed inter-authority transfers.

Osteoporosis

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the merits of piloting osteoporosis indicators for inclusion in the 2011-12 Quality and Outcomes Framework. [291212]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under the new independent process for reviewing proposed changes to the clinical indicators within the current Quality and Outcomes Framework, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) are responsible for making any assessment and recommendations for prioritisation. Details of indicators that NICE are currently considering for development were published on 8 September, a copy has been placed in the Library.

NICE will also make a facility available on their website for any organisation or stakeholder to submit proposals for new indicators or changes to existing indicators later this month (September).

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases there have been of individuals claiming exemptions from prescription charges to which they are not entitled in the latest year for which figures are available; what procedures are used by the NHS to reclaim monies owed when such individuals are *(a)* on benefit and *(b)* have a low income; and if he will make a statement. [291351]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of individuals claiming prescription exemptions to which they are not entitled is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The NHS Counter Fraud Service undertakes exercises to measure losses due to false claims for prescription charge evasion. The last such exercise examined claims made in 2007-08. This showed that 2 per cent. of claims for exemption were fraudulent.

Since August 2001, a penalty charge system has been in place in respect of those wrongly claiming exemption to NHS prescription charges. This involves recovering the original charge plus a penalty charge. Recoveries and collection of penalty charges are made by primary care trusts, in the first instance through a civil legal process.

Trusts have discretion to waive the penalty charge if the patient is in a vulnerable group or if there are other relevant circumstances in individual cases. In cases where payment of a penalty charge is pursued, patients on a low income may seek an agreement to pay in instalments.

Patients in receipt of benefits that do not qualify them for exemption to prescription charges and patients on low incomes may be eligible to apply for exemption from prescription charges under the NHS Low Income Scheme.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cautions were issued for public drinking offences in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [286270]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of offenders cautioned for public drinking offences in the Suffolk police force area from 2003-07 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table. Data for 2008 are planned for publication in the autumn of 2009.

The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Offences relating to public drinking were included in the scheme.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for public drinking offences[2], in Suffolk police force area, 2003-07[3, 4]

	Number
2003	240
2004	188
2005	81
2006	70
2007	48

[1] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] Includes the following offences:

14001: (a) Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises. (Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12.)

14011: (b) Contravene a community support officers' requirement not to consume liquor. Penalty offence under S.1 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001—alcohol consumption in designated public places. (Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12). Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S12.)

14101: (c) Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour. (Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.)

[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit: Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Alcoholic Drinks: Unpaid Fines

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* penalty notices for disorder and *(b)* other fines for being drunk and disorderly remained unpaid (i) six and (ii) 12 months after issue in each of the last five years. [288427]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* Information on paid, part paid and unpaid fines for offences of drunk and disorderly are not collected centrally. Information on the enforcement rate of financial penalties imposed by courts is held but cannot identify the originating offence.

It is therefore not possible to establish how many fines remain unpaid over the last five years for drunk and disorderly offences.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288913]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department has invested significantly in its people, with the creation of a professional Shared Service Centre and Procurement Centre of Excellence complemented by the creation of new processes and upgraded Procure to Pay systems.

The Department has been putting a firm focus on paying its suppliers on time when it is in receipt of a compliant invoice. It has been working closely with colleagues in the Department for Business Innovation and Skills reporting on both our legislative obligations of 30 days as well as the 10 day PM's commitment for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for correctly presented compliant invoices.

The Home Office Headquarters and UKBA's performance of paying SME compliant invoices within 10 days for June 2009 following the PM's announcement is shown in the following table:

Home Office HQ and UKBA

		Month: June 2009
	Number	Percentage
Total number of all invoices paid	4,112	—
Percentage of total number of all invoices paid within 10 days	—	22
Number of SMEs' compliant invoices, paid within 10 days	880	—
SMEs, percentage of compliant invoices paid within 10 days	—	99

Both the Criminal Records Bureau and Identity and Passport Service are working to identify SMEs and change their systems to pay compliant invoices within 10 days of receipt.

Entry Clearances

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 666W, how many representations he has received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* other agencies alleging the use of duress in obliging a spouse to sign an application for leave to remain. [288984]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested on representations relating to this issue is not collated and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual correspondence and case records at disproportionate cost.

However, the United Kingdom Border Agency is appraised of the seriousness of this issue and staff have been issued with policy guidance on this.

Offensive Weapons: Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the Tackling Knives Action programme in reducing the number of offences related to the possession of a knife. [287550]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* I believe the scheme has been of benefit in supporting 16 forces to tackle knife crime.

Management information has been collected from a range of sources both before and during the TKAP period, defined as July 2008 to March 2009. This management information was published on 22 July; Tackling Knives Action programme (TKAP) Phase 1: Overview of key trends from a monitoring programme is available on the Home Office Crime Reduction website:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/violentstreet/violentstreet014.htm

Offensive Weapons: Schools

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the engagement of police officers in education programmes in schools in reducing the number of offences related to the possession of a knife. [287552]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* We are working with local partners in expanding the coverage of Safer School Partnerships (SSPs) to become the norm rather than the exception.

Through the Tackling Knives Action Programme we have invested more than £3 million on initiatives to keep children safe in and around schools, including Safer Schools Partnerships (SSP). There are now more than 5,000 Safer Schools Partnerships in operation.

In 2005, York university carried out an evaluation of Safer Schools Partnerships. The partnership is a formal agreement between schools and police to work together in order to keep people safe, reduce crime and the fear of crime and improve behaviour in schools and their communities. Key findings from the evaluation showed that SSP schools:

Have sought ways of identifying and working with children and young people at risk of becoming victims or offenders.

Have reduced truancy rates and helped total absence rates in relation to comparison schools.

Have an environment in which pupils feel significantly safer than their counterparts in comparison schools.

On 11 May 2009 the Home Secretary and Ed Balls, Secretary of State for the Department for Children Schools and Families, launched the new SSP Guidance

and DVD to provide advice on what constitutes a Safer School Partnership, the benefits, how to set up and how to maintain an SSP.

Police

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets his Department has set for police forces for 2009-10. [290878]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* As part of the Policing Green Paper, "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together", the Home Office stated that it would neither set nor maintain top-down numerical targets for individual police forces with the exception of one—to increase public confidence that the police and local councils are dealing with antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter locally. Each police force will be expected to increase public confidence levels (to be measured by questions in the British Crime Survey) to achieve a 60 per cent. national average by 2012.

Police Act 1997/Data Protection Act 1998

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to bring into force *(a)* section 112 of the Police Act 1997 and *(b)* section 56 of the Data Protection Act 1998; [291127]

(2) what recent representations he has received regarding the unavailability of a basic disclosure service from the Criminal Records Bureau. [291128]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Section 56 of the Data Protection Act 1998 will not fully come into force until Section 112 of Part V of the Police Act 1997, which relates to Basic Disclosures, is commenced for England and Wales. In its 2009-10 Business Plan, the CRB have committed to research how it can implement a Basic Disclosure service.

There are no records held of any recent representations made to the Home Office regarding the unavailability of Basic Disclosures.

Police Custody: Death

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have died in police custody in each year since 1990; and in respect of how many such deaths the coroner's court returned a verdict of *(a)* accidental death, *(b)* death by misadventure, *(c)* unlawful killing, *(d)* open verdict and *(e)* another verdict in each such year. [290620]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The Home Office was responsible for publishing statistics relating to death following police contact which included the verdict from any coroner's inquest until 31 March 2004. Since 1 April 2004 the Independent Police Complaints Commission has been responsible for the collation and publication of such data.

The statistics between 1990-2000 are contained within Police Complaints and Discipline Bulletins and separately from 1997 on the Home Office and IPCC websites.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what qualifications relevant to his appointment the Chief Constable of Essex Police holds; what his career in the Police Service has been to date; what process was followed in his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [290642]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Jim Barker-McCardle, brings extensive policing experience and a strong track record to the role of chief constable of Essex.

He joined the police in 1981 serving in a number of uniform and detective roles in Kent. He rose to the rank of assistant chief constable in 1999 and was subsequently the deputy chief constable of Kent Police. He was most recently Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer of the National Policing Improvement Agency.

Chief Constables are appointed by police authorities subject to the approval of the Home Secretary and to police regulations.

An open competition is held by the Police Authority, who consider the suitability of candidates supported by reports from the applicant's chief constable (where they are not already at this rank), and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments to *(a)* the current and *(b)* each previous Chief Constable of Essex Police (i) have been made during each of the last three years and (ii) are planned for each of the next two years. [290643]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 687W which referred to Home Office circulars on chief constable pay. The salary for the chief constable of Essex is currently £144,510

It is for police authorities to determine other payments to chief officers in accordance with legislative requirements.

Territorial Waters

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vessels of *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* the Royal Navy were on patrol in UK territorial waters on average at any one time for the purposes of the interception of (i) illegal immigration and (ii) drug smuggling in the latest period for which information is available. [288542]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency operates five offshore patrol ships in UK territorial waters and adjacent seas. These ships provide operational coverage for 365 days a year. Smaller craft (Rigid Hull inflatable boats) can also be deployed from the patrol ships and are capable of operating independently.

UK Border Agency vessels work regularly in support of operations by other agencies including the Royal Navy.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding for aid for Afghanistan has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent by his Department since 2001. [291369]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) publishes future programme allocations and out-turn expenditure figures each year in its annual report which is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Overseas Aid: Education

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what percentage of its budget his Department spent on overseas education projects in each year since 1997. [291312]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure in the education sector is published annually in "Statistics on International Development", which is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The relevant figures are reproduced as follows:

DFID bilateral expenditure and imputed multilateral expenditure on the education sector and as a proportion of totals, 1997-98 to 2008-09 (£000)

	DFID bilateral expenditure	*Percentage of total DFID bilateral expenditure*	*DFID imputed multilateral share*	*Percentage of total imputed multilateral share*
1997-98	139,550	13	51,151	9
1998-99	144,592	12	69,152	7
1999-2000	121,975	9	31,406	4
2000-01	162,678	10	64,831	6
2001-02	128,603	10	39,346	4
2002-03	179,963	10	93,594	5
2003-04	232,281	11	72,078	6
2004-05	286,269	13	67,329	5
2005-06	314,691	12	65,724	3
2006-07	372,775	13	104,194	6
2007-08	350,603	12	117,441	6
2008-09	450,973	14	—	—

Details are not yet available for DFID imputed multilateral share 2008-09.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288939]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation. The Department did, however, submit evidence to the Commission on Scottish Devolution during its first phase of evidence gathering.

JUSTICE

Children: Remand in Custody

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were detained in custody with adults in each of the last five years. [287686]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of young people under 18 years old who have been required to share accommodation with adults is not collected centrally.

Young people are not routinely required to share accommodation with adults. They will only do so in a small number of cases where there are exceptional circumstances, such as the need to manage disruptive and violent behaviour, and where this is considered to be the preferred course of action.

Community Orders: Publicity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been placed on the high visibility payback scheme in each of the last 12 months. [287944]

Mr. Straw: Distinctive high visibility jackets have been worn by offenders sentenced to Community Payback since December 2008. The number of work projects on which distinctive clothing is used and the number of hours worked by offenders wearing distinctive clothing is monitored by the National Management of Offender Service. The number of offenders allocated to high visibility Community Payback work projects is not recorded. This is because the existing data provides a clear indication of the proportion of work undertaken in probation areas using distinctive clothing. The number of Community Payback work projects on which distinctive high visibility clothing was worn by offenders and the number of hours worked on these sites since December 2008 is shown in the following table.

Month	*Number of projects operated*	*Number of hours worked*
December	2,560	210,974
January	2,538	321,853
February	2,422	326,618
March	2,938	401,680
April to June	6,822	1,177,176

In the year April 2008 to March 2009 over 62,000 offenders successfully completed Community Payback sentences and approximately 8.4 million hours were worked.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who have been placed on the high visibility payback scheme have not completed the scheme. [287971]

Mr. Straw: In the period April to June 2009 75.3 per cent. of offenders sentenced to Community Payback successfully completed their sentences. All community sentences are rigorously enforced and following more than one absence without good reason, National Standards require that offenders are returned to court. If there is wilful refusal to comply with the sentence, the court may impose a prison sentence. Offenders may fail to

complete their sentences for a number of reasons, including revocation of the Community Payback sentence and the imposition of an alternative sentence following failure to comply, revocation as a result of illness, or revocation following the imposition of a custodial sentence for other offences.

Information relating to successful completion of sentences by offenders allocated to high visibility work sites is not available separately from the overall successful completion rate for offenders sentenced to Community Payback, not all of whom will have been allocated exclusively to high visibility work sites.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the funds made available by the Criminal Injuries Board has been paid to *(a)* UK, *(b)* EU and *(c)* other citizens in each of the last three years; and if he will take steps to ensure that the country of origin and residence of those individuals who have received Criminal Injuries Compensation are (i) recorded and (ii) made available to the public. [291329]

Claire Ward: Eligibility to apply for compensation under the criminal injuries compensation scheme (CICS) is open to blameless victims of violent crime occurring in Great Britain, regardless of their nationality. Accordingly, as an applicant's nationality has no bearing on the assessment of his/her application for compensation, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA), which administers the CICS, does not maintain statistics on the citizenship of compensation applicants. The information sought is not therefore available and for the same reason CICA has no plans to record this information.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Convictions

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions were secured for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each local authority area in the North West in each of the last five years. [291311]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act in the north-west region by police force area from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. The Ministry of Justice do not centrally collect data by local authority area.

Data for 2008 will be available towards the end of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act in the north-west region, by force, 2003 to 2007[1,2]

	Proceeded against					Found guilty				
Force	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cheshire	25	15	7	14	20	16	11	3	8	16
Cumbria	16	18	17	24	24	11	13	12	18	13
Greater Manchester	45	53	56	60	60	48	33	40	45	44
Lancashire	20	27	31	41	40	16	11	14	28	25
Merseyside	17	25	18	18	40	5	14	12	8	37
North-west region	131	138	129	157	184	96	92	94	107	134

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. Where a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:
Statistics and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Probation Service has spent on information technology since May 1997. [290977]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to answer the question without incurring disproportionate cost as it would be necessary to request information from each of the 34 local area probation boards and eight probation trusts that make up the current National Probation Service (NPS). Furthermore, the NPS was established on 1 April 2001 as a central government service and prior to this it was a local authority service that was organised on a different basis.

Elections: Costs

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been produced on whether the office and staffing costs of hon. Members, as Members of Parliament are included in the new pre-candidacy election spending limit. [291211]

Mr. Wills: Section 21 of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 introduces pre-candidacy limits on individuals' election expenses where a general election is held after 55 months of a Parliament have elapsed. The pre-candidacy spending limit will operate in the same way as the limit on post-dissolution candidate expenses. In order to be regulated by either limit, spending must be: (i) used during the relevant regulated period; (ii) on one of the matters listed in part 1 of Schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983; and (iii) used for the purposes of the individual's election.

The Electoral Commission has produced initial guidance on candidate expenses should the next UK parliamentary election be held in 2010, when the pre-candidacy spending limit would operate. The Commission is seeking

feedback on that initial guidance and intends to publish final guidance in December 2009.

Staff and office costs incurred by hon. Members' in respect of their parliamentary duties are not for the purposes of election and therefore would not be counted against the spending limit.

Electronic Communications

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of each offence relating to the illegal use of electronic communications media in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [280180]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the 1990 Computer Misuse Act in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available towards the end of 2009.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990, England and Wales, 2003–07[1, 2]

		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Offence	*Section*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Unauthorised access to computer material.	Section 1	7	1	3	3	5	4	7	4	8	3
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences.	Section 2	9	1	6	2	11	7	5	4	2	—
Unauthorised acts with intent to impair, or with recklessness as to impairing, operation of computer etc	Section 3 and 3A	3	1	10	7	8	5	13	10	9	7
Total		19	3	21	12	24	16	25	18	19	10

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with.
Where a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Fines: Surcharges

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations in each county have received grants made from the Victims' Fund containing the surcharge on fines pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Surcharge) (No. 2) Order 2007. [291428]

Claire Ward: The following organisations have received funding from the Victims Fund for third sector organisations supporting victims of sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse; homicide and hate crime.

2007-08	*Sexual Abuse/violence*	*Homicide*	*Hate Crime*
National	CliVaro	—	—
	Voice UK	—	—
	Survivors UK	—	—
London	Respond	Victims of Crime Trust	Greenwich Action Committee Against Racial Attacks
	One in Four	Victim Support London	Stonewall
	Lilith Project Eaves Housing		Hounslow Community Safety Partnership
	Step Forward	—	—
	Galop	—	—
East Midlands	Derbyshire Rape Crisis		Northamptonshire Hate Crime Forum
	Nottingham Rape Crisis	—	—

2007-08	Sexual Abuse/violence	Homicide	Hate Crime
	Sexual abuse and Incest Line (SAIL)	—	—
	Northamptonshire Rape and Incest Crisis	—	—
	Crisis Point	—	—
	Walsall Street Teams (The Space Project)	—	—
West Midlands	Sexual and Domestic Abuse and Rape Advice Centre (SARAC)	—	—
	Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	—	—
	Coventry Rape Crisis	—	—
	The Rape and Sexual Abuse Violence Project (Birmingham)	—	—
North East, Humberside and Yorkshire	Women's Support Network	National Victim's Association	Kirklees Safer Communities Partnership
	Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid	Victim Support and Witness Service	Inclusion North
	Bradford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Survivors Service	SASH4 South Yorkshire	Bradford Hate Crime Allowance
	Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre	West Yorkshire Police	—
	Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	—	—
	Sheffield Women's Counselling and Therapy Service	—	—
North West	Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre Cheshire and Merseyside (Previously Warrington Rape Crisis)	Greater Manchester Police	Liverpool Culture Company
	Manchester Rape Crisis	SASH4 Merseyside	Rochdale Borough Council
	—	—	Victim Support Greater Manchester
South East and East	RASAC- Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (Winchester)	Barnardos	North Herts People First
	Survivors Network	Victim Support Bedfordshire	Bedfordshire Hate Crime Partnership
	Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre	The Child Bereavement Trust	Partnership Community Safety Team
	No Limits	—	Victim Support Kent
	South Essex Rape and Crisis Centre (SERICC)	—	Gender Identity Research and Education Society
	HEAL (Helping Everyone Abused Live)	—	BMEYPP
	Colchester Rape Crisis Line	—	—
South West	Womankind (Bristol Women's Therapy Centre)	Winston's Wish	The Intercom Trust
	Survivors Swindon	—	—
	Plymouth Rape and Sexual Abuse Line	—	—
	Twelve's Company	—	—
	Womens Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Cornwall (WRASAC)	—	—
Wales	New Pathways	—	—
	Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (North Wales)	—	—
2008-09	Sexual Abuse/violence	Homicide	Hate Crime
National	CEOPs	Child Bereavement Charity	Voice UK
	Voice UK	—	—
	Survivors UK	—	—
London	Respond	Victims of Crime Trust	Greenwich Action Committee Against Racial Attacks
	One in Four	—	—
	Lilith Project Eaves Housing	—	—
	Step Forward	—	—
	Galop	—	—
East Midlands	Derbyshire Rape Crisis	—	—
	Nottingham Rape Crisis	—	—
	Sexual abuse and Incest Line (SAIL)	—	—
	Northamptonshire Rape and Incest Crisis	—	—
	Crisis Point	—	—
	Walsall Street Teams (The Space Project)	—	—

2007-08	Sexual Abuse/violence	Homicide	Hate Crime
West Midlands	Sexual and Domestic Abuse and Rape Advise Centre (SARAC) .	—	—
	Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	—	—
	Coventry Rape Crisis	—	—
	The Rape and Sexual Abuse		
	Violence Project (Birmingham)		
North East, Humberside and Yorkshire	Women's Support Network	National Victim's Association	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid	—	West Yorkshire Police
	Bradford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Survivors Service	—	Victim Support Teeside
	Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre	—	—
	Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	—	—
	Sheffield Women's Counselling and Therapy Service	—	—
North West	Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre Cheshire and Merseyside (Previously Warrington Rape Crisis)	SAMM Merseyside	Greater Manchester Police - Bury Division
	Manchester Rape Crisis		
South East and East	RASAC- Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (Winchester)	Victim Support Bedfordshire	North Herts People First
	SurvivorsNetwork	—	Gender Identity Research and Education Society
	Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre	—	—
	No Limits	—	—
	South Essex Rape and Crisis Centre (SERICC)	—	—
	HEAL (Helping Everyone Abused Live)	—	—
	Colchester Rape Crisis Line	—	—
South West	WomanKind (Bristol Women's Therapy Centre)	—	—
	Survivors Swindon	—	—
	Plymouth Rape and Sexual Abuse Line	—	—
	Twelve's Company	—	—
	Womens Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Cornwall (WRASAC)	—	—
Wales	New Pathways	—	—
	Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (North Wales)	—	—
2009-10	Sexual Abuse/violence	Homicide	Hate Crime
National	CIS'ters	—	—
	Voice UK	—	—
	Survivors UK	—	—
London	Respond	Damilola Taylor Trust	Community Security Trust
	One-in-Four		Stonewall
	Lilith Project Eaves Housing		Age Concern Camden
	Step Forward	—	—
	Galop	—	—
East Midlands	Derbyshire Rape Crisis	—	Voice UK (Derby)
	Nottingham Rape Crisis	—	—
	Sexual abuse and Incest Line (SAIL)	—	—
	Northamptonshire Rape and Incest Crisis	—	—
	Crisis Point	—	—
	Walsall Street Trauma (The Jigsaw Project)	—	—
West Midlands	Sexual and Domestic Abuse and Rape Advise Centre (SARAC)	—	—
	Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	—	—
	Coventry Rape Crisis	—	—

2007-08	Sexual Abuse/violence	Homicide	Hate Crime
	The Rape and Sexual Abuse Violence Project (Birmingham)	—	—
North East, Humberside and Yorkshire	Women's Support Network	National Victim's Association	Stop Hate UK (Leeds)
	Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid	—	Royal Mencap Society (Kirklees Involvement Network)
	Bradford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Survivors Service	—	—
	Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre	—	—
	Grimsby and Scunthorpe s Rape Crisis	—	—
	Sheffield Women's Counselling and	—	—
	Therapy Service	—	—
North West	Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre Cheshire and Merseyside (Previously Warrington Rape Crisis)	SAMM Merseyside	—
	Manchester Rape Crisis	—	—
South East and East	RASAC- Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (Winchester)	Mothers Against Murder and Aggression	Gender Identity Research and Education Society (Surrey)
	SurvivorsNetwork	—	North Herts People First
	Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre	—	Redbridge Equalities and Community Council (Essex)
	No Limits	—	—
	South Essex Rape and Crisis Centre (SERICC)	—	—
	HEAL (Helping Everyone Abused Live)	—	—
	Colchester Rape Crisis Line	—	—
South West	WomanKind (Bristol Women's Therapy Centre)	Winston's Wish	—
	Survivors Swindon	Advocacy after Fatal Domestic Abuse	—
	Plymouth Rape and Sexual Abuse Line	—	—
	Twelve's Company	—	—
	Womens Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	—	—
	Cornwall (WRASAC)	—	—
Wales	New Pathways	—	Torfaen People First (South Wales)
	Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (North Wales)	—	—

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been raised by the surcharge on fines, pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Surcharge) (No. 2) Order 2007 in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [291429]

Claire Ward: The following table shows the total annual receipts from the Victim Surcharge from 1 April 2007. Receipts for 2009 are not yet available.

Date	£ million Receipts
2007-08	3.8
2008-09	8

Magistrates: Diversity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent to increase diversity among magistrates in each of the last three years. [287961]

Mr. Straw: 101 local advisory committees recruit and select magistrates in England and Wales. Recruitment funding is provided on the basis of local need and the committees are encouraged to target recruitment at under-represented groups in their areas. The Ministry of Justice also funds the Magistrates' Shadowing Scheme, run by Operation Black Vote, which aims to promote ethnic diversity among Magistrates. The following amounts have been spent on recruitment funding and the Shadowing Scheme in each of the last three financial years:

2006-07 Recruitment: £89,945 Shadowing Scheme £90,000

2007-08 Recruitment: £214,738 Shadowing Scheme £70,000

2008-09 Recruitment: £187,677 Shadowing Scheme £70,000

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he has now set for the appointment of directors of offender management in *(a)* the regions of England and *(b)* in Wales. [288803]

Maria Eagle: HM Prison Service has had 13 area managers who have been responsible for the prisons within those areas and then regional offender managers were appointed in 11 areas who dealt with both prisons and probation areas. In 2008, two areas, London and Wales, piloted the new approach of a director of offender management.

It was decided to extend this to the other areas and an advert for the remaining nine director level posts was launched in November 2008. Appointments were made in eight of the nine regions in England and the one in Wales. The successful candidates took up post in late March and during April 2009.

There is currently an interim appointment in place in the North East. This post is due to be advertised in September with a view to filling it substantively by the end of the calendar year.

Prison Sentences

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many indeterminate sentences for public protection have been handed down in each *(a)* region and *(b)* police force area in each year since their inception. [291308]

Claire Ward: The requested information is shown in the following tables.

Persons sentenced to IPP's by region and year, 2005-07, England and Wales

Number of persons

Region	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
London	29	268	290
North West	95	289	298
North East	71	241	264
Midlands	68	139	198
Eastern	47	178	193
South East	60	215	272
South West	28	100	86
Wales	52	98	106
Total	426	1,448	1,707

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Persons sentenced to IPP's by force and year, 2005-07, England and Wales

Number of persons

Force	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	2	34	25
Bedfordshire	7	11	18
Cambridgeshire	3	18	20
Cheshire	23	33	30
Cleveland	4	17	13
Cumbria	5	6	8
Derbyshire	3	23	25
Devon and Cornwall	5	22	19
Dorset	5	15	17
Durham	5	10	14
Essex	14	33	25
Gloucestershire	4	17	13
Greater Manchester	42	133	157
Hampshire	12	35	43
Hertfordshire	6	16	22
Humberside	10	12	27
Kent	1	32	46
Lancashire	14	29	34
Leicestershire	9	23	32
Lincolnshire	4	14	10
Merseyside	11	36	49
Metropolitan Police	29	208	290
Norfolk	3	18	16
North Yorkshire	5	16	23
Northamptonshire	5	17	19
Northumbria	9	71	55
Nottinghamshire	11	43	47
South Yorkshire	19	60	54
Staffordshire	4	23	26
Suffolk	7	18	17
Surrey	2	9	25
Sussex	3	20	22
Thames Valley	15	39	69
Warwickshire	3	12	17
West Mercia	9	19	27
West Midlands	28	85	128
West Yorkshire	19	35	78
Wiltshire	12	12	10
Dyfed-Powys	10	11	10
Gwent	6	11	24
North Wales	7	13	19
South Wales	29	63	53
Total	426	1,448	1,707

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful attempts were made to escape from HM Prison Lancaster since June 2007. [288562]

Maria Eagle: There have been no successful escapes or unsuccessful escape attempts from HMP Lancaster since June 2007. Escapes from prison have been falling for over a decade and 2008-09 saw the lowest level of prison escapes since records began.

Figures on escapes and a range of other prison performance statistics are available at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners held on their own in cells designed for more than one prisoner have been assessed as *(a)* high risk and *(b)* very high risk. [287873]

Claire Ward: The Cell Sharing Risk Assessment process provides a risk category of low, medium or high risk to prisoners when they enter custody. The category 'very high risk' is not used. Data is not held centrally on the number of prisoners allocated to each category.

Prisoners: Pay

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average weekly rate of unemployment pay paid in each prison in England and Wales was in 2008; [288192]

(2) what the standard rate of weekly prisoner pay for each job or other purposeful activity was in each prison in England and Wales in 2008. [288193]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not centrally available and could be collated only by manual checking with individual establishments, which would incur disproportionate cost. However, Prison Service Order 4460 (Prisoners' Pay), a copy of which has been placed in the House Library, sets out minimum rates of prisoner pay which includes allowance levels for unemployment and for work (enabling prisoners to obtain life skills), education and other duties or activities. The PSO sets a minimum unemployed rate of £2.50 per week and an employed rate of pay of £4.00 per week. However Governors have devolved authority to set rates of pay for their particular establishment and these will reflect the particular regime priorities of their establishment.

Prisoners: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men with a home address in Wales were serving custodial sentences in each prison outside Wales at the latest date for which figures are available; and what lengths of sentence such prisoners were serving. [291171]

Maria Eagle: The following tables show the total number of sentenced females (table A) and sentenced males (table B) with a home address in Wales who are held in a prison in England as of May 2009. The tables include the sentences these prisoners are serving and in which prisons in England they are held.

The figures in both tables include sentenced juveniles and young offenders.

Home area is taken as a prisoner's home address. If no home address is recorded the court of first committal is used as a proxy address for recording purposes.

Table A

Prison	Less than 6 months	6 months to less than 12 months	12 months to less than 4 years	4 years or over	Total
Askham Grange	—	—	1	2	3
Bronzefield	—	—	1	1	2
Downview	—	2	6	1	9
Drake Hall	1	3	10	3	17
East Sutton Park	1	—	—	3	4
Eastwood Park	19	9	27	6	61
Foston Hall	—	1	4	6	11
Holloway	—	—	—	1	1
Low Newton	—	—	1	2	3
Morton Hall	—	—	—	1	1
New Hall	—	1	1	2	4
Peterborough	—	—	1	1	2
Send	1	2	8	11	22
Styal	1	2	7	6	16
Total	23	20	67	46	156

Table B

Prison	Less than 6 months	6 months to less than 12 months	12 months to less than 4 years	4 years or over	Total
Acklington	—	—	1	4	5
Albany		—	—	19	19
Altcourse	43	29	150	89	311
Ashfield	3	8	17	2	30
Ashwell	—	—	—	3	3
Aylesbury	—	—	—	10	10
Bedford	—	—	—	2	2
Birmingham	—	1	1	2	4
Blundeston	—	—	—	3	3
Brinsford	—	1	2	1	4
Bristol	—	—	4	—	4
Brixton	—	—	—	1	1
Buckley Hall	—	—	1	6	7
Bullingdon	—	—	1	4	5
Camp Hill	—	—	2	2	4
Canterbury	—	—	8	1	9
Channings Wood	—	1	42	54	97
Coldingley	—	—	2	—	2
Dartmoor	—	1	24	49	74
Deerbolt	—	—	1	—	1
Doncaster	—	—	—	1	1
Dorchester	—	1	1	—	2
Dovegate	—	—	3	50	53
Elmley	—	—	1	3	4
Erlestoke	—	—	21	52	73
Everthorpe	—	—	—	2	2
Exeter	—	—	2	3	5
Featherstone	—	—	4	10	14
Ford	—	—	3	1	4
Forest Bank	—	—	1	1	2
Frankland	—	—	—	23	23
Full Sutton	—	—	—	15	15
Garth	—	—	1	39	40
Gartree	—	—	—	14	14
Glen Parva	—	—	4	1	5
Gloucester	2	—	7	4	13
Grendon	—	—	—	4	4
Guys Marsh	—	1	27	32	60
Haverigg	—	—	6	9	15
Hewell	—	—	5	7	12
Highdown	—	—	2	3	5
Highpoint	—	—	1	4	5
Hindley	—	1	1	—	2
Hollesley Bay	—	—	—	1	1
Hull	—	—	—	1	1
Huntercombe	—	—	2	—	2
Kennet	1	1	13	7	22
Kingston	—	—	—	9	9
Kirkham	—	—	6	9	15
Kirklevington Grange	—	—	—	1	1
Lancaster	—	—	1	—	1
Lancaster Farms	—	—	1	2	3
Leyhill	—	—	8	26	34
Lincoln	—	—	—	1	1
Lindholme	—	—	—	4	4
Littlehey	—	—	1	9	10
Liverpool	—	2	5	3	10

Table B

Prison	Less than 6 months	6 months to less than 12 months	12 months to less than 4 years	4 years or over	Total
Long Lartin	—	—	—	11	11
Lowdham Grange	—	—	2	4	6
Maidstone	—	—	1	1	2
Manchester	—	3	—	1	4
Moorland	—	—	—	2	2
Mount	—	—	—	1	1
North Sea Camp	—	—	1	1	2
Northallerton	—	—	1	—	1
Norwich	—	—	2	—	2
Onley	—	—	2	—	2
Parkhurst	—	—	—	4	4
Peterborough	—	1	2	—	3
Portland	—	—	9	3	12
Preston	—	—	—	1	1
Ranby	—	—	—	2	2
Risley	—	—	21	29	50
Rye Hill	—	—	—	26	26
Shepton Mallet	—	—	—	12	12
Shrewsbury	1	—	1	1	3
Spring Hill	—	—	1	2	3
Stafford	—	1	7	8	16
Stocken	—	—	2	10	12
Stoke Heath	13	19	31	8	71
Sudbury	—	—	—	6	6
Swaleside	—	—	—	11	11
Swinfen Hall	—	—	5	18	23
Thorn Cross	—	2	7	1	10
Verne	—	—	2	7	9
Wakefield	—	—	—	41	41
Wandsworth	—	—	2	4	6

Table B

Prison	Less than 6 months	6 months to less than 12 months	12 months to less than 4 years	4 years or over	Total
Warren Hill	—	—	2	—	2
Wayland	—	—	—	3	3
Wealstun	—	—	1	—	1
Wellingborough	—	—	—	4	4
Werrington	—	2	1	—	3
Wetherby	—	—	—	1	1
Whatton	—	—	2	13	15
Whitemoor	—	—	—	3	3
Winchester	—	—	—	1	1
Wolds	—	—	1	2	3
Woodhill	—	—	—	1	1
Wymott	—	1	20	25	46
Total	63	76	509	871	1,519

Prisons: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers at each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution have been suspended in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many of those suspended were subsequently (i) convicted of an offence, (ii) disciplined and (iii) dismissed. [290754]

Maria Eagle: The disciplinary process in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), including authority for suspending staff from duty, is devolved to a local level.

While historical information concerning the outcome of formal disciplinary cases is held centrally within NOMS, these records do not indicate whether or not the member of staff concerned was suspended from duty during the course of the disciplinary proceedings. A summary of the numbers of centrally recorded dismissals and other disciplinary penalties for each of the last five years is provided in the following table:

	2004-05[1]	2005-06[1]	2006-07[1]	2007-08[1]	2008-09[1]	Total
Dismissal	73	80	88	44	32	317
Other penalty	223	311	360	254	222	1,370
Total	296	391	448	298	254	1,687

[1] Covers the period 1 September through 31 August 2009.

Information about staff suspensions has only been recorded centrally since October 2007. In order to provide the detailed information requested, we would need to contact all public sector Prison Service establishments and ask them to check their paper records. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisoner-on-prisoner and *(b)* prisoner-on-staff assaults involving weapons of each type there were in 2008. [291410]

Claire Ward: The administrative IT system holding this data is currently being reconfigured and I therefore will write with the information as soon as possible.

Probation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offenders under probation supervision were *(a)* in employment and *(b)* living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or licence (i) in total and (ii) in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [291189]

Maria Eagle: The figures requested are available for 2008-09 and 2009-10 only and are shown in tables.

Employment is known to be a key factor in helping to reduce re-offending. The Government's aim therefore is to improve the quantity and quality of offender learning to provide more offenders with the skills and motivation to turn away from crime, improve their employability, and become productive members of society.

NOMS is actively engaging with employers to create employment opportunities for offenders both in prison and on release. The Government are committed to expanding this programme significantly.

The Government recognise the contribution that having a stable home makes to the rehabilitation of offenders and the reduction of re-offending. The National Offender Management Service is working in partnership with other Government Departments, local authorities and housing providers to deliver public service agreement (PSA) 16, which includes a commitment to raising the proportion of offenders under the supervision of the probation service that are in suitable and stable accommodation at the end of their supervision.

Performance against employment targets in 2009-10 has shown a decline compared to 2008-09, but this must be seen in the context of the economic downturn. The current economic climate has exacerbated the disadvantages already faced by offenders in the jobs market. However, we remain committed to maximising employment opportunities for offenders and we are working with probation areas to ensure they retain their focus on performance.

Table 1: Offenders in employment at termination of order/licence 2008-09

Probation area	*Number of offenders in employment*	*Number of terminations (orders and licences)*	*Percentage in employment*	*Target (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	713	1,714	42	40
Bedfordshire	405	781	52	40
Cambridgeshire	276	543	51	40
Cheshire	666	1,389	48	40
Cumbria	325	639	51	40
Derbyshire	595	1,259	47	40
Devon and Cornwall	627	1,518	41	40
Dorset	449	879	51	42
Durham	534	1,175	45	40
Dyfed Powys	313	668	47	40
Essex	1,040	1,963	53	40
Gloucestershire	568	1,180	48	40
Greater Manchester	2,856	6,670	43	40
Gwent	404	914	44	40
Hampshire	1,105	2,239	49o	40
Hertfordshire	666	1,153	58	40
Humberside	717	1,725	42	40
Kent	1,198	2,466	49	40
Lancashire	1,175	2,713	43	40
Leicestershire	829	1,633	51	40
Lincolnshire	397	777	51	40
London	3,015	7,896	38	40
Merseyside	1,001	2,713	37	40
Norfolk	270	738	37	40
North Wales	335	730	46	40
North Yorkshire	429	817	53	40
Northamptonshire	412	838	49	40
Northumbria	780	1,809	43	40
Nottinghamshire	672	1,690	40	40
South Wales	511	1,551	33	40
South Yorkshire	756	1,944	39	40
Staffordshire	818	1,658	49	40
Suffolk	334	732	46	40
Surrey	469	850	55	40
Sussex	865	1,773	49	40
Teesside	423	1,363	31	40
Thames Valley	1,170	2,183	54	40
Warwickshire	335	663	51	40
West Mercia	663	1,359	49	40
West Midlands	2,305	5,518	40	40
West Yorkshire	1,218	2,782	44	40
Wiltshire	363	685	53	45
National total	32,904	74,290	44	40

Table 2: Offenders in employment at termination of order/licence 2009-10 (April-July)

Probation area	*Number of offenders in employment*	*Number of terminations (orders and licences)*	*Percentage in employment*	*Target (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	214	584	37	40
Bedfordshire	108	227	48	46

Table 2: Offenders in employment at termination of order/licence 2009-10 (April-July)

Probation area	Number of offenders in employment	Number of terminations (orders and licences)	Percentage in employment	Target (percentage)
Cambridgeshire	94	236	40	46
Cheshire	145	376	39	50
Cumbria	81	197	41	50
Derbyshire	161	409	39	42
Devon and Cornwall	161	385	42	40
Dorset	94	254	37	40
Durham	152	385	39	40
Dyfed Powys	61	174	35	40
Essex	265	569	47	43
Gloucestershire	112	253	44	40
Greater Manchester	1,006	2,630	38	40
Gwent	111	310	36	40
Hampshire	361	823	44	45
Hertfordshire	207	416	50	46
Humberside	179	549	33	40
Kent	260	691	38	50
Lancashire	340	888	38	42
Leicestershire	192	440	44	42
Lincolnshire	84	209	40	46
London	1,298	3,861	34	40
Merseyside	249	802	31	40
Norfolk	69	217	32	40
North Wales	101	280	36	40
North Yorkshire	104	235	44	40
Northamptonshire	137	290	47	42
Northumbria	313	862	36	40
Nottinghamshire	200	513	39	40
South Wales	186	535	35	40
South Yorkshire	205	609	34	40
Staffordshire	215	511	42	45
Suffolk	88	218	40	40
Surrey	140	258	54	40
Sussex	186	438	42	40
Teeside	95	400	24	40
Thames Valley	278	615	45	45
Warwickshire	99	238	42	45
West Mercia	192	482	40	40
West Midlands	736	2,156	34	40
West Yorkshire	379	1,044	36	40
Wiltshire	79	174	45	40
National total	9,737	25,743	38	42

Table 3: Offenders in settled and suitable accommodation at termination of order/licence 2008-09

Probation area	Number of offenders in settled and suitable accommodation at termination	Number of terminations of orders and licences	Percentage in settled and suitable accommodation	Target (percentage)
Avon and Somerset	1,495	2,044	73	70
Bedfordshire	729	898	81	75
Cambridgeshire	518	642	81	76
Cheshire	1,314	1,643	80	70
Cumbria	704	837	84	70
Derbyshire	1,256	1,510	83	70
Devon and Cornwall	1,381	1,859	74	70
Dorset	810	1,055	77	70
Durham	1,293	1,554	83	80
Dyfed Powys	648	813	80	80
Essex	1,823	2,314	79	75
Gloucestershire	1,028	1,387	74	70
Greater Manchester	6,597	8,430	78	70
Gwent	859	1,108	78	75
Hampshire	2,036	2,695	76	70
Hertfordshire	1,064	1,332	80	76
Humberside	1,581	2,028	78	70

Table 3: Offenders in settled and suitable accommodation at termination of order/licence 2008-09

Probation area	Number of offenders in settled and suitable accommodation at termination	Number of terminations of orders and licences	Percentage in settled and suitable accommodation	Target (percentage)
Kent	2,194	2,850	77	70
Lancashire	2,664	3,342	80	70
Leicestershire	1,523	1,848	82	70
Lincolnshire	778	946	82	70
London	6,089	8,599	71	70
Merseyside	2,704	3,327	81	70
Norfolk	677	893	76	70
North Wales	704	915	77	75
North Yorkshire	720	937	77	70
Northamptonshire	741	950	78	70
Northumbria	2,062	2,494	83	82
Nottinghamshire	1,658	2,072	80	70
South Wales	1,494	2,050	73	70
South Yorkshire	1,833	2,340	78	70
Staffordshire	1,629	2,069	79	70
Suffolk	677	851	80	72
Surrey	772	970	80	74
Sussex	1,661	2,203	75	70
Teesside	1,279	1,659	77	80
Thames Valley	1,944	2,514	77	70
Warwickshire	591	750	79	70
West Mercia	1,229	1,562	79	70
West Midlands	4,854	6,169	79	70
West Yorkshire	2,556	3,223	79	70
Wiltshire	651	821	79	70
National total	68,820	88,503	78	71

Table 4: Offenders in settled and suitable accommodation at termination of order/licence 2009-10 (April-July)

Probation area	Number of offenders in settled and suitable accommodation at termination	Number of terminations of orders and licences	Percentage in settled and suitable accommodation	Target (percentage)
Avon and Somerset	479	692	69	71
Bedfordshire	224	260	86	77
Cambridgeshire	208	280	74	77
Cheshire	359	444	81	75
Cumbria	200	243	82	75
Derbyshire	450	524	86	80
Devon and Cornwall	374	497	75	70
Dorset	254	324	78	75
(Durham	431	525	82	82
Dyfed Powys	165	219	75	80
Essex	557	687	81	77
Gloucestershire	245	319	77	73
Greater Manchester	2,654	3,347	79	75
Gwent	310	404	77	75
Hampshire	792	1,000	79	70
Hertfordshire	369	469	79	76
Humberside	510	631	81	73
Kent	611	826	74	70
Lancashire	877	1,095	80	75
Leicestershire	437	504	87	80
Lincolnshire	199	253	79	80
London	2,978	4,247	70	70
Merseyside	820	1,011	81	80
Norfolk	216	272	79	73
North Wales	246	341	72	75
North Yorkshire	218	271	80	73
Northamptonshire	275	325	85	75
Northumbria	951	1,178	81	83
Nottinghamshire	536	673	80	76
South Wales	611	776	79	70
South Yorkshire	549	725	76	75

Table 4: Offenders in settled and suitable accommodation at termination of order/licence 2009-10 (April-July)

Probation area	Number of offenders in settled and suitable accommodation at termination	Number of terminations of orders and licences	Percentage in settled and suitable accommodation	Target (percentage)
Staffordshire	529	636	83	75
Suffolk	196	252	78	77
Surrey	256	303	84	75
Sussex	416	546	76	75
Teesside	376	491	77	81
Thames Valley	548	719	76	70
Warwickshire	205	276	74	75
West Mercia	465	563	83	75
West Midlands	1,884	2,431	77	75
West Yorkshire	948	1,207	79	75
Wiltshire	182	211	86	74
National total	24,110	30,997	78	75

Probation : West Yorkshire

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers were employed by West Yorkshire Probation Area on 31 March of each of the last five years. [288667]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the numbers of Probation Officers and Probation Service Officers in post in the West Yorkshire Probation Area on 31 March in each of the last five financial years:

	Probation officers[1]	Probation service officers[2]
2003-04	314	307
2004-05	332	302
2005-06	363	276
2006-07	375	294
2007-08[3]	371	272

[1] Probation officer figures include Senior Probation Officers, Senior Practitioners, Practice Development Assessors and Probation Officers.
[2] Probation services officers figures include Probation Services Officers and Treatment Managers.
[3] The information provided has yet to be made public and may therefore be subject to minor amendment upon publication.
Note:
Figures are shown as full time equivalents.

Figures for the year 2008-09 are not yet available.

Prosecutions

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions were commenced under section 123(2) of the Police Act 1997 in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how many such prosecutions resulted in a conviction. [291126]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for an offence under section 123 of the 1997 Police Act are shown in the table below. Section 123(2) of the 1997 Police Act states that it is an offence to "Make a false statement to obtain a criminal record or conviction certificate". Centrally held data do not separately identify under which part of section 123 court proceedings took place.

Data for 2008 will be available towards the end of 2009.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under section 123 of the Police Act 1997, England and Wales, 2007[1,2]

	Number
Proceeded against	1
Found guilty	1

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Sex Offenders

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice, training and support is given to staff in the National Offender Management Service in ensuring that sex offenders operating *(a)* in online forums and *(b)* in other areas do not pose a danger to children. [288878]

Maria Eagle: Probation Officers in the National Offender Management Service are trained to undertake a comprehensive assessment of all sexual offenders prior to sentence, using evidence based assessment tools, including Risk Matrix 2000 which has been designed specifically to assess the likelihood of reconviction for a sexual offence. The assessments are used to create a risk management plan for the offender, and, if online offending was assessed to be likely, this would be addressed in the risk management plan. For the most serious sexual offenders, the risk assessment and risk management will be undertaken within the context of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Within MAPPA, the Police Probation and Prison Services work together to assess and manage the risks presented by the most serious sexual offenders.

For sexual offenders subject to licensed release from custody, licence conditions may prohibit them from, for example, using the internet or may exclude them from places where they might pose a risk of harm to children. If they breach their licence conditions, they are liable to

be recalled to custody. In addition, the most high risk offenders will be required to reside in approved premises on release from custody. In approved premises, offenders are subject to strict conditions of residence and additional monitoring.

The National Offender Management Service provides guidance, in the form of prison service orders, instructions and manuals, to prison and probation staff to ensure sex offenders do not pose a danger to children while in custody. In addition, specific training and support is given to staff who deliver sex offender treatment programmes.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what disturbances have been reported at *(a)* HM Prison Lancaster and *(b)* HM Young Offender Institution Lancaster Farms since June 2008. [288563]

Maria Eagle: The data in the following table shows the number of disturbance-related incidents recorded on the Prison Service Incident Reporting System from HMP Lancaster and HMPYOI Lancaster Farms between June 2008 and May 2009.

Breakdown of disturbance-related incidents at HMP Lancaster and HMPYOI Lancaster Farms June 2008 to end May 2009

Establishment	Barricade	Concerted indiscipline active	Concerted indiscipline passive	Hostage	Incidents at height
HMP Lancaster	1	0	0	0	0
HMPYOI Lancaster Farms	7	1	2	0	6

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* 10 to 12, *(b)* 13 to 15, *(c)* 16 and 17 and *(d)* 18 to 20 year olds convicted of a non-violent offence were given a custodial sentence in each year since 1997. [291255]

Claire Ward: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 will become available once 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' is published.

This data are presented on the principal offence basis, where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Percentage of offenders sentenced to immediate custodial sentences for non-violent indictable offences[1] 1997-2007

Age group	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
10-12 years old	1.00	0.80	1.00	2.50	3.30	1.70	1.30	2.00	1.40	0.90	0.80
13-15 years old	6.90	6.30	6.70	8.20	9.00	9.20	7.90	7.30	6.50	7.10	6.00
16-17 years old	16.90	15.70	15.60	14.60	14.20	14.80	12.90	13.10	12.50	13.00	11.40
18-20 years old	21.60	21.50	21.60	23.20	23.30	23.10	20.90	22.20	22.40	22.50	22.50

[1] Non-violent indictable offences includes all indictable offences not included in the violence against the person offence group. Summary offences have not been included as they are not categorised into violent and non-violent offences.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

PRIME MINISTER

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Bob Russell: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* special (i) coins and (ii) postage stamps will be produced and *(b)* the status of city will be awarded to one or more towns to mark in 2012 the 60th anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty The Queen; and what other proposals the Government has to mark the anniversary. [291289]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 977W.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what criteria he used to select the experts appointed to the Iraq inquiry; and what discussions he has had with Sir John Chilcot on the merits of inquiry witnesses giving evidence on oath. [291252]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr. Davey) and my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay) on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 106W.

Israel: Prime Ministerial Discussions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister what sanctions against Iran the Israeli Prime Minister proposed at his recent meeting with him; and what response he made to those proposals. [291268]

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed the matter of Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament in his meeting with his Israeli counterpart in London on 25 August 2009. [291250]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with Prime Minister Netanyahu. I refer my hon. Friend and the hon. Member to the press conference I held with the Prime Minister on Tuesday 25 August 2009, a transcript is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page20427

A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Information Commissioner's Operation Motorman

Harry Cohen: To ask the Solicitor-General whether there are plans for further prosecutions arising from the Information Commissioner's Operation Motorman. [291368]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply as the Minister responsible for the Information Commissioner's Office.

In 2004, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) brought four prosecutions on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service for offences related to the unlawful obtaining of personal data using information from the Information Commissioner's Operation Motorman. It has no plans at present to bring further prosecutions.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) also has no plans to pursue further prosecutions as a result of Operation Motorman. This information has been provided by the ICO.

The Government take matters of data protection very seriously. We keep data protection legislation under constant review to ensure that the framework is adequate and work with the ICO closely to ensure that the Act is working well.

TRANSPORT

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the effect on journey times, congestion and pollution at the Dartford River Crossing of the suspension of the tolls in July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [291353]

Paul Clark: The charges were suspended on 21 July 2009 for about six hours between the busy rush hour periods due to the failure of the crossing's standby generator during the power cut. As the traffic counting systems also failed we have no measure of the traffic flows but staff on site reported light flows below normal expected levels. The operator considered that flows in the area were lighter because a significant part of the local network including shopping centres and businesses did not have power to operate.

There was some congestion around 10.30am as the systems failed and the operator switched to manual charge collection.

The crossing was operated manually with staff placed in each lane to control traffic and the additional staffing helped to ensure that there were no significant incidents that would have disrupted traffic in the toll plazas.

The effect on journey times, congestion and pollution cannot be measured but the light traffic levels combined with additional staffing levels operating the crossing appears to have avoided significant delays and stationary traffic.

London Midland: Standards

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the West Coast Main Line infrastructure on London Midland's recent performance. [291231]

Paul Clark: London Midland's performance has been affected in recent months by various failures of Network Rail's infrastructure. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and London Midland to address these issues, with Network Rail committing additional engineers and trouble shooters during the busiest times of the day at around 20 locations. Network Rail is also accelerating the replacement of less reliable equipment, including points, power and signalling cables. Overall recent performance has improved.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to review the level of subsidy provided to London Midland in light of its recent performance. [291232]

Paul Clark: There are no plans to review the level of subsidy provided to London Midland in light of its recent performance.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of London Midland's ability to meet the terms of its franchise commitments. [291233]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport continues to assess London Midland's ability to meet the terms of its franchise commitments. Where an operator does not meet its contractual commitments, the Department follows the processes which are set out in the enforcement policy. A copy of the enforcement policy can be located on the Department's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/archive/2008/rfaandcomain/results.pdf

London-Peterborough Railway Line

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many services on the Peterborough to London rail line were *(a)* cancelled, *(b)* late and *(c)* overcrowded in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [291284]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the specific information requested. The principal train operating company operating on the East Coast is NXEC (previously GNER). The Department does not hold information on trains cancelled by NXEC/GNER, between Peterborough to London.

The operator's total cancellations are listed for the last 10 years in the following table:

GNER/NXEC total cancellations

	Annual totals
2000	306
2001	1,087
2002	615
2003	736
2004	661
2005	559
2006	546
2007	805
2008	997
2009	625

GNER/NXEC total cancellations

	Annual totals
2009	625

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles in each category were registered with a statutory off road notification classification in each of the last three years. [291288]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the number of vehicles by category which were registered as SORN during the last three years.

	Cars	*Motor cycles*	*Light goods*	*Heavy goods*	*Buses and coaches*	*All other vehicles*	*Total*
2006	1,055,256	389,659	188,702	35,264	11,394	39,196	1,691,471
2007	1,040,936	392,270	181,817	35,179	11,690	43,008	1,704,900
2008	1,072,025	426,992	197,564	40,795	12,173	47,807	1,797,336

All other vehicles includes vehicles like tractor excavators, forklift trucks, rollers, ambulances, taxis, three wheelers and agricultural vehicles.

Motorway Service Areas

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will publish the valuation his Department made of motorway service areas owned or partly owned by the Government. [291415]

Paul Clark: A detailed valuation study of the Government's freehold interest in motorway service areas was commissioned by the Highways Agency in April this year. This is being undertaken by property consultants with specialist sector knowledge and their report is expected in October.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which motorway service areas are *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partially owned by his Department. [291416]

Paul Clark: There are 67 Motorway Service Areas (MSA) across the Strategic Road Network in England. The Secretary of State wholly owns the freehold of 20 sites as listed. The Secretary of State has no partial ownership in any MSA.

Birch
Birchanger Green
Burtonwood
Cherwell Valley
Clacket Lane
Corley
Keele
Knutsford
Leicester Forest East
Membury
Newport Pagnall
Northampton
Sandbach
Stretsham (Northbound)
Thurrock
Toddington
Trowell
Warwick
Watford Gap
Woodall

Public Transport: Internet

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of providing free wifi access on all buses and trains in England. [291393]

Paul Clark: No such assessment has been made. The Department for Transport is supportive of the objective of the recent Digital Britain report to provide ubiquitous mobile coverage throughout the transport networks. This is a commercial matter for rail franchisees and bus operators a number of whom have chosen to provide Wifi services to their customers.

Speed Limits: Cameras

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how long on average elapses between the installation of an average speed camera and it becoming operational; and what percentage of such cameras installed in the last 12 months have not become fully operational within this period. [291387]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local road safety partnerships. The partnerships are entirely responsible for the installation and operation of all cameras within their area.

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of *(a)* average and *(b)* fixed speed cameras installed in England and Wales on (i) motorways, (ii) A roads and (iii) B roads in the last 12 months. [291388]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not routinely assess the effectiveness of speed cameras, although the Department's guidance does recommend that speed and collision data are collected by road safety partnerships and the contribution cameras make to casualty reduction monitored and reviewed, at least annually. Cameras that operated under the National Safety Camera programme, which ended on 31 March 2007 proved to be very effective. Fatal casualties reduced by an average of 43 per cent. at fixed camera sites and killed or seriously injured casualties reduced by an average of 51 per cent. At mobile camera sites fatal casualties reduced by 42 per cent. and killed or seriously injured casualties reduced by an average of 22 per cent.

Traffic Management Act 2004

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what occasions highways authorities have been found in breach of the duty to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic under the Traffic Management Act 2004 since the legislation came into force. [291413]

Paul Clark: Section 20 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 enables the Department for Transport to issue an intervention notice to a local traffic authority in England, giving an opinion that the authority is failing to perform its Network Management Duty under Sections 16 and 17 of the same Act. No such intervention notices have been issued.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many resurfacing notices have been issued under the Traffic Management Act 2004 since the legislation came into force. [291414]

Paul Clark: Currently there is no provision in secondary legislation for street authorities to issue resurfacing notices, consequently none have been issued.

TREASURY

Bankruptcy

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of bankruptcy claims arising from the application of the provisions of section 58 of the Finance Act 2008; [289115]

(2) what recent estimate his Department has made of the effect on small businesses of the application of the provisions of section 58 of the Finance Act 2008. [289116]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Section 58 of the Finance Act 2008 will apply to a small number of individuals who have used a highly artificial tax avoidance scheme seeking to avoid paying UK tax on their UK income.

Section 58 clarifies understanding of the law to give taxpayers certainty in completing their tax returns. It puts beyond doubt that the scheme users are chargeable to UK tax on their share of the partnership income. The Government believes its action was entirely justified and fair to the majority of taxpayers.

Banks: Government Assistance

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which banks have made use of the Guarantee scheme for Asset Backed Securities announced on 19 January 2009 to date; [291405]

(2) what the monetary value is of the agreements with banks signed under the Guarantee scheme for Asset Backed Securities announced on 19 January 2009. [291406]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The ABS guarantee scheme was made available at Budget 2009, extending funding options open to banks and building societies alongside other Government support schemes, including the existing Credit Guarantee scheme. Demand for the guarantees will depend on eligible institutions' access to alternative sources of funding and demand for mortgage credit in the economy.

A list of eligible instruments guaranteed under the scheme will be made available by the DMO at:

http://www.dmo.gov.uk

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which banks have signed up to final contracts under the Asset Protection scheme announced on 19 January 2009. [291407]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The announcements made in February and March set out an in-principle agreement with the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Lloyds Banking Group with regard to their participation in the Asset Protection scheme. These agreements were subject to further due diligence, negotiation on the details of the scheme terms, and state aid and shareholder approval. The final agreements remain under negotiation.

Banks: Loans

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to prevent banks targeting loans and remortgaging packages to people approaching state retirement age. [291349]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For some people approaching state retirement age, mortgages can be an appropriate way of helping to manage their finances. The Government are determined, however, that lenders treat all customers fairly.

In 2004, the Government extended the scope of Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulation to include mortgages. The FSA's regime requires lenders to treat customers fairly, and offers consumers protection by requiring that, for example, firms satisfy themselves that a mortgage commitment is affordable.

The FSA publishes guidance for lenders on how they should deal with mortgages that will run into retirement. This guidance is available on the FSA's website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/other/mortgage_lender.pdf

Contracts: Goldman Sachs

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts the Government holds with Goldman Sachs Bank; and what the monetary value of such contracts is in 2009-10. [288567]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Goldman Sachs were engaged in autumn 2007 to work for HMT on issues surrounding Northern Rock. To date, Goldman Sachs have been paid £3.8 million in respect of this contract. There are no other contracts in place with Goldman Sachs.

Under the agreement with Northern Rock, certain fees are recoverable and this sum does not therefore represent a net cost to the Treasury.

Council Tax: Scotland

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* Ministers in his Department, *(b)* officials in his Department and *(c)* representatives of HM Revenue and Customs have had with (i) Members of the Scottish Parliament and (ii) the Scottish Executive on options for the replacement of council tax in Scotland with a local property tax following the publication of the Burt Review of local Government finance; and if he will make a statement [291404]

Ian Pearson: The Burt Review of local government finance in Scotland was commissioned by the Scottish Executive and was a devolved matter.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10-days of receipt in June 2009. [288921]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury paid 99.84 per cent. of invoices not in dispute within 10-days of receipt in June 2009.

Holiday Homes

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of holiday lets in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England which will be affected by the decision to reclassify income from holiday lets as unearned income; [288114]

(2) what the revenue to the Exchequer from taxation on holiday lets was in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [288115]

Mr. Timms: The estimated taxable profit for those who made a net profit on furnished holiday lettings was £90 million, which would be subject to taxation at the marginal rate of the taxpayer. This estimate relates to 2006-07 which is the latest year for which full data is available; estimates for the preceding year are thought to be similar. An impact assessment for the withdrawal of the furnished holiday lets concession will be published at the pre-Budget report, alongside the draft regulations. HM Revenue and Customs do not have information on the number or location of furnished holiday lettings.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 21 April 2009 on Kaupthing Bank and its effect on his constituent, Mr. Stephen Nix. [288793]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Mobile Phones

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what HM Revenue and Customs' policy is on finalisation of historic unused credit received by mobile telephone companies from consumers. [291370]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs' policy is to follow the commercial accounts as prepared under generally accepted accounting practice (GAAP). It is normal accountancy practice as part of GAAP to draw up accounts on the accruals basis. Under this practice, credit purchased by consumers that remains unused and is not repaid is a taxable trade receipt.

Private Finance Initiative

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private finance initiative contracts have been re-negotiated since September 2008; and whether the public sector liability has increased as a result of such re-negotiations. [291417]

Ian Pearson: We are not aware of any PFI contracts which have been re-negotiated since September 2008, this would be a matter for the relevant procuring authority in the first instance.

Public Expenditure: Armed Forces

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments to the Ministry of Defence have been made out of Treasury reserves to pay for equipment for military operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [288561]

Mr. Byrne: Treasury expenditure on the net additional cost of military operations, including equipment, are broken down by theatre in the Ministry of Defence's annual report and accounts. For the most recent 2007-08 accounts the relevant table is listed under Operations and Peacekeeping (RfR2), sub-para 2.3 on page 292.

Public Expenditure: Banks

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of expenditure from the public purse in 2010-11 expected to be spent on Government *(a)* loans to and *(b)* purchase of equity or shares in banks. [288183]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As set out in Budget 2009, the Government projects that the net effect of financial sector interventions on the central Government net cash requirement (CGNCR) will be zero in 2010-11.

Royal Mail

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on services provided by Royal Mail in each of the last two years. [288738]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury's spending with the Royal Mail in 2007-08 and 2008-09 was £57,058 and £61,310 respectively.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288954]

Mr. Byrne: The Treasury has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its final report, which can be found here:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A Steering Group has been established under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Social Security Benefit: Fraud

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if HM Revenue and Customs will take steps to investigate instances of suspected benefit fraud perpetrated by EU nationals from former Soviet bloc countries. [291237]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) takes all instances of suspected fraud seriously and is stepping up its work in this area. The Department is increasing its use of data matching using information from a wide variety of sources to identify those who attempt to abuse the system. HMRC also shares intelligence and investigates cases jointly with other Government agencies.

Those who are caught may face prosecution or in less serious cases, being charged a penalty and interest in addition to repaying the amount they defrauded.

To help prevent fraud from occurring in the first place, child benefit customers must provide HMRC with documentary evidence of the child being claimed for, such as a birth certificate, adoption certificate or passport.

All claims for child benefit are then subject to a wide range of checks throughout the life of each claim. It would be inappropriate to disclose a complete list as to do so may provide assistance to those attempting to defraud the system.

Details of suspected benefit fraud can be reported to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline (0800 854 440), the Child Benefit Helpline (0845 302 1444) or the tax credits Helpline (0845 300 3900).

Tax Credit

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many tax credit cases payments have been affected by technical difficulties in the last year for which figures are available; and what the average length of time taken to resolve such cases was. [291358]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) works with its IT provider to identify and resolve tax credits claims affected by technical difficulties.

Where necessary, HMRC maintains affected tax credits claims by sending manual cash cheque payments to its customers. At the end of August 2009, less than 9,500 households' tax credit claims were being processed clerically.

Taxation: Developing Countries

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to implement the G20 London Summit commitment to develop proposals by the end of 2009 to make it easier for developing countries to secure the benefits of a new co-operative tax environment; and whether discussion of such proposals will be on the agenda for the forthcoming G20 Summit in Pittsburgh. [291399]

Ian Pearson: The UK is working with its international partners to drive forward the G20 agenda to ensure that developing countries benefit from the new co-operative tax environment.

Earlier this month, G20 Finance Ministers lent further support to the proposal that developing countries should benefit from the new tax transparency, possibly through a multilateral instrument for information exchange, which would allow a wider group of countries—including developing countries—to access relevant tax information.

The Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes has agreed to report to the next meeting of G20 Finance Ministers in November on how multilateral tax information exchange agreements (TIEAs) work and what steps are necessary to accelerate full implementation of the international standard on tax information exchange. The UK will be pressing for early implementation of such an instrument. We expect this issue to be discussed at the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers in November.

UK Financial Institutions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what stakes the Government holds in UK financial institutions; how much each cost to purchase; what the present value of each is; what the earliest date is on which each could be repaid; and on what date it is anticipated each will be repaid. [291318]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of the Government's market investments in RBS and Lloyds Banking Group, including valuations and the Government's strategy for managing the investments over time, are set out in UK Financial Investments' Annual Report, available at:

www.ukfi.gov.uk

Bradford and Bingley and Northern Rock were transferred into public ownership under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008 and independent valuers have been appointed to decide what, if any, compensation is payable to former shareholders.

Further financial information about the banks in which the Government have a stake is available in the Resource Accounts in the Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/annual_report_2009_full.pdf

UK Financial Investments: Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training courses have been provided to staff of UK Financial Investments since its inception; and at what cost to the public purse. [289082]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: UK Financial Investment (UKFI) is a limited company wholly owned by HM Treasury. UKFI's costs are set out in their annual report and accounts, in line with Company's Act reporting requirements and FReM accounting standards. The annual report and accounts can be found on their website at:

www.ukfi.gov.uk

UKFI staff have undertaken various training to ensure that staff are well trained to deliver UKFI's remit to manage the Government's shareholdings commercially and create and protect value for the taxpayer as shareholder.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency treats bedsits *(a)* with and *(b)* without self-contained toilet and washroom facilities separately for the purposes of council tax valuations. [291335]

Ian Pearson: In deciding whether a property should have a single assessment or several, the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) will consider whether the property contains self-contained units "constructed or adapted for use as separate living accommodation".

Individual flats or bedsits may be allocated their own council tax band, even though some of the facilities and accommodation may be shared with other residents of the same building. The VOA's judgment will depend on the specifics of the property in question and the nature of the occupation.

Further guidance on the treatment of bedsits for council tax is available at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/council_tax/multiple_property.htm

and

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/public_fact_sheets/self-contained-units.html

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1036W, on Valuation Office Agency, how many reports of convictions and related offences the Valuation Office Agency has received from the Cabinet Office in respect of its staff each of the last three years. [291339]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency has received fewer than five reports of convictions and related offences from the Cabinet Office. All reports have been received within the period April to September 2009.

Valuation Office Agency: Publications

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the referencing guidance and manuals produced by the Valuation Office Agency for the inspection and valuation of *(a)* advertising rights and stations and *(b)* licensed property. [291243]

Mr. Timms: The manuals used by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) are routinely updated to reflect changes and new information. They are published online at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/Index.htm

The section of the VOA's Rating Manual relevant to advertising rights and stations can be found at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/chapters/rating_manual/vol5/sect20/frame.htm

Licensed property is covered in the following section of the VOA's Rating Manual:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/chapters/rating manual/vol5/sect825/frame.htm

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 33 of the Valuation Office Agency's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, HC 521, in which six process areas the Agency fell below minimum target standards in its information security high level assessment. [291244]

Ian Pearson: The six process areas are those related to the HMG information Assurance Maturity Model and Assessment Framework, specifically:

Leadership and Governance
Training, Education and awareness
Information Risk Management
Through-Life Information Assurance Measures
Assured Information Sharing
Compliance

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 33 of the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, HC 521, if he will place in the Library a copy of Deloitte's report on its high level assessment of the maturity and effectiveness of VOA information security, redacted for security reasons as necessary. [291245]

Ian Pearson: The Deloitte report assesses the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) security maturity and identifies the areas for improvement to enable full compliance with the Poynter review, with the HMG Security Policy Framework and Minimum Mandatory Measures and ISO 27001—the industry standard measure for information security compliance.

The report has therefore been classified as restricted, and cannot be published. Redaction of material, which may aggravate security risks if published, would render the report meaningless.

Working Capital Scheme

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value of the agreements with banks signed under the Working Capital scheme is. [291408]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

£2 billion of guarantees have been provided to banks under the Working Capital scheme to free up regulatory capital for new lending to UK companies. As a result of action by the Government and the regulatory authorities, leading to improvements in the capital position of the UK banking system since the introduction of the WCS, the Government have been able to allocate resource provision for the WCS to other measures to support businesses, including as announced at the Budget 2009 a trade credit insurance top up scheme and a possible new letters of credit scheme in the Export Credit Guarantee Department.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which banks have signed up to the Working Capital scheme to date. [291409]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

Guarantees have been provided to Royal Bank of Scotland PLC (RBS), National Westminster Bank PLC (NatWest), and Lloyds TSB Bank PLC and Lloyds TSB Scotland PLC (Lloyds Banking Group) under the Working Capital scheme to free up regulatory capital for new lending to UK companies. As a result of action by the Government and the regulatory authorities, leading to improvements in the capital position of the UK banking system since the introduction of the WCS, the Government have been able to allocate resource provision for the WCS to other measures to support businesses, including as announced at the Budget 2009 a trade credit insurance top up scheme and a possible new letters of credit scheme in the Export Credit Guarantee Department.

WALES

M4: Newport Gwent

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the M4 relief road. [291213]

Mr. Hain: I have regular meetings with the First Minister to discuss a range of issues relating to Wales, including transport matters.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Polly Toynbee

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what payments *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission have made to Ms Polly Toynbee; and for what purposes. [291000]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office and the Equality and Human Rights Commission have made no payments to Polly Toynbee.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many child maintenance cases her Department has overridden payment schedules agreed in court in each of the last five years. [282543]

Helen Goodman: I have consulted with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission who are now responsible for child maintenance. They have confirmed that the information requested is not available.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission takes to recalculate from the point of notification child maintenance liabilities for non-resident parents who return to work after a period of unemployment under the *(a)* old and *(b)* new scheme. [291132]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 282W.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much housing benefit has been paid to people born outside the UK in each year since 1994. [291208]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Hemsworth constituency have benefited from changes to industrial injuries disablement benefit since 1997. [288788]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available at a constituency level.

Jobcentre Plus: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were notified to Chelmsford Jobcentre Plus in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [290994]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The information requested is in the following table.

Notified and live unfilled vacancies in West Chelmsford in the last six months

Date	*West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency*	*Chelmsford local authority*	*Chelmsford Jobcentre Plus*
Live unfilled vacancies			
February 2009	629	707	768
March 2009	442	531	649
April 2009	484	540	629
May 2009	565	640	667

Notified and live unfilled vacancies in West Chelmsford in the last six months

Date	West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency	Chelmsford local authority	Chelmsford Jobcentre Plus
June 2009	655	715	757
July 2009	711	816	861
Notified vacancies			
February 2009	1,019	1,132	1,208
March 2009	548	643	740
April 2009	652	724	772
May 2009	738	854	891
June 2009	762	868	951
July 2009	735	903	967

Notes:
1. Data are unrounded and will include overlaps between the areas provided for this answer.
2. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistics pre and post May 2006. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies overtime, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
4. Notified vacancies. Monthly data on the inflow of newly notified vacancies to Jobcentre Plus.
5. The stocks of live unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open.
6. To provide a geographic breakdown, in most cases the postcode of the vacancy is used to allocate the vacancy to a local area. Where this is missing or invalid, the employers' postcode or the postcode of the local Jobcentre Plus office is used.
7. These figures are published at:
www.nomisweb.co.uk
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 17 years were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 10 years. [291003]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of jobseeker's allowance claimants aged 16 and 17 in Great Britain in each of the last 10 years

As at July each year:	Aged 16	Aged 17
1999	2,465	11,720
2000	2,195	11,230
2001	2,035	10,060
2002	2,030	10,040
2003	2,100	10,575
2004	1,975	9,460
2005	1,725	10,260
2006	1,740	10,195
2007	1,020	7,695
2008	770	6,030
2009	825	7,030

Notes:
1. Data is rounded to the nearest five.
2. Data is published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.

Minimum Wage: Young People

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the merits of providing the adult national minimum wage rate to 18 year olds. [290987]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The effects of the NMW on younger workers need to be considered carefully to avoid damaging incentives between education and work and ensure the employment prospects of younger workers are not adversely affected.

We know that young workers experience substantially worse unemployment and employment rates than adults. Both are more sensitive to the economic cycle. That is why the Low Pay Commission recommended a separate youth rate from the outset in 1999 and continues to believe there is a case for retaining them. Government and the LPC are concerned that removing the youth rates could adversely affect employment levels for this group. Earlier this year, the LPC recommended that 21-year-olds be entitled to the adult minimum wage. We have accepted this recommendation but, given the current economic conditions, stated that this change will be implemented from October 2010.

Pension Credit: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency were in receipt of pensions credit on the latest date for which figures are available. [287996]

Angela Eagle: As at November 2008, there were 5,240 households in receipt of pension credit in Morecambe and Lunesdale parliamentary constituency.

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Thursday 17 September and Monday 5 October 2009

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

G20: USA

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Prime Minister and *(b)* Chancellor of the Exchequer on the agenda for the forthcoming G20 conference in Pittsburgh; which international development issues he expects to be discussed at the conference; whether (i) he and (ii) his senior Departmental staff will form part of the UK delegation to the conference; and if he will make a statement [291401]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have regular discussions with the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other members of the Cabinet as part of our ongoing preparations for the G20 summit in Pittsburgh on 24 to 25 September. These discussions include a range of international development issues.

The United States has said that they will make sure that the summit gives attention to the poorest countries. An important UK objective is to ensure the summit demonstrates concrete action to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the poorest and shows significant progress with implementation of development commitments secured at the London summit in April 2009.

The Pittsburgh summit will be held at heads of state or government level and as such there are no plans for Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers or staff to attend.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Engines: Armed Forces

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which organisations operating at what locations have green goddess fire engines previously used to provide emergency fire cover been *(a)* sold and *(b)* donated in each of the last five years. [291209]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Donations of green goddesses have been made to the following organisations:

Operation Florian, based in Lincoln, for humanitarian purposes in Zambia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bosnia, Peru, Bolivia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Argentina and Pakistan; (2006 and 2007)

Liverpool city council for onwards transmission by the Hands Across the Sea Appeal Fund for humanitarian purposes in Sri Lanka; (2006)

Freetown Special Projects Trust, based at Hull city council, for humanitarian purposes in Sierra Leone; (2006)

Rapid UK, based in Devon for humanitarian purposes in Peru; (2005) and Gambia and Avon Fire Services Partnership, based in Bristol, for humanitarian purposes in Gambia (2007).

Donations of Green Goddesses for heritage purposes have been made to:

The Military Vehicle Trust (Kettering) (2006)

The RAF Museum (Hendon) (2006)

The Dambusters Museum (RAF Scampton) (2006)

Manston Fire Museum (Manston) (2006)

The Civil Defence and Emergency Service Preservation Trust (Airdrie) (2006)

The British Fire Services Association (Sleaford) (2007)

South East Midlands Military Vehicle Trust (Burton Latimer) (2007)

Mid and West Wales Fire Engine Preservation Group (Neath) (2006)

The AFS Vehicle Restoration Group (Midlands) (Corby) (2006)

The Fire Police Museum (Sheffield) (2006)

The National Historic Vehicle Society (Basingstoke) (2006)

The Welsh Area Fire Engine Restoration Society (Neath) (2006)

The Whitewebbs Museum of Fire (Enfield) (2006)

Devon Military Vehicle Trust (Princetown) (2006)

The Coalhouse Fort Project (East Tilbury) (2006).

With regard to sales, I will place a list of the organisations which have purchased green goddesses over the past five years in the Library of the House. This list does not contain the names of individuals who have purchased green goddesses as this information is covered by data protection legislation. In addition we are unable to provide locations for the purchasers as the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans she has to review the operation of the War Pensions Scheme. [291118]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for the War Pensions Scheme was passed from the Department of Work and Pensions to the Ministry of Defence in 2000.

The scheme is kept under constant review and in June 2007, a Stewardship review, which includes the management and administration of the scheme, was announced to the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation (CAC), the statutory body for matters relating to war pensions, made up of representatives of ex-service organisations. A package of amendments was made to the scheme in April 2009, mainly to ease administration or correct anomalies in certain areas.

The CAC will be fully consulted if any further changes to the scheme are proposed.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Resignations

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which *(a)* senior officials, *(b)* commissioners and *(c)* members of the Audit Committee of the Equality and Human Rights Commission have resigned in the last 12 months; and on what date each resigned. [291307]

Michael Jabez Foster: EHRC resignation information provided in the following table:

Name	*Date of resignation*
(a) Senior officials	
Nicola Brewer	28 January 2009
Patrick Diamond	31 March 2009
Bradley Brady	1 July 2009
Kamal Ahmed	24 July 2009
Mags Patten	19 August 2009
(b) Commissioners	
Kay Hampton	25 March 2009
Jane Campbell	16 July 2009
Francesca Klug	17 July 2009
Bert Massie	18 July 2009
(c) Members of the EHRC Audit and Risk Committee[1]	
Jane Earl	12 August 2009
Angie Jezard	13 August 2009

[1] Both co-optees have indicated a willingness to continue to serve on the committee until its November 2009 meeting.

Equality: Applications

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the new public duty in the Equality Bill to address socio-economic disadvantage will be a material consideration in the assessment of *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications by local authorities. [291242]

Michael Jabez Foster: The new socio-economic duty will be a consideration for local authorities when they are making decisions of a strategic nature, such as when preparing their sustainable community strategies, and setting key objectives and spending priorities. The sustainable community strategy is in turn reflected in the local development framework, which is one of the documents that shapes how those objectives are delivered. The duty will therefore influence the overall strategic plans and policies in the light of which individual planning and licensing applications are considered. It may also, in particular cases, be material to individual decisions, where the local authority considers these to be of a strategic nature.

Travelling People: Equality

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment has been made of the likely effects of the introduction of the new public duty in the Equality Bill to address socio-economic disadvantage on the provision of services to Travellers. [291241]

Michael Jabez Foster: The new duty will reduce the effects of socio-economic disadvantage. When local authorities and other key public bodies are making decisions of a strategic nature, such as deciding priorities and setting objectives, they will need to consider how their decisions could help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage.

The most recent report on the Government's strategy for race equality and community cohesion "Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society—A third progress report—February 2009", highlighted the many socio-economic disadvantages suffered by Gypsies and Travellers, so they are likely to benefit from the new duty. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Family Intervention Projects

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many family intervention projects at each level of intervention have been set up in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Castle Point; and if he will make a statement. [291061]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

There are currently 164 Family Intervention Projects (FIPs). The majority of these provide support on an outreach basis, supporting families in their own home. There are currently six projects that run core, residential units. Essex has two FIPs based in Harlow and Tendering, both of which provide an outreach service.

FIPs are a key part of Government policy to support families at risk. The projects use a twin-track approach of support alongside sanctions to provide families with the incentives to change. An assertive key worker plays a pivotal, challenging and coordinating role in the projects 'gripping' the whole family, and the agencies involved with them. Early evaluation of Family Intervention Projects has shown that they are helping to reduce anti-social behaviour, prevent homelessness and improve the health and education of families.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Millennium Compliance

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent from the public purse on steps to *(a)* encourage UK businesses to prepare for the millennium date change and *(b)* prevent problems attributable to the millennium bug in the public sector. [290686]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Alexander) on 7 January 2003, *Official Report*, column 71W. The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Class Sizes: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were taught in classes of more than 30 pupils in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [285330]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the table:

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: number of pupils in classes[3] of more than 30 pupils—As at January each year in North East Government Office Region, Tees Valley and Middlesbrough South and East Parliamentary Constituency

	North East			Tees Valley[4]			Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland		
	Number of pupils in classes of over 30	Number of pupils in all classes	% of pupils in classes of over 30	Number of pupils in classes of over 30	Number of pupils in all classes	% of pupils in classes of over 30	Number of pupils in classes of over 30	Number of pupils in all classes	% of pupils in classes of over 30
1999	75,720	389,610	19.4	21,300	109,210	19.5	2,040	14,170	14.4
2000	66,050	389,990	16.9	18,110	109,000	16.6	2,030	14,060	14.4
2001	57,500	387,080	14.9	16,710	106,820	15.6	1,870	13,590	13.7
2002	48,470	378,170	12.8	13,410	105,950	12.7	950	13,360	7.1
2003	47,770	378,370	12.6	13,440	103,830	12.9	1,660	12,810	13.0
2004	46,090	372,350	12.4	12,140	101,370	12.0	1,400	12,430	11.3
2005	44,240	366,680	12.1	11,180	100,440	11.1	1,150	12,230	9.4
2006	43,170	359,540	12.0	11,070	98,520	11.2	1,250	12,190	10.2
2007	39,010	351,140	11.1	9,610	95,800	10.0	730	11,560	6.3
2008	39,240	345,100	11.4	11,010	93,580	11.8	1,070	11,480	9.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[4] Tees Valley is Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington local authorities.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

The table covers classes in primary and secondary schools. There is a legal limit of 30 pupils for infant classes.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on services from Royal Mail in each year since it was established. [288789]

Mr. Coaker: Since the Department for Children, Schools and Families was established the amount spent on Royal Mail services has been:

	£
2007-08	180,864.05
2008-09	177,705.47
2009-10 (to end June)	42,221.26

Further Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage young people to enter further education. [291298]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* We are determined to ensure that as many young people as possible continue their learning beyond the age of 16 to get the qualifications and experience they need to succeed in an increasingly competitive labour market.

Through the September Guarantee, we are providing every young person aged 16-17 with a suitable offer of a place in learning. This has helped us to make excellent progress on participation, with a record level of 88 per cent. of 16-17 year olds in education and training at the end of 2008. Additional investment of £655 million allocated in Budget 2009 has enabled the number of post-16 learning places available this academic year to increase to all time high of 1.55 million. Young people also have access to a range of financial support such as the education maintenance allowance to help them engage in learning.

GCE A-level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 747-51W, on geography: GCE A level, how many and what percentage of the maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils for an A level examination in geography entered at least one pupil for an A level examination in *(a)* media studies, *(b)* communication and culture and *(c)* sociology. [286772]

Mr. Coaker: Of the maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils for an A level in geography in 2006-07:

(a) 116 (49 per cent.) entered at least one pupil for an A level in media, film and TV studies.

(b) 8 (3 per cent.) entered at least one pupil for an A level in communication studies.

(c) 141 (59 per cent.) entered at least one pupil for an A level in sociology.

Note:

The figures relate to 16-18 year olds in maintained mainstream schools that were published in the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables in 2006-07 and had A-level candidates.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students in comprehensive schools achieved

GCSE English, English literature and mathematics at grade C or higher in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* the last year for which figures are available. [283466]

Mr. Coaker: Of those pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in comprehensive schools in England in 2008, 227,380 (42.4 per cent.) achieved a GCSE in all of English, English Literature and Mathematics at grade C or above.

Prior to 2005 statistics are available only for those pupils aged 15 (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August), rather than at the end of Key Stage 4.

Of those pupils aged 15 in comprehensive schools in England in 2002, 184,966 (36.7 per cent.) achieved a GCSE in all of English, English Literature and Mathematics at grade C or above.

Of those pupils aged 15 in comprehensive schools in England in 1997, 114,678 (29.8 per cent.) achieved a GCSE in all of English, English Literature and Mathematics at grade C or above.

The source for this answer is the Achievement and Attainment Tables database.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils who achieved a GCSE in core science and one of *(a)* geology, *(b)* psychology, *(c)* electronics, *(d)* astronomy, *(e)* environmental science, *(f)* environmental and land-based science and *(g)* human physiology and health at each grade were educated in the (i) maintained mainstream and (ii) independent sector in each year since 2007. [286853]

Mr. Coaker: In this answer all of the given subjects have been interpreted to mean their scientific GCSE syllabuses only. For example, electronics does not include D&T and Electronics or any vocational electronics qualifications. Human physiology and health has been interpreted to mean human biology.

In 2007, there were only 17 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving a GCSE in core science and at least one GCSE in geology, environmental science or human biology, both at grade A*-G. All of these pupils were educated in the maintained sector.

In 2008, pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving a GCSE in core science and at least one of the requested subjects, both at grade A*-G, are counted in the following table:

	A-G*	*A*-G*
Maintained sector		
Geology	294	93.0
Electronics	353	96.7
Astronomy	590	97.4
Environmental Science	1,790	98.1
Human Biology	1,785	100.0
Independent sector		
Geology	22	7.0
Electronics	12	3.3
Astronomy	16	2.6
Environmental Science	34	1.9
Human Biology	0	0.0

As can be seen from the table, only very small numbers of pupils in the independent sector are counted. Because of those small numbers, it is not possible to give figures for a breakdown into separate grades.

No pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved passes in both core science and either psychology as a science or environmental and land-based science.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students achieved Grade B or above in both GCSE English and mathematics in 2008. [287384]

Mr. Coaker: 154,276 pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieved a grade B or above in both GCSE English and mathematics in 2007/08.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which five non-core curriculum subjects the number of GCSE entries was highest in each *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* selective and *(c)* partially selective local education authority area in 2009. [291134]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* For this answer, a comprehensive local authority has been defined as one where all pupils in the maintained sector are attending comprehensive schools, whereas a partially selective local authority has been defined as having between 0 per cent. and 25 per cent. of 13-year-old pupils on roll attending one or more selective schools. Finally, a selective local authority has been defined as having 25 per cent. or more 13-year-old pupils on roll attending one or more selective schools.

Excluding English, maths and science GCSEs, the five subjects with the most entries by pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2008 (the latest year for which figures are available) are given in the following table, for local authorities that are comprehensive, selective and partially selective.

Rank in descending order of entries	*1. English Literature*	*2. History*	*3. Art and Design*	*4. Geography*	*5. Religious Studies*
Comprehensive local authorities					
Number of entries	327,900	122,500	112,600	104,300	101,600
Proportion of all entries (percentage)	20.7	7.8	7.1	6.6	6.4

Rank in descending order of entries	1. English Literature	2. History	3. Art and Design	4. Geography	5. Religious Studies
Partially selective local authorities					
Number of entries	100,800	40,200	36,000	35,700	35,400
Proportion of all entries (percentage)	19.7	7.9	7.0	7.0	6.9

Rank in descending order of entries	1. English Literature	2. History	3. French	4. Art and Design	5. Geography
Selective local authorities					
Number of entries	43,300	17,400	15,200	15,200	15,000
Proportion of all entries (percentage)	20.3	8.1	7.1	7.1	7.0

Only full GCSEs are included in this analysis. English Literature has been included as a non-core curriculum subject because it extends beyond the literature content in core National Curriculum English programme of study. English GCSE covers both the literature and language content of National Curriculum English.

GCSE: History

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals have been entered for GCSE history in each year since 1997. [284579]

Mr. Coaker: The information available can be found in the following table:

Number and proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals who have been entered for GCSE history in each year since 2002

	Number	Percentage
2003	15,755	19.4
2004	16,324	19.7
2005	15,348	19.3
2006	14,726	18.9
2007	14,057	18.4
2008	13,338	17.9

Source:
National Pupil Database (NPD).

Figures prior to 2003 are not available on a comparable basis.

The figures for 2003 and 2004 are for pupils aged 15. The figures for 2005-08 are based on pupils at the end of KS4.

GCSE: Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* persistent truants and *(b)* all pupils gained fewer than five A* to C grades at GCSE in 2008. [287224]

Mr. Coaker: In 2008, 226,351 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 did not achieve five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent qualifications. This represents 34.7 per cent. of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

Work is ongoing to link pupil-level absence data to achievements. The GCSE achievements of persistent absentees are therefore not yet available.

Head Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many head teachers left the profession for reasons other than retirement in each of the last 10 years. [287223]

Mr. Coaker: Due to data quality issues figures are not available for head teachers only.

History: GCSE/A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained comprehensive schools achieved a grade A history A level in 2008; [286701]

(2) how many pupils in *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained comprehensive schools achieved a grade A* history GCSE in 2008. [286702]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given as follows:

3,425 pupils aged 16-18 in independent schools achieved a grade A in A-level history in 2008. This represents 46.4 per cent. of A-level history candidates in independent schools.

3,573 pupils aged 16-18 in comprehensive schools achieved a grade A in A-level history in 2008. This represents 17.8 per cent. of A-level history candidates in comprehensive schools.

7,376 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in independent schools achieved a grade A* in GCSE history in 2008. This represents 31.1 per cent. of GCSE history candidates in independent schools.

11,048 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in comprehensive schools achieved a grade A* in GCSE history in 2008. This represents 6.9 per cent. of GCSE history candidates in comprehensive schools.

International Baccalaureate

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils are studying for the International Baccalaureate at each school which provides the course; [287252]

(2) in which local authorities one or more schools offers an International Baccalaureate course. [287253]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the qualifications that are offered or the numbers studying for qualifications in schools is not available.

Languages: GCE A-level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of maintained mainstream schools offering A level tuition in *(a)* German, *(b)* French and *(c)* Spanish did not enter any pupils for an A level examination in each of those subjects in the latest period for which figures are available. [286801]

Mr. Coaker: The Department only holds information on entries and attainment, not on which schools offer particular A-level subjects.

National Curriculum Tests: Disadvantaged

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in each index of multiple deprivation decile achieved a Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics in Key Stage 2 tests in the latest period for which figures are available. [286800]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Results of pupils' eligible for KS2 assessment achieving Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics by IDACI deprivation decile[1] in England[2], 2007-08

	Reading, Writing and Mathematics		Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
	Number of pupils achieving level 4 or above	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 or above	Number of pupils achieving level 4 or above	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 or above	Number of pupils achieving level 4 or above	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 or above	Number of pupils achieving level 4 or above	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 or above
0-10%	36,381	49	57,683	78	41,848	57	51,278	70
10-20%	33,537	52	52,197	80	38,179	59	46,356	71
20 - 30%	32,613	54	49,725	83	36,827	61	43,946	73
30 - 40%	32,388	58	47,476	85	35,981	65	42,424	76
40 - 50%	33,540	62	47,558	87	36,851	67	42,949	79
50-60%	34,835	65	48,018	89	37,938	71	43,466	81
60 - 70%	35,828	68	47,833	91	38,717	73	43,799	83
70 - 80%	37,799	71	49,663	92	40,457	76	45,241	85
80 - 90%	38,846	73	49,430	93	41,225	78	46,156	87
90-100%	40,499	77	49,624	94	42,569	81	46,808	89

1. Pupils attending maintained schools only.
2. Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index. 0-10% is most deprived, 90-100% is least deprived.
3. Includes pupils with valid postcodes only.

Source:
National Pupil Database (final data)

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average expenditure per school pupil in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority area in England was in each year since 1997; and what the per pupil funding from his Department was in each area in each such year. [291110]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The Department collects figures of public expenditure from local authorities via the Section 52 Outturn statements. The Department does not hold figures by constituency. The Department has placed the relevant information which shows the per school pupil expenditure for primary and secondary schools in each local authority in England from 1997-98 to 2007-08 in the House libraries.

Further information on the public expenditure figures can be found in the Section 52 Outturn statements which the Department publishes on our website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=64

Per pupil revenue funding figures for pupils aged 3-19 for all local authorities for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 have been placed in the House Libraries.

Please note that these figures are in cash terms and that have not provided figures for City of London or Isles of Scilly.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table is taken from the new Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 to 2008-09 for all local authorities are provided in the following table. The figures for all funded pupils aged 3-19 have been placed in the House Libraries and are in cash terms.

Schools: Closures

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been closed for each reason for closure since 1997. [287221]

Mr. Coaker: The following table sets out the numbers of school closures, and their reason for closure in each year since 1999. We do not have reliable information about decisions made prior to 1999.

	Reason for closure						
	Cease to maintain	*Change of religious character*	*Due to amalgamation*	*For academy*	*For fresh start*	*To allow for a new establishment*	*Total*
1999	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
2000	12	—	96	—	8	—	116
2001	26	4	193	—	3	3	229
2002	31	9	180	4	1	1	226
2003	36	10	177	8	5	—	236
2004	54	6	191	6	7	1	265
2005	39	8	211	7	7	—	272
2006	41	4	224	17	3	1	290
2007	45	5	270	34	3	1	358
2008	49	3	193	56	1	—	301
2009[1]	27	1	104	47	—	—	179
Total	361	49	1840	179	38	7	2,474

[1] 2009 shows schools approved for closure up to 31 August 2009.

The data on the table is recorded on our Statutory Proposals Information (SPI) database. SPI provides information from 1999 but is only accurate from 2001, when local decision making came into force and we started recording decisions on SPI.

There are various reasons for school closures. We categorise these under six different proposal 'types':

"Cease to maintain" indicates cases where a school is not proposed to be established on the site of the closing school;

"Change of religious character" is where a school must close and re-open in order to add, change or remove a religious character;

"Due to amalgamation" indicates cases where schools are being closed and a new school established—usually on the site(s) of the closing school(s)—or where one or more closes and an existing school makes prescribed alterations e.g. enlarge, change age range etc;

"For academy" indicates schools that are closing and are being replaced by Academies;

"For fresh start" is where an existing school closes to be replaced by a new school under fresh start policy; and

"To allow for a new establishment" are 'miscellaneous' closure proposals. No school has been closed under this category since 2006. (Miscellaneous closure included changing the category of a school—regulations now allow for this.)

Schools: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the allocation for *(a)* Redbridge and *(b)* Waltham Forest for (i) dedicated school grant and (ii) guaranteed funding per pupil is for (A) 2009, (B) 2010 and (C) 2011; what the change in per pupil funding was in (1) cash and (2) percentage terms between 1997 and 2009; and what (x) total and (y) per pupil funding allocation for (X) Redbridge and (Y) Waltham Forest for 2009-10 is for (aa) school development grant, (bb) school standards grant, (cc) school standards grant (personalisation), (dd) ethnic minority achievement grant, (ee) extended schools, (ff) primary strategy, (gg) school lunch grant, (hh) music services, (ii) harnessing technology (ICT) and (jj) devolved formula capital. [291366]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2008-09 to 2010-11 (indicative) for Redbridge and Waltham Forest local authorities is shown in table 1. This covers pupils aged three-15.

Table 1

£ million

	DSG allocation		
	2008-09 (final)	*2009-10 (final)*	*2010-11 (indicative)*
Redbridge	173.785	184.212	195.516
Waltham Forest	160.125	167.109	180.326

The guaranteed unit of funding for 2008-09 to 2010-11 for Redbridge and Waltham Forest local authority is shown in table 2.

Table 2

£

	Guaranteed unit of funding		
	2008-09 (final)	*2009-10 (final)*	*2010-11 (final)*
Redbridge	4,214	4,380	4,575
Waltham Forest	4,584	4,747	4,940

Per pupil revenue funding figures for pupils aged three-19 for Redbridge and Waltham Forest local authorities for years 1997-98 and 2005-06 are shown in table 3. These figures are in cash terms.

Table 3

Local authority revenue funding per pupil (£)

	1997-98	*2005-06*	*Percentage change*
Redbridge	2,810	4,420	57
Waltham Forest	3,080	5,060	64

Notes:
1. Price Base: Cash
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/ Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-19 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in table 4 are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 (in table 3 above) because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent.

The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending.

In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block.

LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2008-09 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06 (the baseline); as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for 2005-06 and 2008-09 for Redbridge and Waltham Forest local authorities are provided in table 4. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three-19 and are in cash terms.

Table 4

Local authority revenue funding per pupil (£)

	2005-06	*2008-09*	*Percentage change*
Redbridge	4,050	4,820	19
Waltham Forest	4,580	5,330	16

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Cash
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three-19
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The figures for Standards Funds are recorded according to allocation per authority not per pupil, the following table shows the total allocations that Redbridge and Waltham Forest have been awarded in 2009-10 for grants that the honourable member for Leyton and Wanstead requested.

Grant name	*2009-10 allocation Redbridge*	£ *2009-10 allocation Waltham Forest*
School Development Grant	9,176,344	12,427,886
School Standards Grant	7,007,793	5,505,573
School Standards Grant (personalisation)	2,212,183	2,498,922
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	3,431,578	3,539,416
Extended Schools—Sustainability	724,493	674,446
Extended Schools—Subsidy	179,626	175,360
Extended Schools—Capital	499,804	480,031
Primary Strategy: Targeted Support	810,251	1,171,770
School Lunch Grant	473,777	394,829
Music	342,011	386,625
Harnessing Technology	873,212	766,178
Devolved Formula Capital	5,551,120	4,636,216

Science: GCE A-level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1073W, on GCE A level, how many and what percentage of schools did not enter any pupils for a science A level in 2006-07. [286773]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given as follows:

66 maintained schools did not enter any pupils aged 16-18 for any science A-level in 2006/07. This represents 4 per cent. of maintained schools that had A-level entries in 2006/07 and were published in the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Note:

A-level subjects included as science are: applied science (single and double awards), biological sciences, chemistry, physics, electronics, environmental science, geology and 'psychology as a science'.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1073W, on GCE A level, (1) how many and what percentage of the 115 schools that did not enter any pupils for an A level examination in biology entered at least one pupil for an A level examination in applied science in 2006-07; [286774]

(2) how many and what percentage of the 96 schools that did not enter any pupils for an A Level in mathematics in 2006-07 entered at least one pupil for an A Level in applied science in that year. [286775]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is as follows:

18 (16 per cent.) of the 115 schools that did not enter any pupils for an A level in biology entered at least one pupil for an A level in single or double award applied science in 2006-07.

8 (8 per cent.) of the 96 schools that did not enter any pupils for an A level in mathematics entered at least one pupil for an A level in single or double award applied science in 2006-07.

Note:

The figures relate to 16-18 year olds in maintained schools that were published in the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Science: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils who achieved a GCSE in double award science at each grade were educated in the *(a)* maintained mainstream and *(b)* independent sector in each year since 2005. [286802]

Mr. Coaker: The double award in science was no longer available to pupils in 2006 and therefore the only pupils counted in the 2008 figures are those who began their studies before 2006 and have been held back.

The following figures are based on the school at which the pupil was registered at the time they sat their exams. It is possible, by moving schools, that some pupils were educated in both sectors.

The requested information is given in the following tables:

Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 attaining specific grades in Double Award Science, 2005-08

	Maintained sector				Independent sector			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
**	13,821	15,022	17,532	208	4,758	5,288	5,322	4
AA	27,186	25,196	35,103	415	6,028	5,933	6,002	5
BB	42,475	40,339	58,044	504	5,967	6,271	6,325	7
CC	85,050	78,082	119,090	481	5,699	5,776	6,066	11
DD	55,676	51,255	83,130	254	1,364	1,558	1,749	2
EE	35,085	31,650	49,967	160	335	413	372	1
FF	20,412	18,364	27,786	90	83	98	105	0
GG	9,096	8,403	11,724	65	30	39	33	0

Percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 attaining specific grades in Double Award Science, 2005-08

	Maintained sector				Independent sector			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
**	74.4	74.0	76.7	98.1	25.6	26.0	23.3	1.9
AA	81.9	80.9	85.4	98.8	18.1	19.1	14.6	1.2
BB	87.7	86.5	90.2	98.6	12.3	13.5	9.8	1.4
CC	93.7	93.1	95.2	97.8	6.3	6.9	4.8	2.2
DD	97.6	97.0	97.9	99.2	2.4	3.0	2.1	0.8
EE	99.1	98.7	99.3	99.4	0.9	1.3	0.7	0.6
FF	99.6	99.5	99.6	100.0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.0
GG	99.7	99.5	99.7	100.0	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.0

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who achieved a GCSE in double award applied science at each grade in 2007 were educated in the *(a)* maintained mainstream and *(b)* the independent sector. [286807]

Mr. Coaker: All pupils at the end of key stage 4 that achieved grades in double award applied science are counted in the following table which is broken down by grade and the education sector attended by the pupil.

Double award applied science

	2007				2008			
	Maintained		Independent		Maintained		Independent	
Grade	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
A*A*	54	100.0	0	0.0	22	100.0	0	0.0
A*A	—	—	—	—	62	100.0	0	0.0
AA	481	99.0	5	1.0	173	100.0	0	0.0
AB	—	—	—	—	449	99.8	1	0.2
BB	2,588	99.4	16	0.6	1,115	99.9	1	0.1
BC	—	—	—	—	2,046	100.0	1	0.0
CC	8,045	99.7	24	0.3	3,315	99.9	4	0.1
CD	—	—	—	—	3,094	99.8	7	0.2
DD	7,793	99.8	13	0.2	2,527	99.8	4	0.2
DE	—	—	—	—	2,011	99.9	2	0.1
EE	5,235	99.9	4	0.1	1,664	99.9	1	0.1
EF	—	—	—	—	1,265	99.9	1	0.1
FF	3,076	100.0	1	0.0	863	100.0	0	0.0
FG	—	—	—	—	581	99.8	1	0.2
GG	1,283	100.0	0	0.0	319	99.7	1	0.3

Note:

The grading structure of the double award applied science changed between 2007 and 2008.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils who achieved a GCSE in core science and one of *(a)* biology, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* physics at each grade were educated in the (i) maintained mainstream and (ii) independent sector in each year since 2007. [286852]

Mr. Coaker: The following figures are based on the school at which the pupil was registered at the time they sat their exams. It is possible, by moving schools, that some pupils were educated in both sectors.

In 2007, there were only seven pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving a GCSE in core science and at least one GCSE in biology, chemistry or physics both at grade A*-G. All of these pupils were educated in the maintained sector.

In 2008, pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving a GCSE in core science at grade A*-G and one or more of the separate sciences are counted in the following tables.[1]

[1] Pupils that have passed core science will appear in each row for which they have passed a separate science. Pupils are counted once in the final row by their highest grade in the separate sciences.

Number

Maintained	*A**	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
Biology	671	1,661	2,294	2,296	1,415	788	385	206
Chemistry	712	1,408	1,542	1,131	484	173	86	24
Physics	624	1,278	1,474	1,133	414	106	59	26
Best separate grade	1,120	2,045	2,433	2416	1,553	893	462	239

Number

Independent	*A**	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
Biology	82	139	116	80	12	5	3	0
Chemistry	103	111	82	63	8	1	4	0
Physics	98	99	69	57	13	1	1	0
Best separate grade	155	156	137	73	9	5	7	0

The following tables give the percentages of the pupils achieving particular grades in the maintained and independent sector.

Percentage

Maintained	*A**	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
Biology	89.1	92.3	95.2	96.6	99.2	99.4	99.2	100.0
Chemistry	87.4	92.7	95.0	94.7	98.4	99.4	95.6	100.0
Physics	86.4	93.4	95.5	95.2	97.0	99.1	98.3	100.0
Best separate grade	87.8	92.9	94.7	97.1	99.4	99.4	98.5	100.0

Percentage

Independent	*A**	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
Biology	10.9	7.7	4.8	3.4	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.0
Chemistry	12.6	7.3	5.0	5.3	1.6	0.6	4.4	0.0
Physics	13.6	6.6	4.5	4.8	3.0	0.9	1.7	0.0
Best separate grade	12.2	7.1	5.3	2.9	0.6	0.6	1.5	0.0

Science: Specialist Schools

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on specialist schools: science, how many of the 433 specialist schools that have chosen science as one of their specialisms entered one or more pupils for *(a)* a GCSE and *(b)* an A level in applied science in 2008. [286895]

Mr. Coaker: Of the 433 schools identified as having a specialism in sciences, 77 entered at least one pupil for a vocational GCSE in applied science in 2008.

Of the 433 schools identified as having a specialism in sciences, 269 teach pupils to Key Stage 5 and, of these, 47 entered at least one pupil for an A-level in applied science in 2008.

The source for this answer is the Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on specialist schools: science, how many of the 433 specialist schools that have chosen science as one of their specialisms entered one or more pupils for GCSE biology in 2008. [286896]

Mr. Coaker: Of the 433 schools identified as having a specialism in sciences, 317 (73.2 per cent.) entered at least one pupil for GCSE biology in 2008.

Source:

The source for this answer is the Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on specialist schools: science, how many of the 433 specialist schools that have chosen science as one of their specialisms entered no pupils for a science A level in 2008. [286897]

Mr. Coaker: Of the 433 schools identified as having a specialism in sciences, 269 teach pupils to Key Stage 5 and, of these, three did not enter any pupils for an A-level in the science subjects in 2008.

Note:

A-level subjects included as science are: applied science (single and double awards), biological sciences, chemistry, physics, electronics, environmental science, geology and "psychology as a science".

Source:

The source for this answer is the Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288961]

Mr. Coaker: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its First phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its Final Report, which can be found at the following website:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A Steering Group has been established under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Sixth Form Education

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of students educated to GCSE level in the independent sector taking up places in maintained school sixth forms or colleges for 16-19 education in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [291133]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: The table shows estimates of the numbers and percentages of young people who attended independent schools in the academic year when they reached 16 and who then went to study at a maintained school or college the following year.

The source of the data is matched administrative data which is used to track progress in the early years of post-compulsory education. The estimates have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Attended independent school in academic year[1] reached 16 then attended maintained school or college[2] the next academic year[3]

	Numbers	*Percentage[4]*
2002/03-2003/04	10,000	25
2003/04-2004/05	11,000	25
2004/05-2005/06	11,000	25
2005/06-2006/07	12,000	26
2006/07-2007/08	12,000	27

[1] First academic year shown in row headings.
[2] Includes Academies, City Technology Colleges and other mainstream maintained schools, 6th form colleges and other FE colleges.
[3] Second academic year shown in row headings.
[4] The denominator for the percentage is all those in the dataset who attended independent schools in the academic year they reached 16.

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers have left the maintained sector since 1997. [287228]

Mr. Coaker: Provisional estimates show that by March 2008 297,300 full and part-time teachers who had been in full or part-time regular service in local authority maintained schools in England in any March between 1997 and 2007 had left. The figure includes teachers who have left temporarily, for example on unpaid maternity leave. Teachers who have retired are also included and those who have gone on to teach outside the English maintained sector.

The source of the information is the Database of Teacher Records. The figure provided may be a slight underestimate because it is known that service details for around 10 to 20 per cent. of part-time teachers are not recorded in the data.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified *(a)* teachers and *(b)* male teachers under the age of 60 years are not teaching. [287229]

Mr. Coaker: Provisional information for March 2008 shows that there were 404,600 teachers under the age of 60 with qualified teacher status in England or Wales who were not recorded in service of whom 123,000 were men. This information is from the Database of Teacher Records.

There will be some teachers in the totals provided who will be in service outside of England and Wales or teaching in sectors that are not recorded in the data source. These will include some of the higher education sector and independent schools who are not part of the Teachers Pensions Scheme.

Teachers: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to paragraph C. 76, page 242 of Budget 2009, if he will

place in the Library a copy of the actuarial advice he received on the teachers' pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [289104]

Mr. Coaker: The net expenditure projections for the teachers' pension scheme, used to build up the financial statement and Budget report, reflect assumptions set by the Department, after taking into account comments from their actuarial advisers. The actuarial assumptions for the scheme can be found in the latest valuation report published in November 2006 and available in the House Libraries.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the meaning is of each *(a)* acronym and *(b)* abbreviation used on the editorial policy section of her Department's CabWeb intranet site. [287261]

Tessa Jowell: I have placed in the Library a document expanding each acronym and abbreviation in the editorial policy section of CabWeb.

Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many times *(a)* Mr Derek Draper and *(b)* Mr Charlie Whelan has visited the Cabinet Office/Downing Street complex in the last six months. [287211]

Tessa Jowell: I am not aware of any meetings involving Derek Draper or Charlie Whelan.

Unemployment

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged more than 50 years old were claiming jobseeker's allowance in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month of the last five years. [289151]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged more than 50 years were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in each (a) region and (b) Jobcentre Plus district in each month of the last five years. (289151)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of people aged 50 and over resident in each region who has claimed JSA in each of the last 5 years. Table 2 shows the number of persons aged 50 and over resident in each Jobcentre Plus district who has claimed JSA in each of the last 5 years. A copy of the tables are available in the Library of the House.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Voluntary Work: Vetting

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the Office of the Third Sector guidelines on Criminal Records Bureau checks for volunteers issued to local authorities. [287285]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector's guidance on Criminal Records Bureau checks was published in June 2008 and is available on the following websites.

The Office of the Third Sector

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector.

The Criminal Records Bureau

www.crb.gov.uk.

Volunteering England

www.volunteering.org.uk.

Following comments from Third Sector stakeholders a copy of the guidance was distributed to local authorities by the Local Government Association in May 2009.

The guidance document has been placed in the Libraries in the House.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff from his Department are based in the provincial reconstruction team base in Lashkar Gar; what proportion of such staff *(a)* have left the perimeter of the base by road during their tour and *(b)* are performing roles which could be undertaken at Camp Bastion; and if he will make a statement. [291094]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Alexander) on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2109W.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contacts there were between British forces and anti-coalition militia in Afghanistan in each month since June 2006. [251650]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence is currently collating and validating the data needed to answer this question. I will write to the hon. Member when his work is complete, and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I am writing to provide you with the information promised in my predecessor's holding replies to your Parliamentary Questions regarding contacts between British forces and anti-coalition militia in Afghanistan on 24 February 2009, (Official Report, column 520W).

The Ministry of Defence has recently completed a review of the data required to answer this question, and has revised the manner in which we classify and present data to ensure consistency.

The numbers of troops in contact events (regardless of the instigator) involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province as part of Task Force Helmand for each complete month from June 2006 to February 2009 for which verified data is available are shown below.

	2006[1]	2007[1]	2008[1]	2009[1]
January	—	60	70	180
February	—	100	70	180
March	—	140	80	—
April	—	70	50	—
May	—	120	60	—
June	10	110	80	—
July	120	130	110	—
August	100	130	200	—
September	100	130	180	—
October	40	90	170	—
November	40	110	200	—
December	50	130	220	—

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10.

ISAF forces operating in Helmand come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other and alongside Afghan Army and Police units. Without undertaking a detailed assessment of each engagement, it is not possible precisely to define in every case whether an attack was aimed at UK forces, at our ISAF partners, or against Afghan units. Data is therefore collected on the number of incidents involving ISAF forces in Helmand without attempting to identify the nationality of the forces actually being attacked. The environment in which forces are operating makes it extremely difficult precisely to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by ISAF.

This data is based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

I hope that the above information addresses your concerns on this matter.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) between what dates the reported 84 per cent. increase in helicopter hours available to UK forces in Afghanistan was achieved; [289130]

(2) between what dates the reported 60 per cent. increase in the number of helicopters available to UK forces in Afghanistan was achieved. [289131]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 60 per cent. increase in the number of helicopters and the 84 per cent. increase in helicopter hours available to UK forces in Afghanistan relate to the period from November 2006 to April 2009. These increases do not include helicopters or helicopter hours provided by other coalition forces.

Armed Forces: Health Services

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Defence Medical Service personnel were based in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* England, *(d)* Northern Ireland, *(e)* Cyprus and *(f)* Germany in each of the last five years. [290781]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of Defence Medical Service personnel[1] based in each location as at 1 April each year is provided in the following table. The data before 2007 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	2007	2008	2009
Scotland	260	260	280
Wales	60	50	50
England	6,830	6,900	6,850
Northern Ireland	150	120	120
Cyprus	150	160	160
Germany	610	610	640

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System all strength statistics are provisional and subject to review.

[1] Some Army Medical Service personnel are excluded from these figures as some will work outside of the Army Corps that were used to identify Army Medical Service personnel.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Armed Forces: Medical Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from the Royal Naval Medical Services were based in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* England, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* other countries in each of the last five years. [291378]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of Royal Naval Medical Service personnel based in each location as at 1 April each year is provided in the following table. The data before 2007 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	2007	2008	2009
Scotland	120	110	130
Wales	0	0	0
England	1,450	1,480	1,430
Northern Ireland	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Other countries[2]	110	70	70

[1] Fewer than five.

[2] Other countries also includes Cyprus and Germany.

Notes:

1. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System all strength statistics are provisional and subject to review.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from the Army Medical Services were based in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* England, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* other countries in each of the last five years. [291379]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of Army Medical Service personnel[1] based in each location as at 1 April each year is provided in the following table. The data before 2007 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	2007	2008	2009
Scotland	70	80	70
Wales	30	30	30
England	3,710	3,750	3,750
Northern Ireland	130	100	110
Other countries[1]	760	800	810

[1] Other countries also includes Cyprus and Germany. *Notes:* 1. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System all strength statistics are provisional and subject to review.
2. Some Army Medical Service personnel are excluded from these figures as some will work outside of the Army Corps that were used to identify Army Medical Service personnel.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from the Royal Air Force Medical Service were based in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* England, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* other countries in each of the last five years. [291382]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of personnel posted to the Royal Air Force Medical Services based in each location as at 1 April each year is provided in the following table. The data before 2006 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Scotland	70	70	70	80
Wales	40	30	30	30
England	1,660	1,660	1,670	1,670
Northern Ireland	20	20	20	20
Other countries[1]	110	110	110	120

[1] Including Cyprus and Germany.

Notes:

1. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all strength statistics are provisional and subject to review.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* psychologists, *(b)* psychiatrists, *(c)* mental health nurses and *(d)* occupational therapists in Defence Medical Services have been employed in (i) Scotland, (ii) England, (iii) Wales, (iv) Northern Ireland and (v) other countries in each year since 1997; [291383]

(2) how much has been spent on *(a)* psychologists, *(b)* psychiatrists, *(c)* mental health nurses and *(d)* occupational therapists by the Defence Medical Services in (i) Scotland, (ii) England, (iii) Wales, (iv) Northern Ireland and (v) other countries in each year since 1997. [291384]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The majority of mental health personnel are employed in MOD's 15 Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) in the UK, (with additional centres in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar), with a small number at other MOD locations. The DCMHs are located in areas of major military population, and include 11 in England, three in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland.

The number of personnel employed in the specified regions as at July 2009 are provided in the table. These include both military and civilian personnel.

Location	*Psychologists*	*Psychiatrists*[1]	*Mental Health Nurses*	*Occupational Therapists (Mental Health)*[2]
England	10	22	85	—
Scotland	1	1.5	5	—
Wales	—	—	—	—
Northern Ireland	—	0.5	3	—
Other	1	4	24	3
Total	12	28	117	3

[1] One individual works part-time at two separate DCMHs. These are shown as "0.5" at each location.

[2] Specialised Occupational Therapists (Mental Health) are only employed in DCMHs in Germany. Elsewhere, this function is undertaken by mental health nurses.

Historical figures back to 1997 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Funding provision is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to paragraph C.76, Page 242 of the Financial Statement and Budget Report 2009, if he will place in the Library a copy of the actuarial advice he received on the armed forces' pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [289105]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces pension scheme is advised by the Government's Actuary's Department. The last formal valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2005 and the results of which form the basis for the actuarial statement in the resource accounts for 2005-06 and for subsequent years to date. The resource accounts, which include these actuarial statements for 2005-06 to 2008-09 have been placed in the Library of the House.

BVT Surface Fleet

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for which shipbuilding projects BVT has exclusivity under the terms of its business agreement. [291381]

Bill Rammell: The Terms of Business Agreement (ToBA) is a complex commercial arrangement that provides BVT Surface Fleet Limited (BVT) with a right of exclusivity in design, build and integration for future destroyers, frigates and minor warships.

Concept design will normally be carried out by the Naval Design Partnership in which BVT plays a part.

BVT Surface Fleet: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate how much of the planned annual expenditure under the terms of business agreement with BVT will be spent in Scotland in each of the next five years. [291380]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* This information is not held in the format requested.

This BVT Surface Fleet Limited (BVT) Terms of Business Agreement (ToBA) is a long-term partnering arrangement that provides a framework for how BVT and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) will work together over the next 15 years in the area of warship design and build and elements of warship support.

Other than the commitment from MOD to support a range of key industrial capabilities, the ToBA does not contain nor commit MOD to a particular level of annual expenditure in any geographical location or constrain BVT in relation to how or where BVT conducts its business.

Defence Medical Services: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in the Defence Medical Services are based in Scotland. [291183]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 1 April 2009, 280 Defence Medical Service personnel were based in Scotland. Some

Army Medical Service personnel are excluded from this figure as some will work outside of the Army Corps that were used to identify Army Medical Service personnel.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System all strength statistics are provisional and subject to review.

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory: Scotland

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory have been employed in Scotland in each year since 1997. [290793]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) was formed in July 2001 following the division of Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) into DSTL and QinetiQ. DSTL does not have records specifically detailing staff numbers in Scotland, prior to 2003.

However, as part of an ongoing DSTL site rationalisation plan, all DSTL jobs in Scotland were relocated from Glasgow and Dunfermline to DSTL Porton Down. Therefore, it is recorded that the DSTL staff numbers in Scotland on 1 April 2003 were 48 and on 1 April 2004 were six. The last employee in Scotland left DSTL on 31 October 2004, and since this date, DSTL has not had any employees in Scotland.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date Bernard Gray was commissioned by his Department to review military equipment procurement; on what date Mr. Gray delivered a draft report to his Department; what access Mr. Gray was given to documentation and personnel in his Department and agencies responsible to his Department in researching and preparing his report; and when he expects to publish the final report. [290926]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The then Secretary of State (Mr. Hutton) announced on 11 December 2008 that Bernard Gray had been commissioned to undertake a review of military acquisition. The initial draft was received by the Department on 29 May 2009. Mr. Gray was given full access to military and civilian personnel, and acquisition-related documentation, throughout the Department.

Departmental Budgets

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of his Department's science, innovation and technology budget was spent in Scotland in each year since 1997. [290802]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Direct contract payments made from the Science Innovation Technology (SIT) budget on equipment and non-equipment contracts and those where the primary work was identified as being undertaken in Scotland are shown in the following table.

VAT Exclusive: £ million

	Total Expenditure in Year - Scotland	*Total Expenditure in Year -SIT*	*Proportion of SIT Expenditure in Year in Scotland (%)*
2003-04	4	392	1.0
2004-05	9	471	1.9
2005-06	10	500	2.0
2006-07	11	488	2.3
2007-08	12	531	2.3
2008-09	10	509	2.0

Note:
Rounded to the nearest £ million

Requested information prior to 2003-04 is not available and can only be provided at disproportionate cost. Staff costs are not included. There may also be further work that was carried out in Scotland, but location data is not available on central records. However, this element is likely to be very small.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* armed service personnel and *(b)* administrative staff were employed by his Department in each year since 1997. [291314]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of Armed Forces and Civilian personnel employed in each year since 1997 is provided in the table.

This information can also be found in the UK Defence Statistics table 2.1, "Recent trends in Service and civilian personnel strengths at 1 April each year", at the following DASA website

http://www.dasa.mod.uk.

Thousand: FTE

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001**	*2002**	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007**	*2008**	*2009*
Service personnel[1]	215.1	214.3	213.2	212.7	211.2	210.8	213.5	213.3	206.9	201.4	[2]196.1	[2]193.1	[2]194.7
UK Regulars	210.8	210.1	208.6	207.6	205.7	204.7	206.9	207.0	201.1	195.9	[2]190.4	[2]187.1	[2]188.4
FTRS	—	0.1	0.6	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.5	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.6	[2]1.8	[2]2.1
Gurkhas[3]	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	[2]3.7	[2]3.9	[2]3.9
Locally entered/ engaged[3]	—[4]	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Civilian Level 0[5,6]	133.3	126.3	123.0	121.3	*118.2	110.1	107.6	109.0	108.5	103.4	97.7	89.5	86.6
Civilian Level 1[7]	101.9	97.1	94.1	91.9	86.0	83.6	81.5	82.2	82.0	78.1	73.8	69.0	66.4

Thousand: FTE

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*	2002*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*	2008*	2009
Trading Funds[6]	15.5	14.0	14.0	14.5	18.8	12.4	12.2	11.4	10.8	10.7	10.1	9.2	9.6
Locally Engaged Civilians	15.9	15.2	14.9	14.8	13.3	14.1	13.8	15.4	15.7	14.5	13.8	11.2	10.5

* Denotes discontinuity in time series.
[1] Data for the Home Service of the Royal Irish Regiment is excluded from this table. The Home Service of the Royal Irish Regiment was officially disbanded on 31 March 2008.
[2] Denotes provisional - Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, Service strength statistics for 1 April 2007 onwards are provisional and subject to review.
[3] Gurkhas are included in the locally entered service personnel figures until 1997 after which they are shown separately.
[4] Denotes brace.
[5] Civilian Level 0 - This contains all those at Level 1 plus Trading Funds and Locally Engaged Civilians.
[6] The following changes have affected the continuity of the civilian data: In Financial Year 2001-02 the QinetiQ portion of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (8,000) was established as a private company. At 1 April 2008 the Defence Aviation Repair Agency and the Army Based Repair Organisation merged to form the Defence Support Group and around 1,000 personnel transferred to the Vector Aerospace Corporation.
[7] Civilian Level 1 - Permanent and casual civilian personnel and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, but excludes Trading Funds and Locally Engaged Civilians
Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Totals and subtotals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.
Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Guided Weapons: Testing

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost of a missile testing camp at Hebrides Range was in the five years *(a)* before and *(b)* after the implementation of his Department's long-term partnering agreement with Qinetiq. [291290]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Information on the cost of missile trials at the Hebrides Range during the five years before the Long Term Partnering Agreement with QinetiQ was implemented in 2003, is no longer held centrally. Therefore, the average cost of a missile trial over that period could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the cost of missile trials since 2003 is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost of a missile firing test taking place *(a)* in the Falklands Islands and *(b)* at the Hebrides Range was in the latest period for which figures are available. [291291]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The MOD does not test missiles in the Falkland Islands.

Information on the cost of missile trials is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many missile tests took place at Hebrides Range in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what missiles were tested in each test. [291294]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Details of missile testing at the Hebrides Range during 2008 and 2009 to date are as follows:

	Missile details	Number of missile tests
2008	Rapier	5
	Sea Sparrow—conducted on behalf of Denmark	1
	Sea Dart	1
	HVM—High Velocity Missile	1
	AMRAAM—Advanced Medium Range Air-Air Missile	1
2009	Rapier	3
	Sea Dart	1
	BVRAAM—Beyond Visual Range Air-Air Missile	1
	Brimstone	1

In addition, a further trial was conducted at the Hebrides Range during 2009, but I am withholding the details as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Details of missile tests currently planned for the remainder of 2009 and 2010 are as follows:

	Missile Details	Number of Missile Tests
2009	Rapier	1
	BVRAAM—Beyond Visual Range Air-Air Missile	2
2010	AMRAAM—Advanced Medium Range Air-Air Missile	2
	ASRAAM—Advanced Short-Range Air-Air Missile	1
	Rapier	2
	Sea Viper	2
	Sea Dart	1
	BVRAAM—Beyond Visual Range Air-Air Missile	1

Met Office: Pay

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ban the payment of bonuses to staff at the Met Office when the office makes incorrect long-term forecasts. [291276]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2128W.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1400W, to the hon. Member for Moray, on nuclear submarines, which nuclear submarines were involved in the three medium scale fires which occurred at a naval base; in which naval bases each such fire occurred; and when each such fire occurred. [290795]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2222-23W.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 13 July 2009

DEFENCE

Defence Support Group

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): The following key targets have been agreed with the chief executive of the Defence Support Group for the FY2009-10.

DSG

KT1—Quality

Deliver an improved quality performance by achieving fewer than four attributable major customer concerns within DSG's air business and reducing upheld customer complaints within the land business by 5 per cent. against the 2007-08 out-turn.

[Official Report, 10 June 2009, Vol. 493, c. 37WS.]

Letter of correction from Quentin Davies:

An error has been identified in the written ministerial statement released to the House on 10 June 2009. In the Defence Support Group Key Target 1 (Quality) the words 'per annum' were omitted from the land business performance measurement metric.

The correct wording of Key Target 1 should have been:

DSG

KT1—Quality

Deliver an improved quality performance by achieving fewer than four attributable major customer concerns within DSG's air business and reducing upheld customer complaints within the land business by 5 per cent. per annum against the 2007-08 out-turn.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 14 July 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Leaseholders' Rights Bill

Ms Winterton:...Under the Social Landlords Discretionary Reduction of Service Charges (England) Directions 1997, landlords can also cap service charges if certain conditions are met, including if a leaseholder will suffer exceptional hardship. In 2002, we undertook a review of issues relating to major works service charges paid by local authority leaseholders. That was done because of concerns raised over high service charges that were being levied on local authority leaseholders, principally arising out of work being carried out to bring homes up to an acceptable standard under the decent homes programme. We learned that many local authorities, particularly in London, already offer a range of forms of assistance to their leaseholders. They offer a range of payment by instalment options; some agree to delay payment until the property is sold; others even offer a discount if the bill is paid in full promptly.

[Official Report, 26 June 2009, Vol. 494, c. 1093-1094.]

Letter of correction from Rosie Winterton:

An error has been identified in the second reading debate on the Leaseholders Rights Bill introduced by the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 26 June 2009. The error consists of reference to an incorrect date (2002) for a particular review that was carried out. The correct date should be 2006.

The full statement made by me was as follows:

"Under the Social Landlords Discretionary Reduction of Service Charges (England) Directions 1997, landlords can also cap service charges if certain conditions are met, including if a leaseholder will suffer exceptional hardship. In 2002, we undertook a review of issues relating to major works service charges paid by local authority leaseholders. That was done because of concerns raised over high service charges that were being levied on local authority leaseholders, principally arising out of work being carried out to bring homes up to an acceptable standard under the decent homes programme. We learned that many local authorities, particularly in London, already offer a range of forms of assistance to their leaseholders. They offer a range of payment by instalment options; some agree to delay payment until the property is sold; others even offer a discount if the bill is paid in full promptly."

The correct statement should have been:

Ms Winterton:...Under the Social Landlords Discretionary Reduction of Service Charges (England) Directions 1997, landlords can also cap service charges if certain conditions are met, including if a leaseholder will suffer exceptional hardship. In 2006, we undertook a review of issues relating to major works service charges paid by local authority leaseholders. That was done because of concerns raised over high service charges that were being levied on local authority leaseholders, principally arising out of work being carried out to bring homes up to an acceptable standard under the decent homes programme. We learned that many local authorities, particularly in London, already offer a range of forms of assistance to their leaseholders. They offer a range of payment by instalment options; some agree to delay payment until the property is sold; others even offer a discount if the bill is paid in full promptly.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 16 July 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which were the groups described as representing ratepayers who expect significant rises in their rate bills and who are pressing for a five-year scheme on page 15 of the document NNDR Transitional Arrangements: Consultation, published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in August 2004; and if he will make a statement. [278453]

[Official Report, 11 June 2009, Vol. 493, c. 996-97W.]

Letter of correction from Rosie Winterton:

A number of errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 11 June 2009 relating to the number of responses received.

The correct answer should have been:

Ms Rosie Winterton: A full list of those consulted is at Annex B to the Consultation document published in August 2004. A total of 77 responses were received. 44 responded in favour of a four-year transitional scheme. Eight respondents favoured a five-year transitional scheme. These are as follows:

(The) Energy Network
North Norfolk District Council
B and Q
British Retail Consortium
Onyx and SITA
e-on UK
Association of Electricity Producers
International Power.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 21 July 2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

Association of Chief Police Officers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has paid to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in each year since 2000; for what purpose; what restrictions apply to the use of the money; what discussions she has had since January 2008 with the President of ACPO; and if she will make a statement. [259061

[Official Report, 20 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 146-48W.]

Letter of correction from David Hanson:

An error has been identified in the table that was presented by my predecessor in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 20 April 2009.

In my predecessor's response to your question he referred to a list of projects as an annex to the answer. In the annex Operation Sycamore was listed as being an investigation into prostitution project, this was in fact incorrect. Operation Sycamore is a project to fund clearance of the backlog of 27,000 European Conviction notifications. £700,000 was given for this in 2006-07, with a further £31,339 given in 2008-09.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has provided funding for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) since 1997.

In addition to an annual grant in aid payment, the Home Office has made regular payments to ACPO to fund a number of specific projects or in support of initiatives that are best delivered by those with professional police experience. All the grants are prescribed only for the project or use specified. From the information currently held by the Department, the payments made to ACPO since 2006/07 have been listed as an annex to this response.

The Home Secretary and I meet with the President of ACPO, regularly to discuss a range of issues, including the projects in which ACPO are involved. This is in addition to frequent telephone conversations and joint attendance at conferences and events. Formal notes of these meetings are not available to place in the House Library.

Home Office payments to ACPO

Project	*Financial year* 2006-07 (£)	2007-08 (£)	2008-09 (£)	*Detail*
Grant Aid	836,232	836,232	836,232	To meet the costs of the ACPO president and part of the ACPO office costs
ACIST	2,988,115	—	—	To fund the ACPO Change and Implementation Support Team
Criminal Records project	110,000	110,000	110,000	UK Central Authority for exchange of criminal records
Operation Sycamore	700,000	—	31,339	To fund clearance of the backlog of 27,000 European Conviction notifications
Community Tensions project	60,000	60,000	82,172	To fund the ACPO National Community Tensions Team
Domestic Extremism project	2,000,000,	2,000,000,	2,000,000,	To fund the ACPO Domestic Extremism Team
Disaster Victims Identification	253,128	314,296	216,060	To fund the ACPO UK DIVI Management Team
Stockwell project	—	230,000	—	Learning lessons of the Stockwell incident
Drugs Conference	—	—	10,000	Contribution to ACPO conference
Cannabis cultivation	—	—	40,000	Funding part of the costs of a co-ordinator
Wildlife crime	15,367	15,367	150,000	Funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit
Vehicle Intelligence	—	—	100,000	Funding for ACPO Vehicle Intelligence Service
Car Parking	200,000	185,000	130,000	Funding for ACPO Safer Car parking Scheme
Co-ordination of Counter-Terrorism policing	—	5,300,664	4,000,000	Funds the national co-ordination functions: the National Coordinator of Special Branch, media liaison work, CT training needs analysis and the police contribution to the Border Management programme.

Home Office payments to ACPO

Project	*Financial year 2006-07 (£)*	*2007-08 (£)*	*2008-09 (£)*	*Detail*[1]
Prevent	—	355,586	1,159,500	Prevent Channel project
Prevent	—	—	4,705,810	Prevent policing
Protective Services	—	60,600	189,400	Co-ordination costs
Level 2	—	2,000,000	—	Level 2 project
Operation Overt	—	268,581	—	PNICC work on the air terrorist action
RIUs	8,000,000	8,000,000	—	Setting up regional intelligence units
Policing the Olympics	—	—	220,000	Co-ordinating work
Prisoner Intelligence Network	948,665	3,841,899	4,598,961	Support funding for programme
AVCIS (ACPO vehicle crime intelligence service)	—	420,000	—	Organised vehicle crime investigation
AVCIS—TruckPol	—	50,000	—	Freight crime intelligence service
ACPO Drugs CBA	10,000	10,000	—	Contribution to ACPO organised drugs conference
Operation Cube (ACRO)	450,000	0	0	DNA analysis
Operation Element (National Community Tension Team)	—	200,000	170,000	NCTT—Operation Element (2007-08 funding)
Knife Crime	0	0	81,250	Knife Crime £100,000 funding approximately agreed for 8 months (mid-September 2008 to mid-May 2009)
Domestic violence posters	0	0	4,690	Domestic violence awareness campaign. Grant agreement signed—funding awaited
Total	14,571,507	22,258,225	16,804,075	—

[1] Funding allocated for these purposes only.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* budgetary support and *(b)* other funding her Department has given to the Association of Chief Police Officers in the last 12 months. [276791

[Official Report, 3 June 2009, Vol. 493, c. 553W.]

Letter of correction from David Hanson:

With reference to the answer given by my predecessor to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 3 June 2009 in which he refers him to the answer given previously to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 146-48W, unfortunately an error has been identified in the table that was presented by my predecessor in the written answer of 20 April 2009.

In my predecessor's response he referred to a list of projects as an annex to the answer. In the annex Operation Sycamore was listed as being an investigation into prostitution project, this was in fact incorrect. Operation Sycamore is a project to fund clearance of the backlog of 27,000 European Conviction notifications. £700,000 was given for this in 2006-07, with a further £31,339 given in 2008-09.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has provided funding for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) since 1997.

In addition to an annual grant in aid payment, the Home Office has made regular payments to ACPO to fund a number of specific projects or in support of initiatives that are best delivered by those with professional police experience. All the grants are prescribed only for the project or use specified. From the information currently held by the Department, the payments made to ACPO since 2006/07 have been listed as an annex to this response.

The Home Secretary and I meet with the President of ACPO, regularly to discuss a range of issues, including the projects in which ACPO are involved. This is in addition to frequent telephone conversations and joint attendance at conferences and events. Formal notes of these meetings are not available to place in the House Library.

Home Office payments to ACPO

Project	*Financial year 2006-07 (£)*	*2007-08 (£)*	*2008-09 (£)*	*Detail*
Grant Aid	836,232	836,232	836,232	To meet the costs of the ACPO president and part of the ACPO office costs
ACIST	2,988,115	—	—	To fund the ACPO Change and Implementation Support Team
Criminal Records project	110,000	110,000	110,000	UK Central Authority for exchange of criminal records
Operation Sycamore	700,000	—	31,339	To fund clearance of the backlog of 27,000 European Conviction notifications
Community Tensions project	60,000	60,000	82,172	To fund the ACPO National Community Tensions Team
Domestic Extremism project	2,000,000,	2,000,000,	2,000,000,	To fund the ACPO Domestic Extremism Team
Disaster Victims Identification	253,128	314,296	216,060	To fund the ACPO UK DIVI Management Team
Stockwell project	—	230,000	—	Learning lessons of the Stockwell incident
Drugs Conference	—	—	10,000	Contribution to ACPO conference
Cannabis cultivation	—	—	40,000	Funding part of the costs of a co-ordinator
Wildlife crime	15,367	15,367	150,000	Funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit
Vehicle Intelligence	—	—	100,000	Funding for ACPO Vehicle Intelligence Service
Car Parking	200,000	185,000	130,000	Funding for ACPO Safer Car parking Scheme
Co-ordination of Counter-Terrorism policing	—	5,300,664	4,000,000	Funds the national co-ordination functions: the National Coordinator of Special Branch, media liaison work, CT training needs analysis and the police contribution to the Border Management programme.
Prevent	—	355,586	1,159,500	Prevent Channel project
Prevent	—	—	4,705,810	Prevent policing
Protective Services	—	60,600	189,400	Co-ordination costs
Level 2	—	2,000,000	—	Level 2 project
Operation Overt	—	268,581	—	PNICC work on the air terrorist action
RIUs	8,000,000	8,000,000	—	Setting up regional intelligence units
Policing the Olympics	—	—	220,000	Co-ordinating work
Prisoner Intelligence Network	948,665	3,841,899	4,598,961	Support funding for programme
AVCIS (ACPO vehicle crime intelligence service)	—	420,000	—	Organised vehicle crime investigation
AVCIS—TruckPol	—	50,000	—	Freight crime intelligence service
ACPO Drugs CBA	10,000	10,000	—	Contribution to ACPO organised drugs conference
Operation Cube (ACRO)	450,000	0	0	DNA analysis

Home Office payments to ACPO

Project	*Financial year* 2006-07 (£)	2007-08 (£)	2008-09 (£)	*Detail*[1]
Operation Element (National Community Tension Team)	—	200,000	170,000	NCTT—Operation Element (2007-08 funding)
Knife Crime	0	0	81,250	Knife Crime £100,000 funding approximately agreed for 8 months (mid-September 2008 to mid-May 2009)
Domestic violence posters	0	0	4,690	Domestic violence awareness campaign. Grant agreement signed—funding awaited
Total	14,571,507	22,258,225	16,804,075	—

[1] Funding allocated for these purposes only.

Ministerial Corrections

The following Ministerial Corrections were received between Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 9 September 2009

JUSTICE

Young Offenders: Injuries

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what injuries were incurred by boys held in *(a)* Ashford, *(b)* Bradford and *(c)* Castington Young Offenders Institution following use of control and restraint in each month in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [167802]

[Official Report, 5 December 2007, Vol. 468, c. 1262-66W.]

Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:

An error has been identified in the table provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Finchley and Golders Green (Dr. Vis) on 5 December 2007.

The prisoner at Castington described in the table as having sustained a fractured wrist in March 2007 actually sustained this injury on 12 April 2007. This has come to light following the recent publication of HMCIP's inspection report of Castington, in which Anne Owers commented on the number of wrist injuries sustained at Castington.

I apologise for the error.

Young Offender Institutions: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of providing a place in *(a)* a young offender institution for 18 to 21 year olds, *(b)* a young offender institution for 15 to 17 year olds and (c) a secure training centre for under 15 year olds was in the latest year for which figures are available. [236050]

[Official Report, 17 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 24W.]

Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woking (Mr. Malins) on 17 November 2008 regarding the average annual cost of a place in a Secure Training Centre in 2007-08. I regret that our written answer gave an incorrect figure.

Our answer showed the cost of a place in a Secure Training Centre for 2007-08 as £191,618. However, this was mistakenly derived from data relating to a later period, and also contained a calculation error which further inflated the figure. The correct figure for the average annual cost of a Secure Training Centre place as at 1 April 2007 was £178,013. I apologise for this error.

Departmental Public Opinion

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since its inception; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239037]

[Official Report, 26 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 1665-70W.]

Letter of correction from Jack Straw:

Errors have been identified in the parliamentary question tabled by the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) in November 2008 requesting information about expenditure on focus groups and opinion polls.

Unfortunately, the answer supplied included projects required which do not fall within the Ministry's definition of opinion polls. Opinion polls are surveys of a representative sample of the public where the primary focus is to gather information about their opinions on matters of public interest including the efficacy of government policies. It does not include other types of social research or consultation where the primary focus is gathering of information on individual's experiences including those of government policies, even if they are quantitative.

When checking the data provided in the response in our reply against similar information requested in a more recent PQ this point was noted. Revised figures are now contained in the reply and tables.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Wills: Between May 2007 and November 2008 the Ministry of Justice spent around £524,000 on focus groups, and £158,000 on opinion polls. The following table provides details of focus groups and opinion polls carried out by the Ministry of Justice since inception in 2007, and the estimates for such in 2008-09 as at November 2008.

Ministry of Justice focus groups and opinion polls

£

				Commissioned research				Planned research	
Name of the opinion poll/ focus group	*Name of firm carrying out the work*	*Opinion poll*	*Focus group*	*Total cost in 2007-08 (exc VAT)*	*Total cost in 2007-08 (inc VAT)*	*Total cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)*	*Total cost in 2008-09 (inc VAT)*	*Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)*	*Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (inc VAT)*
Constitution Directorate tracker survey	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	38,300	45,000	—	—	—	—
General Public Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (Capibus survey)	Ipsos Mori	Yes	—	22,280	26,179	—	—	—	—

Ministry of Justice focus groups and opinion polls

£

Name of the opinion poll/ focus group	*Name of firm carrying out the work*	*Opinion poll*	*Focus group*	*Commissioned research*				*Planned research*	
				Total cost in 2007-08 (exc VAT)	*Total cost in 2007-08 (inc VAT)*	*Total cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)*	*Total cost in 2008-09 (inc VAT)*	*Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)*	*Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (inc VAT)*
Legal Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (online survey)	Ipsos Mori	Yes	—	7,800	9,165	—	—	—	—
Health and Social Care Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (paper survey)	Distribution through Binleys Survey conducted by Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	24,278	28,468	—	—	—	—
Testing of language and understanding of Departmental Strategic Objectives	GfK NOP	Yes	—	6,270	7,367	—	—	—	—
Citizenship Insight Project	—	—	Yes	[1]90,610	—	—	—	—	—
Customer Expectation Survey	—	—	Yes	[1]37,000	—	—	—	—	—
Research on development of the Before The Event legal expenses insurance	—	—	Yes	[1]20,011	—	—	—	—	—
Improving public confidence in the Criminal Justice System; inform, persuade and remind.	—	—	Yes	[1]19,800	—	—	—	—	—
Justice and Schools	—	—	Yes	[1]10,000	—	—	—	—	—
Community Justice Merthyr Tydfil	—	—	Yes	[1]24,000	—	—	—	—	—
on consultation paper on Inspection powers and funding arrangements of the Information	Arranged internally		Yes	n/a	n/a	0	0	6,500	6,500
Offender management strategy: practitioner research	PWC	No	—	—	—	39,871	—	0	0
Public Confidence in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales: June 2008	PWC	Yes	Yes	—	—	30,975	—	0	0
Assessing implementation of the pilot of the Stable & Acute dynamic risk assessment tool	NatCen	—	Yes x5	—	—	106,935	125,860	—	—

Ministry of Justice focus groups and opinion polls

£

				Commissioned research				Planned research	
Name of the opinion poll/ focus group	*Name of firm carrying out the work*	*Opinion poll*	*Focus group*	*Total cost in 2007-08 (exc VAT)*	*Total cost in 2007-08 (inc VAT)*	*Total cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)*	*Total cost in 2008-09 (inc VAT)*	*Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)*	*Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (inc VAT)*
Frontline Matters information architecture project: website	Cogapp	—	Yes	175	206	—	—	—	—
Literature hierarchy project: CJS publications	Bang	—	Yes x3	—	—	2,400	2,820	—	—
Community understanding of high risk offenders communities, hostels etc	TNS	—	Yes	—	—	12,000	—	—	—
Your Justice Your World website—usability research	Edcoms	Yes	—	—	—	11,290	—	—	—
Process assessment of revised public law protocol guidance	—	—	Yes	—	—	104,464	—	—	—

[1] April to November 2007 spend.

Notes:

1. Current projects planned but not commissioned are all commercial in confidence; as disclosing budget may impact or tendering process.
2. Costs refer to total spend within year for complete project which often includes more than just focus groups or opinion polls (or other deliberative research).

Prisons: Explosives

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* suspected and *(b)* viable explosive devices or components have been found in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last 12 years for which figures are available. [275142]

[Official Report, 1 June 2009, Vol. 493, c. 83-89W.]

Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:

Errors have been identified in the tables provided in the written answer given to the hon. and learned Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on 1 June 2009 regarding suspected and viable explosive devices or components in prisons. It has come to my attention that the information given for one prison, HMP Parc, in two of the 12 years was incorrect due to a problem in the way the prison had recorded these incidents.

The Prison Service have confirmed that the correct figure for a viable explosive device or components in HMP Parc in the years 2004-05 and 2008-09 should have been recorded as a nil return instead of one viable device in each of the two years. These two reported viable incidents should have been placed in the "suspected" column of the two tables. This means that for 2004-05 there were four suspect and no viable devices at HMP Parc instead of three and one respectively. In 2008-09 there was one suspected device and no viable device at HMP Parc instead of one viable device and no suspect device.

The answer has been amended to reflect the changes and is as follows. All the other figures given in the answer have been re-checked and are accurate. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

I apologise for this error.

The correct entries are as follows:

2004-05

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Parc	4	0

2008-09

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Parc	1	0

Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of *(a)* restrictive physical intervention (RPI) and *(b)* removal from association were recorded in respect of those held in each institution in the juvenile secure estate in each month between January 2007 and the latest month for which figures are available; and what the ratio was of (i) RPIs and (ii) removals from association to the number of children and young people in each such institution in each such month. [278239]

[Official Report, 16 June 2009, Vol. 494, c. 271-72W.]

Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:

Errors have been identified in the tables provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Cambridge (David Howarth) on 16 June 2009.

Two parliamentary questions tabled earlier this month requested the following information:

how many incidents of (a) restrictive physical intervention (RPI) and (b) removal from association were recorded in respect of those held in each institution in the juvenile secure estate in each month between January 2007 and the latest month for which figures are available; and what the ratio was of (i) RPIs and (ii) removals from association to the number of children and young people in each such institution in each such month; [278239]

on how many occasions (a) nose, rib and thumb distraction and (b) pain compliant techniques were used on those of each (i) sex, (ii) age group and (iii) ethnic group (A) with and (B) without a disability in each institution in the juvenile secure estate in each month between January 2007 and the most recent month for which figures are available. [278240]

Both of these answers contained data which was provided by the Youth Justice Board. When checking the data provided in the response to PQ 278239 against similar information requested under the Freedom of Information Act, it was found that the tables referred to in the response published on 16 June 2009 contained a number of errors. I asked officials at the Youth Justice Board to recheck the statistical information which had been provided for the answers to the other questions that you tabled this month, and it was found that the tables provided in the response to PQ 278240 published on 16 June 2009 also contained a number of errors. Revised figures are now contained in the tables published with the ministerial correction to PQ 278240.

I apologise for these errors and would like to assure you that I am taking action to address the issue. I will place a copy of this letter and the tables in the House Libraries. I will also ask Table Office to allow a copy of the letter to be published in the correction section of the *Official Report*.

The correct answer should have been:

Maria Eagle: Restraint is only ever to be used by staff as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

Because of unruly and sometimes dangerous behaviour, there are occasions on which use of physical restraint is unavoidable. The interests and safety of everyone in the establishment must be considered. Other young people, staff and visitors' safety, as well as that of the young person whose behaviour is causing problems have to be taken into account.

The data contained in the tables have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board. Table A contains data on the number of restrictive physical interventions (RPIs) from April 2007 to March 2009. It is not possible to provide earlier details as comparable statistics across the under-18 secure estate have only been available since April 2007.

Table B contains data for the same period on the number of single separation incidents at secure training centres (STCs) and secure children's homes (SCHs). It is not possible to provide comparable data for young offender institutions (YOIs) as it is not collected centrally and could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Table C contains data on the ratio of RPIs to the number of young persons in YOIs, STCs, and SCHs. Table D contains data on the ratio of single separation incidents to the number of young persons in STCs and SCHs.

Tables A to D have been placed in the Library.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions *(a)* nose, rib and thumb distraction and *(b)* pain compliant techniques were used on those of each (i) sex, (ii) age group and (iii) ethnic group (A) with and (B) without a disability in each institution in the juvenile secure estate in each month between January 2007 and the most recent month for which figures are available. [278240]

[Official Report, 16 June 2009, Vol. 494, c. 272-78W.]

Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:

Errors have been identified in the tables provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Cambridge (David Howarth) on 16 June 2009.

Two parliamentary questions tabled earlier this month requested the following information:

how many incidents of (a) restrictive physical intervention (RPI) and (b) removal from association were recorded in respect of those held in each institution in the juvenile secure estate in each month between January 2007 and the latest month for which figures are available; and what the ratio was of (i) RPIs and (ii) removals from association to the number of children and young people in each such institution in each such month; [278239]

on how many occasions (a) nose, rib and thumb distraction and (b) pain compliant techniques were used on those of each (i) sex, (ii) age group and (iii) ethnic group (A) with and (B) without a disability in each institution in the juvenile secure estate in each month between January 2007 and the most recent month for which figures are available. [278240]

Both of these answers contained data which was provided by the Youth Justice Board. When checking the data provided in the response to PQ 278239 against similar information requested under the Freedom of Information Act, it was found that the tables referred to in the response published on 16 June 2009 contained a number of errors. I asked officials at the Youth Justice Board to recheck the statistical information which had been provided for the answers to the other questions that you tabled this month, and it was found that the tables provided in the response to PQ 278240 published on 16 June 2009 also contained a number of errors. Revised figures are now contained in the following tables.

I apologise for these errors and would like to assure you that I am taking action to address the issue. I will place a copy of this letter and the tables in the House Libraries. I will also ask Table Office to allow a copy of the letter to be published in the correction section of the *Official Report*.

The correct answer should have been:

Maria Eagle: The following tables provide data supplied by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) which relate to secure training centres. Data for young offender institutions and secure children's homes are not collected centrally and cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

YJB's code of practice makes it very clear that restraint is not to be used except as a last resort, when other approaches have not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

The independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings, which was published together with the Government's response on 15 December 2008, made important recommendations about improving practice and making sure restraint is used as sparingly as possible.

The Government and the Youth Justice Board are working together to implement those recommendations.

Secure training centres currently use an approved system of restraint known as Physical Control in Care (PCC), which includes the rib and thumb distraction techniques. It formerly also included the nose distraction technique: use of this was discontinued in November 2007 in the light of some concerns about its suitability voiced by a panel of medical experts commissioned to review the PCC techniques.

The data provided show the use of nose, rib and thumb distraction techniques in secure training centres during the period January 2007 to March 2009. Information on the age, sex and ethnic origin of the young person restrained has been collected centrally by the YJB since April 2008. Data relating to disability are not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table A analyses the data by type of distraction technique; Table B by sex; Table C by age; and Table D by ethnic group.

Table A: Use of distraction techniques in secure training centres by technique used, January 2007 to March 2009

Nose distraction

	2007												2008	
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*
STC total	0	2	0	0	0	1	6	3	1	1	0	0	n/a	n/a
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Medway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Oakhill	0	2	0	0	0	1	6	3	1	1	0	0	n/a	n/a
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a

Rib distraction

	2007												2008	
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*
STC total	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Thumb distraction

	2007												2008	
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*
STC total	3	0	1	1	5	2	12	3	2	2	2	1	1	2
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Medway	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Oakhill	2	0	0	0	2	2	11	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0

Nose distraction

	2008										2009		
	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
STC total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hassockfield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medway	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oakhill	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rainsbrook	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Rib distraction

	2008										2009		
	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
STC total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Thumb distraction

	2008										2009		
	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
STC total	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hassockfield	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Table B: Use of distraction techniques in secure training centres by sex, April 2008 to March 2009

Male trainees

	2008										2009		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	
STC total	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Hassockfield	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Medway	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	

Female trainees

	2008										2009		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	
STC total	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Medway	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Table C: Use of distraction techniques in secure training centres by age of trainee, April 2008 to March 2009

Age 12

	2008										2009		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	
STC total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Medway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Age 13

	2008										2009		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	
STC total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Medway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Age 14

	2008										2009		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	
STC total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Hassockfield	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Medway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	

Age 15

	2008										2009		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	
STC total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Medway	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Age 15

	2008 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Age 16

	2008 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar
STC total	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Age 17

	2008 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar
STC total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table D: Use of distraction techniques in secure training centres by ethnic origin of trainee

Asian trainees

	2008 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar
STC total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Black trainees

	2008 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar
STC total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Trainees of mixed ethnicity

	2008 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar
STC total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassockfield	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Other ethnic groups

	2008 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar
STC total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

White trainers

	2008 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar
STC total	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Angus of 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 741W, on public relations companies, (1) if he will list the public relations companies that have had contracts with *(a)* his Department, *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and *(c)* independent statutory bodies, organisations and bodies financially sponsored by his Department and other such organisations since March 2006; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such contract; [250313]

(2) how much was spent on each of the firms listed in the answer since June 2001. [250314]

[Official Report, 31 March 2009, Vol. 490, c. 1144-46W.]

Letter of correction from Jonathan Shaw:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) on 31 March 2009. Two PR agencies were omitted from the original list and the expenditure figures for COI for the years 2006-07 to 2007-08 were incorrect.

The correct answer should have been:

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested in the two questions above is provided in the following table:

£000

PR agency	Year and expenditure 2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
DWP Frameworks/Contracts							
Geronimo	n/a	459	692	397	777	491	0
Hill and Knowlton	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Forster Company	n/a	0	0	217	0	0	0
Trimedia Harrison Cowley Ltd (formerly Citigate Communications)	n/a	0	0	0	190	133	0
Fishburn Hedges	n/a	0	0	0	369	295	398
August One	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Porter Novelli	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consolidated Communications	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Euro RSCG Bss Lancaster	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Munroe and Foster	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
QBO Bell Pottinger	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
COI	n/a	0	0	17	33	17	14
Band and Brown	n/a	0	242	0	0	0	0
Beattie Communications	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pergoda	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
GCI London	n/a	0	308	383	112	0	0
Red Consultancy	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	396	873
Manning Selvage and Lee	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	113
NDPBs							
(1) Health and Safety Executive (HSE)							
Mandate (formerly AS Bss)	n/a	n/a	n/a	129	180	241	0
Weber Shandwick	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	26
GCI (UK)	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exposure	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eloqui	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
PR21	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Furner Communications	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
(2) Independent Living Fund (ILF)							
Engage Group (formerly Limehouse)	n/a	0	0	0	0	27	23
Hill and Knowlton	n/a	0	0	0	0	19	12

£000

PR agency	Year and expenditure 2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
(3) Pensions Protection Fund (PPF)							
Fishburn Hedges	n/a	0	0	0	36	71	26
Martin Adeney Associates	n/a	46	75	63	20	0	0
David Felton Media Consultancy	n/a	0	0	0	78	71	77
Warwick Emmanuel	n/a	2	16	26	33	27	45
Compro PR	n/a	29	10	0	0	0	0
Impact Press and PR	n/a	39	19	21	48	14	0
Harris Associates	n/a	6	80	93	109	123	93
Nexus	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
(4) The Pensions Regulator (TPR)							
Citigate Dewe Rogerson	n/a	0	0	0	7	0	0
(5) Remploy							
Martin Adeney Associates	0	46	75	63	20	0	0
David Felton Media Consultancy	0	0	0	0	78	71	77
Warwick Emmanuel	0	2	16	26	33	27	45
Compro PR	0	29	10	0	0	0	0
Impact Press and PR	0	39	19	21	48	14	0
Harris Associates	0	6	80	93	109	123	93
Nexus	0	30	21	21	37	10	0

n/a = Information is not available for 2001-02 as records were not held centrally and the Central Office of Information service was not being used.

The following NDPBs and other bodies have reported that they have incurred no expenditure with public relations agencies in the period in question:

Disability Employment Advisory Committee
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board
Equality 2025
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority
Pensions Ombudsman
Social Security Advisory Committee
Pensions Protection Fund Ombudsman
The Pensions Advisory Service
Working Ventures UK
Motability
Independent Review Service for the Social Fund

The Disability Rights Commission, which was referred to in the March 2006 question, was dissolved from September 2007 and its paper and electronic records have been archived. The Department would incur disproportionate cost in accessing these records to obtain the required information.

HEALTH

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the reasons are for the nine per cent. reduction in the pooled treatment budget for Milton Keynes from the National Treatment Agency in 2009-10; [280678]

(2) what funding has been given to Milton Keynes from the National Treatment Agency in each of the last five years; and how much has been so allocated in the next two years; [280679]

(3) how many problematic drug users *(a)* there were in Milton Keynes and *(b)* received treatment in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years. [280680]

[Official Report, 30 June 2009, Vol. 495, c. 212-13W.]

Letter of correction from Gillian Merron:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) on 30 June 2009. I am sorry that the figures given in the second table were incorrect.

The correct answer should have been:

Gillian Merron: Until 2008-09 the pooled treatment budget (PTB) was allocated against a basket of indicators of social and economic deprivation known to reflect drug use as the best available proxy of treatment need. As a result of differences in performance between drug partnerships in getting people into treatment this funding formula was resulting in unjustifiable variations in the amount of central subvention for each person's treatment.

2009-10 is the second year of a process which seeks to produce a fairer allocation system which more accurately matches need, activity and resources.

The new process is based on three elements:

25 per cent. of the allocation is based on the indicators underpinning the previous formula to reflect the differential cost of responding to different levels of complex need such as homelessness, mental heath, family breakdown and unemployment;

75 per cent. is based on activity in the treatment system with areas being allocated a set amount per person treated effectively; and

The final element is an area cost adjustment figure to reflect the varying costs of delivering services in different part of the country.

To promote an orderly alteration to service planning, the change is being introduced over three years with the annual maximum reduction set at 5 per cent. in 2008-09, 15 per cent. in 2009-10 and 30 per cent. in 2010-11.

Funding allocated to Milton Keynes in each of the last five years is as follows:

	£
2005-06	1,066,714
2006-07	1,221,155
2007-08	1,221,155
2008-09	1,165,052
2009-10	1,084,242

For the next two years, the indicative amount for 2010-11 is £925,000 (announced January 2008). This however was based on performance at the time predicted to grow at 1 per cent. a year. Growth in Milton Keynes is currently anticipated to be in excess of this so the final allocation may increase. The exact allocation will not be known until January 2010.

Based on data collected by the University of Glasgow covering the period 2004-05 to 2006-07, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse have advised Milton Keynes that an estimated 930 problematic drug users (PDUs) should be used for planning purposes. However, there are insufficient data on the number of PDUs to determine how the PDU population has changed over time.

The number of problematic drug users in treatment in Milton Keynes is only available for the last four years and is as follows:

	Number
2004-05	337
2005-06	385
2006-07	413
2007-08	378

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consultations have been carried out by his Department since July 2007; and at what cost. [279345]

[Official Report, 20 July 2009, Vol. 496, c. 784W.]

Letter of correction from Shaun Woodward:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 20 July 2009. It has come to my attention that two further consultations (both with a nil cost) were not included in the original table.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Woodward: Since July 2007 my Department, excluding agencies and non-departmental public bodies, conducted the consultations set out in the following table. The table includes the cost where applicable.

Name of consultation	*Cost (£)*
Anonymous Registration—Protecting voters at risk in Northern Ireland—February 2008	Nil
Improving the Administration of Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly—July 2008	Nil
Consultation on proposed draft Criminal Damage (Compensation) (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2008—June 2008	2,235.83
Proposed Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2009	2,681.22
Proposed draft of Sexual Offences (NI) Order—November 2007	2,171.26
Draft Guidance on Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland—May 2008	240.00
Proposed draft Criminal Justice Order 2007	5,984.39
Investigation Code of Practice issued under POCA 2002	Nil
Search Code of Practice issued under POCA 2002	Nil
Mentally Disorder Offenders Victim Information Scheme	Nil
Fine default in NI	2,088.09
Proposals for the reform of the law on murder, manslaughter and infanticide	2,126.77
Equality Impact Assessment and Guideline Principles for the Test Purchase of Alcohol	Nil
Pre Policy Consultation Special Measures: an evaluation and review 2009	70
Alternatives to Prosecution: A Discussion Paper	109.30
Draft Strategy for the Management of Women Offenders (inc consultation workshop)	1,545
Government's Proposals for the Safety of Older People took place between 14 June and 30 November 2007	8,094.78
Consultation on Community Safety in Northern Ireland took place between 27 October 2008 and 9 February 2009	28,771.62
The Explosive Amendment Regulations (NI) 2008	356.54
Manufacture and Storage of Explosives (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2009	92.52
Modernising Police Powers. Your PACE, Your Say. (July 2007)	Nil
Police and Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1989—Government Proposals in response to a Review of Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) in Northern Ireland (January 2009)	Nil

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sri Lanka: International Assistance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the International Monetary Fund on the proposed emergency loan package to the Sri Lankan government; and if he will make a statement. [288634]

[Official Report, 21 July 2009, Vol. 496, c. 1259-60W.]

Letter of correction from Stephen Timms:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 21 July 2009. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka and are also committed to helping Sri Lanka avoid an economic crisis that would impact most on Sri Lanka's poor.

The Chancellor is in close contact with the IMF and with ministerial colleagues, especially the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development.

The International Monetary Fund has not yet presented a programme for Sri Lanka. Once a programme is presented, it will be assessed on its merits and the situation on the ground in Sri Lanka at the time.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka and are also committed to helping Sri Lanka avoid an economic crisis that would impact most on Sri Lanka's poor.

The Chancellor is in close contact with the IMF and with ministerial colleagues, especially the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development.

The IMF has presented a programme for Sri Lanka to be considered by the IMF board. The Chancellor is assessing the programme

Ministerial Correction

The following Ministerial Correction was received between Thursday 10 September and Monday 14 September 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Astley Park

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date the application by Chorley borough council for a grant for modernisation work at Astley Park in Chorley was received by the Heritage Lottery Fund; how much funding was *(a)* applied for and *(b)* awarded; and on what date the grant was awarded. [284556]

[Official Report, 9 July 2009, Vol. 495, c. 931W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Simon:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) on 9 July 2009. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Simon: Advice from the Heritage Lottery Fund is that it received the application by Chorley borough council for a grant for modernisation work at Astley Park in December 2004. The monetary value of grant applied for was £2,004,000, and the monetary value of grant awarded was £2,004,000. The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the grant to Chorley borough council on 1 April 2005. Chorley borough council received a grant increase of £373,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund on 27 September 2007, and was also awarded £102,000 by the Fund in November 2003 as development funding, bringing the total grant award to £2,479,000.

Ministerial Corrections

The following Ministerial Corrections were received between Tuesday 15 September and Wednesday 16 September 2009

DEFENCE

Absent Without Leave

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of service personnel *(a)* went absent without leave and *(b)* deserted in each of the last 10 years. [254034]

[Official Report, 9 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 1525-26W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Kevan Jones:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray) on 9 February 2009. In the second table recording the number of service personnel convicted of desertion the figures cited for the years 2007 and 2008 were incorrect. The correct full answer should have been:

Mr. Quentin Davies: Records held centrally on service personnel who have gone absent without leave (AWOL) relate to the number of incidents reported, not to the number of personnel. Therefore, individuals with multiple periods of absence are recorded more than once. For this reason the percentage of service personnel who went absent without leave in each of the last 10 years cannot be provided. The following table shows absence without leave statistics for each service by calendar year for each of the last 10 years:

	Incidents of reported AWOL		
	Royal Navy[1]	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
1999	35	2,055	15
2000	55	2,710	25
2001	90	2,645	25
2002	110	2,950	25
2003	120	2,820	35
2004	185	3,030	55
2005	195	2,715	35
2006	155	2,330	10
2007	115	2,290	25
2008	125	2,105	5

[1] Over this period there have been a number of changes to the criteria for reporting absentees in the RN.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. While the figures reflect the number of reports of AWOL, it may come to light later that there are extenuating circumstances and therefore does not reflect the number of personnel who went on to be formally charged with AWOL.

The following table shows the number of service personnel convicted of desertion in each of the last 10 years:

	Convictions of desertion
1999	18
2000	8
2001	3
2002	7
2003	3
2004	3
2005	6
2006	8
2007	7
2008	[1]8

[1] This figure does not include the last quarter of 2008 for the RN.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fires have taken place on UK nuclear powered submarines since 1979. [265176]

[Official Report, 2 April 2009, Vol. 490, c. 1396W.]

Letter of correction from Bill Rammell:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 2 April 2009. The figure cited for the number of medium-scale fires was incorrect. The correct full answer should have been:

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The records of fire incidents onboard UK nuclear submarines are not held centrally prior to 1 January 1987. Since this date the Royal Navy records provide the following information:

213 small-scale fires, that are categorised as a localised fire such as a minor electrical fault creating smoke dealt with quickly and effectively using minimal onboard resources.

20 medium-scale fires that were generally categorised as a localised fire such as a failure of mechanical equipment creating smoke and flame requiring use of significant onboard resources.

Three fires occurred while the submarines involved were in naval bases, requiring both ship and external resources.